

Is Isaac a “weak” man? Consider the evidence:

SUPPOSED EVIDENCE FOR HIS “WEAKNESS” AND COUNTERARGUMENTS	
He goes along with his father’s attempt to kill him	What is a teenage boy supposed to do when his father tells him to come along on a journey? What choices did Isaac have?
His father had to get him a woman (Gen 24)	It is a long, strange trip from Canaan to “the old country,” and full of dangers. Abraham sends his servant not because Isaac is “weak,” but because the old country and its customs are unknown to him
He “stupidly” is caught “fondling” Rebekah in public (26.8)	It might well not be in “public” so its on Abimelech for looking through the (private) window to see them
He is “old” and near blind (27.1)	That doesn’t make him “weak” or “stupid”! (e.g., Tiresias as blind wisdom figure)
He is focused on food	Maybe, but if so, how does that make him “weak”? But the only specific is that he “loves” what his favored son can bring from the field

EVIDENCE FOR HIS “STRENGTH” OF CHARACTER PREVIOUS TO GENESIS 27

He joins with Ishamel to bury their father (25.9)

He successfully prays to YHWH to overcome Rebekah’s barrenness (25.21)

Isaac sows seed and reaps a hundredfold harvest and becomes “very powerful”, so much that King Abimelech is afraid of his presence (26.12-16)

Isaac successfully negotiates a dispute over wells (26.18-22)

When YHWH appears to him and blesses him, **he builds an altar and calls on YHWH** (26.24-25)

He successfully negotiates a border covenant with the Philistines (26.26-31)