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BOOK THREE

October 14-19, 2017



Well of Esek
“Well of Contention”

Genesis 26:20

Books of Wells



BOOK TWO	<i>Well of Beerlahairci</i>	October 8-13
BOOK THREE	<i>Well of Esek</i>	October 14-19
BOOK FOUR	<i>Well of Sitnah</i>	October 20-25
BOOK FIVE	<i>Well of Increase</i>	October 26-31
BOOK SIX	<i>Well of Bethlehem</i>	November 1-6
BOOK SEVEN	<i>Jacob's Well</i>	November 7-12

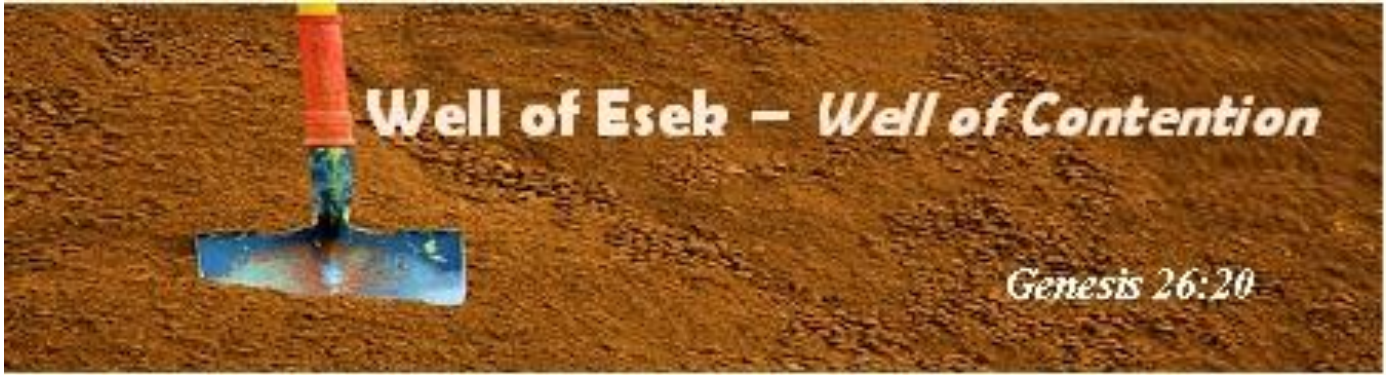
Table of Contents:

Book Three

Well of Esek - Well of Contention

Genesis 26:20

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Page</u>
DAY 11 Scripture Focus:	Saturday, October 14, 2017 <i>Genesis 26:18</i>	1
DAY 12 Scripture Focus:	Sunday, October 15, 2017 <i>Genesis 26:12-13</i>	2
DAY 13 Scripture Focus:	Monday, October 16, 2017 <i>Genesis 26:15</i>	3
DAY 14 Scripture Focus:	Tuesday, October 17, 2017 <i>Genesis 26:16</i>	4
DAY 15 Scripture Focus:	Wednesday, October 18, 2017 <i>Genesis 26:18</i>	5
DAY 16 Scripture Focus:	Thursday, October 19, 2017 <i>Genesis 26:19-20</i>	6



Day 11

There are times in our lives where we are forced to fight for what is rightfully ours. Our fight is to **reclaim**, replace or substitute that which has been confiscated, stolen or destroyed. Abraham's son, Isaac, finds himself in such a situation. Envy, jealousy, and strife has stepped in and destroyed all the wells that Isaac's father (Abraham) had dug. The enemy could not handle the abundant blessings God poured into Abraham's life. The tragedy for the enemy is that they did not understand that once God promised prosperity to Abraham's posterity, there is no one that can alter or defeat that promise. The enemy figured now that Abraham is dead (**Genesis 25:11**) they had the power to bury the promise. The enemy literally filled Abraham's wells of spring water (life) with dirt. (**Genesis 26:18**) Instead of claiming the wells as a source of life for their families, the enemy chose to destroy the source of life by clogging the flow of water.

The well for this next phase of our fasting and prayer journey is *Esek*. The translation for *Esek* is *contention*. (**Genesis 26:20**) Basically, Isaac's people had to argue, fuss, and fight over the well that they had dug up. *Esek* is not one of the wells of Abraham, but a new well that was established by Isaac. Isaac eventually **reclaimed** all of Abraham's wells and dug and **established new** wells.

At the well called Esek we will get a little dirty. Our time here will be labor intensive. Are you ready to dig, unclog, and reclaim? Your inheritance and the legacy left by your ancestors are at stake. The enemy is threatened and fears your very existence. The enemy fears you so much that they will stop short of nothing to destroy you. Shovel after shovel of dirt and debris has been dumped into your well.

