

TIE SECRET OF ENLARGEMENT

(Bro. Bakht Singh, Balance of Truth 1969, February)

In Genesis 26, we have the record of the first time God appeared to Isaac. This was to save him from a great depression which possessed him because of famine in the land and gave him the desire to go down into the land of Egypt. Because of the famine he had already gone over to Abimelech the King of the Philistines unto Gerar (v. 2). Now he was going on to Egypt because he could not get what he needed. God appeared to him (vs. 2 and 3). It was a time of many difficulties, and he was about to disobey God.

The same applies to us also. Without finding God's will, we want to go to places where we will be able to get what we need. There was plenty of corn in Egypt and if Isaac went there he would get more than he needed, so, to get more food and corn he was planning to go down to Egypt.

That is how many of God's servants also do; If they cannot get sufficient food or income in the place where they are staying, they want to go to places where they can get more income. They also go with the intention of getting education for their children. Thus, you find many of God's servants have gone to Egypt where they thought they could get more income and advantage; rather than stay in the place which God ordained for them, they go to places where it is more convenient for them. God can keep us in the place of His will even though we have to go through hardships and sufferings. Isaac obeyed God and stayed in the place where God had told him to live. God reminded Isaac that because of Abraham's obedience, He was going to bless Isaac also. (v. 5). It was not because of Isaac's obedience that God was going to bless him, but because of Abraham's obedience.

In Gen. 28:25 we see how Isaac disobeyed God because he loved Esau for the sake of his son. Even though God showed Rebecca that God preferred Jacob to Esau, yet Isaac loved Esau. In Malachi 4:2, 3, God revealed that He preferred Jacob above Esau. But because Esau brought his father venison from the field, Isaac loved him more than Jacob. Sometimes some children bring more income to the home, and parents love them more than the other children. They are not governed by spiritual qualifications but by material things. That is why God says in Gen. 26:5 that Isaac would be blessed because of Abraham's obedience. We see in Gen. 26:12, 13 how God kept His Word and Isaac received in the same year a hundredfold. When we

believe His Word, even though things may be against us, we find that what God has said will be fulfilled. In a short time, Isaac became very prosperous and wealthy, more so than all the people in the land. We also shall be rewarded abundantly if we obey when God speaks to us through His Word. Though things may seem to be impossible to us, as we go on believing God and His Word, one day we shall see God fulfill His Word. It does not mean we will not have any difficulties afterwards. By obeying God's Word we must have difficulties in our life, but what God has promised He will fulfill verses 14-16.

Because of the prosperity and divine favour Isaac enjoyed, the Philistines became envious and wanted to drive him away. Even so we shall find that as God helps and blesses us, we must be prepared for the enemy's jealousies from every side. Jealousy may arise, for instance, when believers are shown favour by officers or given promotion in the office. They must seek to exercise patience and faith. Rather than involve himself in strife, Isaac moved on (v 17 18).

The wells had been dug by Abraham to begin with, the Philistines had stopped them. Then Isaac began to dig because he wanted water, but the Philistines strove with him. Again, (v. 20- 22), Isaac's servants dug another well and even though Isaac had many servants and much wealth, he could easily have fought with those men; but he refused to be dragged into strife. He kept moving away. Even though he had suffering and loss, he refused to be dragged into strife and hatred. The name of the first well was 'Esek'; that is, CONTENTION.

The name of the second well was 'Sitnah'; that is, HATRED. From there he also moved away. In the same way, people around us, nominal Christians, and even some believers, will try to drag us into strife and hatred. By bringing false charges against us, they try to force us to quarrel. But Isaac went away from contention and hatred. He left the wells and went away. Isaac did not grieve God nor disobey.

Then the Lord took him to a place called 'Rehoboth', a large place, because he moved away from hatred and contention, and gave him a better and a larger place. Then God appeared to him again (v. 24), and showed him that because of His covenant with Abraham he had the privilege of being a source of blessing to many people. God appeared to him again only after he had gone away from contention and hatred; so also when we keep our hearts from hatred and enmity and jealousy, we find that we automatically draw closer to God. Other people, by insulting and abusing us, want to create in us hatred, jealousy and animosity. But if we are free from these

things in our hearts, God will take our part and we will enjoy His presence much more (v. 26-28). Abimelech even went with His friends to Isaac to ask forgiveness. Isaac said

“Wherefore come ye to me?” (V. 26), and they replied, “We saw certainly that the Lord is with thee”. (v. 27).

So also with us if we go on trusting the Lord and keeping our hearts free from hatred or jealousy then our enemies will one day apologize. They recognize that they cannot do us any harm, because they have tried every possible means and have failed. In an unseen way, the Lord worked on Isaac’s behalf (v. 32). The enemy took away the two wells, Esek and Sitnah, even though they were dug by Abraham and then by the servants of Isaac. Abimelech and his men sought to make a quarrel, and took away the wells, but Isaac and his servants refused to quarrel and quietly went away. God gave them two better wells. One was called Rehoboth and the other ‘Beersheba’ meaning that what God has promised will be fulfilled. Even though for a short time Isaac had suffered loss because of the two wells, the Lord gave him a large heart and a large vision to go to a large place.

Spiritually we too will have to go through many trials. The enemy wants us to have a small vision. We cannot see afar off. We find it difficult to forgive our enemies for very small things and we get hurt and wounded. God wants us to come to a large place (Ps. 18:16-19). May the Lord bring us to a large place and give us a large heart and a large vision.