

## Abram's and Isaac's early encounters

**Now YHWH said to Abram, "Go** from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and **I will bless you**, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."** **So Abram went**, as YHWH had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. (12.1-4)

I will indeed bless you, **and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven...** (22.17a)

**Now there was a famine in the land.** So Abram went down to Egypt to reside there as an alien, for the famine was severe in the land. When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know well that you are **a woman beautiful in appearance**; and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; **then they will kill me**, but they will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared on your account." (12.10-13)

**While residing in Gerar as an alien, Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister."** And King Abimelech of Gerar sent and took Sarah. (20.1-2)

**Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.** (13.2)

Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, so that the land could not support both of them living together; for their possessions were so great that **they could not live together, and there was strife between the herders of Abram's livestock and the herders of Lot's livestock.** (13.5-7a)

**YHWH appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go** down to Egypt; settle in the land that I shall show you. Reside in this land as an alien, and I will be with you, and **will bless you**; for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and **I will fulfill the oath that I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven**, and will give to your offspring all these lands; and **all the nations of the earth shall gain blessing for themselves through your offspring**, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." **So Isaac settled** in Gerar. (26.2-6)

**Now there was a famine in the land**, besides the former famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. **And Isaac went to Gerar, to King Abimelech of the Philistines.** (26.1)

When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "**She is my sister**"; for he was afraid to say, "My wife," thinking, "or else the men of the place **might kill me** for the sake of Rebekah, because **she is attractive in appearance.**" (26.7)

Isaac sowed seed in that land, and in the same year reaped a hundredfold. YHWH blessed him, and **the man became rich**; he prospered more and more until **he became very wealthy**. He had **possessions of flocks and herds, and a great household**, so that **the Philistines envied him.** (26.12-14)