What well/area in your life has been restricted by debris or trash?

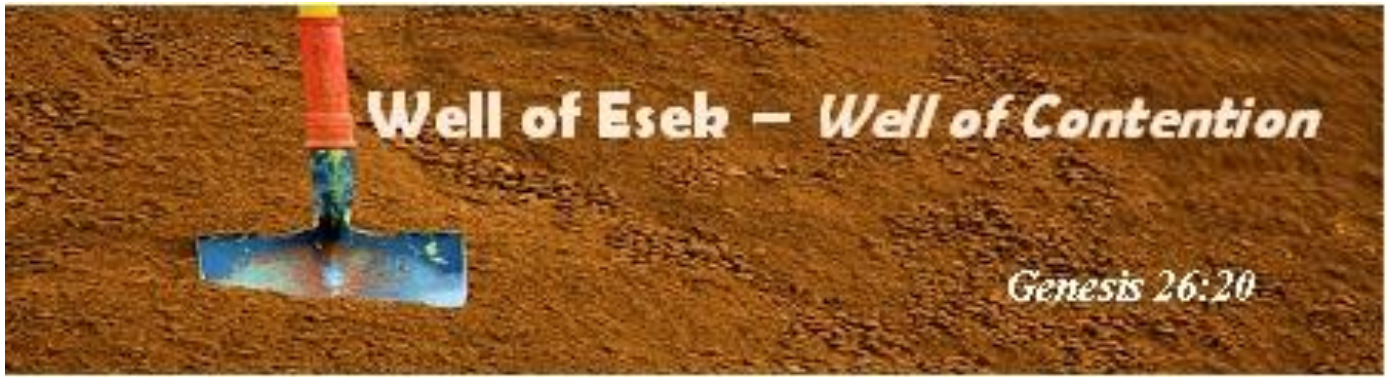
Was the debris or trash deposited by the enemy or are you responsible for the trash and debris that is clogging your path to blessing and breakthrough?

Is there something a grandparent, parent, uncle, aunt, Godmother/father left to you for a specific purpose and you have allowed dust, spider webs, and mildew to grow on it? _____ Yes; _____ No. If yes, what is that something you need to reclaim?

If you had to prioritize all the things you have to reclaim, what are the top 3? (1)

_____ ; (2) _____ ; (3) _____.

Prayer: Father I am ready to resurrect all things in my life which others have declared dead. Lord give me the strength to dig, claw, and scratch through the rubble until I receive my blessings and breakthrough. I rebuke the enemy that is trying to alter or defeat the promise. **Amen.**



Day 12

Isaac sowed seed in that land, and in the same year reaped a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, and the man became rich; he prospered more and more until he became very wealthy. (Genesis 26:12-13 NRSV)

Isaac, like his father, finds himself in a foreign land. Not only is it a foreign land, but it is hostile territory. This is not of Isaac's doing. There was a natural disaster in his hometown. There was a famine in Beerlahairoi. Beerlahairoi is where Isaac settled after his father's death. (Genesis 25:11) It is in Beerlahairoi where God made his presence known and spoke to Isaac. God did not want Isaac's evacuation plan for his family to be random. God was very specific with Isaac as to the territory he was **not** to evacuate and settle in. God forbid Isaac to evacuate to Egypt. God gave Isaac specific instructions to settle in Gerar as an alien. (Genesis 26:1-3) God promised Isaac that he would be with him and bless him in this foreign territory. (Genesis 26:3)

In obedience, Isaac evacuated and relocated. Once Isaac arrived, it was obvious it was hostile territory. In spite of the circumstances, the hostility, the disrespect to his father's legacy and posterity, Isaac in obedience "sowed" into the land and God blessed!

God has called us to move to unknown and sometimes uncharted territory. Sometimes if the territory is hostile we mistakenly dismiss the voice of God because we cannot believe God would uproot and plant us in the middle of a struggle. When we reject or innocently mistake God's voice to move, we run the risk of not receiving the promise. God does not withdraw the promise; it's just that we are not in position to receive because we are not in compliance with the will of God.

Have you taken the easy route and selected an "Egypt" and ignored the voice of God to move/relocate to a less familiar territory? _____ Yes; _____ No

Our scripture focus tells us that Isaac "sowed into the land". This means Isaac cultivated, nurtured and invested in the territory God relocated him to. The challenge was that Isaac had no ownership interest in the land because he was in a foreign land with no property rights; yet he "sowed" seed into the land. Sometimes we do not nurture, cultivate, or invest in hostile territory because we cannot overcome the hostility! For example, we take the attitude, "I am here for my check, I will do what I need to do and go home." If God placed you in the midst of the hostility, God has willed it to be so that you are blessed in that foreign and hostile place.

God is faithful to bless us in a foreign and hostile territory. Are you willing to invest and sow seed in this territory? _____ Yes; _____ No

Are you ready to prosper and "reap a hundredfold"? Pray for increase in faith. Pray for obedience to the Word of God so that you may nurture, cultivate, and invest in the various territories God has placed you in. This is exactly what Isaac did.



Day 13

Now the Philistines had stopped up and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of his father Abraham. And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us; you have become too powerful for us." (Genesis 26:15-16 NRSV)

The spirits of jealousy, strife, and envy have overtaken King Abimelech. Isaac is banished from the land because he is perceived as having too much. Isaac's wealth is a threat to power. Isaac's obedience to God is so disturbing to the King that he reneged on the vow he made with Abraham. On Day 3 of our journey we witnessed the respect King Abimelech extended to Isaac's father. We never want to sound or appear paranoid that everyone is against us or is jealous of us; because of "who our people are," but this is what is going on here.

Abimelech knew this was Isaac's son. Abimelech witnessed and acknowledged the blessings of God during Abraham's life and now he is disturbed that Abraham's son is wealthy and blessed by the God of Abraham. Typical of a "hater" is his/her selfishness and arrogance about their "stuff" and family. When Abimelech had to concede that Abraham was a man of God because of the abundant blessings he witnessed in Abraham's life, Abimelech made Abraham take a vow to respect his family and the land. Here is the vow:

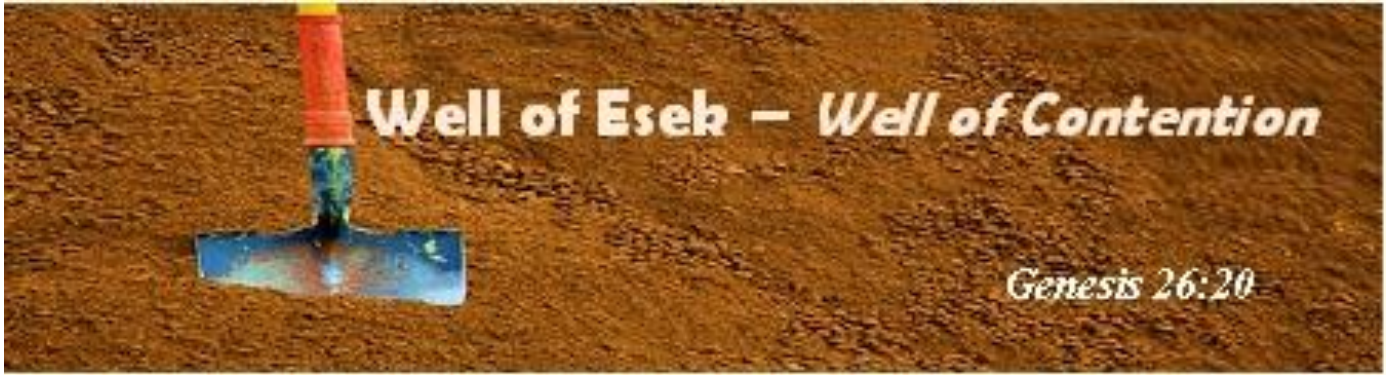
"God is with you in all that you do; now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my offspring or with my posterity, but as I have dealt loyally with you, you will deal with me and with the land where you have resided as an alien." And Abraham Said, "I swear it." (Genesis 21:22-24)

What do we do with this? Isaac just left. Isaac understood he was on borrowed land. He knew what God had promised. He did not have time to ponder the hypocrisy of Abimelech. All that Isaac invested in the land he left behind. It may be hard to see with the naked eye, but this is all in the divine plan of God.

Prayer focus: Consider as prayer focus today "obedience" and "trust in God."

Prayer: God it is very painful to witness others treat my children, grandchildren, and family with disdain as if they were dirt on the ground. Take away from me the bitterness and anger and replace it with ...

Complete your Prayer:



Day 14

And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us; you have become too powerful for us.”(Genesis 26:16 NRSV)

Today we will continue with Abimelech’s banishment of Isaac. Are you curious where Isaac ended up? Isaac relocated to the valley of Gerar. (Genesis 26:17) If we can take you back to October 29, 2016, Day 26 of our 40 day fasting and prayer journal, we described the “valley:”

Geographically, valleys are typically at the bottom of mountains and located near rivers (streams of water). Valleys are a source of water with plenty of nutrients for fertile soil. The walls of valleys block wind and severe weather. Valleys provide a safe place for settlement and make invasions difficult.¹

It is important to note that Isaac did not run away in fear; Isaac simply followed the voice of God and relocated to another portion of the land that God led him to. Isaac was sent to the exact same portion of land where his father dwelt. In the valley is where Isaac reopened the wells the enemy had filled with dirt. Isaac reclaimed the wells by giving the wells the same names his father had given the wells. (Genesis 26:18) Isaac reaffirmed and established his legacy and the legacy of his seed to follow.

What if God wanted to send you back to reclaim something? Will you go? On Day 11 we asked you to write down the top three things that you want to reclaim for your life. Revisit the list. As your prayer focus today, talk to God about those priorities. Seek God as to whether this is his will that you reclaim what is on your list. Once God answers (and the answer may not come today) move as God gives you instructions, utterance, and wisdom for restoring that which was taken.

Prayer: Lord have Mercy, Christ have mercy; God my Father, keeper of my soul, I give thanks that you are the source of my strength in a valley. I know that if you grant me permission to reclaim things in my life that I may go through a valley experience. Help me not to fear the valley, but trust you. **Complete your prayer:**

¹ Briney, Amanda, “an Overview of Valley Formation and Development,
<http://geography.about.com/od/physicalgeography/a/valleyformation.htm>



Day 15

Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of his father Abraham; for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the names that his father had given them.
(Genesis 26:18 NRSV)

While you are in the valley you will work. Remember, when we introduced you to this well you were warned that you may have to get dirty and that it was going to be labor intensive. Now it's time to labor. Tie up your head, put on your steel toe boots, gloves, and protective eye gear. Let's get to work!!!

Every shovel of dirt you dig and remove is a symbol of life being restored. As you lift that dirt from your well you will pray. Follow this example:

Shovel #1 Prayer: Father, I rebuke the spirit of defeat from my husband's life. For so many years everyone has dumped on him and torn him down because he cannot seem to break the yoke of addiction. My husband's name is not addict or crack-head. I call his birth name out to you Lord. You created him for a divine purpose. I reclaim my husband in the powerful healing name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Now you pray for all that you seek God to restore and reclaim as you dig out your well:

Shovel #1 Prayer:

Shovel #2 Prayer:

Shovel #3 Prayer:

Shovel #4 Prayer:

Shovel #5 Prayer:

Keep shoveling and praying. God sees you; God will answer you. It is not time to get tired.



Day 16

But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, the herders of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herders, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the well Esek, because they contended with him. (Genesis 26:19-20 NRSV)

Here we go again! These people just will not leave Isaac and his blessings alone. Lord have mercy. Isaac was kicked from one portion of land and God led him to the valley and now the valley trolls are trying to create confusion and snatch a blessing.

We are going to always be confronted with challenges in life. All we have to do is call it for what it is. Isaac observed the arguing, fussing, and fighting between his herders and the herders of Gerar. Typical of trolls and haters to try to slide in after all the work is done and create havoc and mess so that they can confuse the truth. The truth here is that Isaac was obedient to God. Isaac moved when God said move. Isaac and his people put in the work and reclaimed and named their inheritance.

Isaac could have given in to the herders who wanted to claim the well, but he did not. Isaac refused to give up on what he knew was the promise of God. He did not even think about compromising and throwing a well to the trolls just to make peace. God did not instruct Isaac to relinquish anything to the enemy, trolls and haters. This is not selfishness or greed. Isaac had the vision to dig a new well to add to his legacy and to his children's legacy. That is why we cannot compromise and give in to anything that is contrary to the will of God for your life. It does not matter how tired you are of fighting. God has you. God has ordained all blessings for your life. Reclaim your life and legacy.

Keep this song in your heart when it gets really crazy and you are exhausted from the bickering, backbiting, and hate. "God is able to do just what he said he will do...don't give up on God cause he wont give up on you; he's able..." (Lyrics Deitrick Haddon, He's Able)

Prayer: Father in Heaven forgive me for falling into the snare of the enemy and limiting your blessings for my life. I will no longer apologize for my success and blessings. It is only by you that I have been able to accomplish the milestones in my life. **Complete your prayer:**

BOOK TWO
OCTOBER 14-19, 2017

Giving God 40 Days



Wells of Life

For Books One & Two, please visit our church website at
www.firstmanuelbaptistchurch.org