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FIRST EMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH **REV. CHARLES J. SOUTHALL, III, PASTOR**



BOOK FIVE October 26-31, 2017





Genesis 26:22





BOOK TWO

BOOK THREE

BOOK FOUR

BOOK FIVE

BOOK SIX

BOOK SEVEN

Well of BeerlahairoiOctober 8-13Well of EsekOctober 14-19Well of QitnahOctober 20-25Well of JincreaseOctober 26-31Well of BethlehemNovember 1-6Jacob's WellNovember 7-12

<u>Table of Contents:</u>

Book Five



Well of Rehoboth ~ "Well of Increase" Genesis 26:22

Day	Date	Page
DAY 23 Scripture Focus:	Thursday, October 26, 2017 Genesis 26:22	1
DAY 24 Scripture Focus:	Friday, October 27, 2017 Genesis 26:22	2
DAY 25 Scripture Focus:	Saturday, October 28, 2017 Genesis 26:24	3
DAY 26 Scripture Focus:	Sunday, October 29, 2017 Genesis 26:25	4
DAY 27 Scripture Focus:	Monday, October 30, 2017 Genesis 26:28-29; Genesis 26:28; Genesis 26:30	5
DAY 28 Scripture Focus:	Tuesday, October 31, 2017 Genesis 26:32; Romans 4:13-17; 1 Chronicles 4:9-10	б



Day 23

He moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it; so he called it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land." (Genesis 26:22)

Isaac has walked away from *Sitnah*. Isaac did not allow himself to get entangled in the snares of the enemy. It did not matter that he had put in the labor to dig a new well; Isaac was done!

Do you have the courage to walk away? It is hard to walk away when we have invested time, love, and money. It is even more of a challenge to walk when you are uncertain of what is ahead or what will replace what you left behind. This is where our **Faith** and **Trust in God** outweighs the uncertainties. **If God** has instructed you to walk away, **then walk**. God is directing you to new territory. You know it is the voice of God instructing you to move, because Sitnah (hostility, animosity, hatred, mess, foolishness) is not of God.

God, train my Mind ...

Walking in faith means you may not see in advance where God is leading you. You really have to *train your mind* to ignore the unknown. Pray this prayer: *God create in me the mind to walk away*...

Father, calm my heart ...

You have to calm your heart and not trust your emotions. **Trust** the *voice of God*. Pray this prayer for God to calm your fears: *Father, I do not have the heart to walk away*

God, show me how ...

Sometimes it is easy just to stay right where you are. We begin to reason with ourselves:

- The house is paid for.
- "I do not know how I am going to live on one income."
- "I can retire in five years, why start over?"
- I just do not want to start over.

Pray this prayer: Lord, I desire to walk away; show me how...____



Day 24

He moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it; so he called it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land." (Genesis 26:22)

Isaac immediately acknowledges that this is a move of God. No one is fussing and fighting over this well. Isaac recognizes that God has opened the door for them to be fruitful. After all that tunneling through his father's clogged wells and digging new wells only to be confiscated by the enemy, this well had Isaac's name on it exclusively. The manifestation of the promise is beginning to unfold – increase!

As heirs of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God has purposed our lives for all things great. (*Genesis 12:2*) Our heritage of greatness requires us to separate from all that separates us from God. We have to remove ourselves from toxic environments. Toxic environments include, but are not limited to:

- Chatter mindless, harmful, trash conversation
- **Clutter** anything that is in excess; meaning not necessary for your existence
- Chaos foolishness, mess, darkness, deceptive behavior

Sadly, there are times in our lives when God begins to move and we miss it. We cannot see it because of our toxic environments. If we cannot see it, then we cannot personally acknowledge that God is moving in our lives. God wants to deliver the promise; but if we are entangled in chatter, clutter, and chaos, we are in danger of missing it.

Take time today to inventory your heart and soul. Do not delay receiving all that God has for you.

- Are you ready to alter your steps?
- Are you willing to shift as the Holy Spirit gives direction?
- Are you ready to separate in order to draw nearer to God?
- Are you continuing in relationship because is it what is comfortable, familiar, and safe?
- Are we fearful of change and rejection if you separate from what is slowly killing our spirit woman/spirit man?
- Are you ready for the truth?



Day 25

And that very night the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father and will bless you and make your offspring numerous for my servant Abraham's sake." (Genesis 26:24)

God immediately confirms Isaac's declaration that *God has made room for he and his offspring to be fruitful in their place of promise*. Isaac's open acknowledgment of the move of God in his life positioned Isaac to experience the presence of God that night.

It is **impossible to invoke** the presence of God in the midst of chatter, clutter, and chaos. We need alone time with God so that we may hear and receive instruction. We need alone time with God to worship and honor God. If chatter, clutter and chaos are not excised from your life, there can be no separation. Finally, chatter, clutter, and chaos hinder the move of the Holy Spirit in your life. The Holy Spirit reveals all truth to us. Chaotic chatter and clutter stifles the opportunity to hear and receive truth.

We are privy daily to revelations from God, but we have to separate from toxic environments to hear and receive from God. God has a place of promise for all of us. God wants to elevate and increase our territory. Our increased territory can be any area of our lives. Increased territory is not just material increase.

Check off all the areas in your life you desire increase:

- _____ Spiritual
- Health
- Financial
- Prayer Life
- _____ Wisdom of God
- _____ Discerment of God's Holy Word

List areas in your life where you have prayed for increased territory:

Prayer: Father, forgive me of all unrighteousness. Give me clarity of thought and discernment of your will so that I may not fall into temptation. Grant me the courage to walk away from all things negative. Amen.

Complete Your Prayer:



Day 26

So he built an altar there, called on the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well. (Genesis 26:25 NRSV)

Immediately Praise God ... Do not Hesitate

Isaac immediately praises the Almighty God! Right where God met him is where Isaac glorified and honored God. There was no hesitation. He did not wait until 7:30 a.m. service; 10:00 a.m. service or 12 noon. He did not wait until the Sabbath day. He did not have a meeting with the elders and ask for permission to build an altar. As soon as Isaac experienced the visitation of God and received the promise, without hesitation, Isaac built the altar and called on the name of the Lord.

Your Faith, increases the Faith of others

You may not know this or want to accept this, but there are many that follow your Spiritual lead. Isaac's servant's trusted Isaac's relationship with God. Isaac's servants learned how to trust God by watching Isaac. Why do you think they understood to dig the well at the altar? The Word does not say that Isaac instructed them to dig the well; they understood to dig the well. They knew that rivers of living water flow from the altar.

The spiritual well-being of your child, your brother, your sister, your mother, your father, your nephew or your niece may depend on your faith walk. Let them see you honor and praise God for the promise. Be transparent about your spiritual growth by letting them know that you were not born with the level of faith you possess today. Encourage them to pray for God to increase their faith. Dedicate this day of fasting and prayer to your family and friends. Ask God to continue to remove the scales from their eyes so that they may witness God's grace and mercy.

Your Prayer for Your Family:

Your Prayer for Your Friends:



Day 27

And they said, We saw certainly that the LORD was with thee: ... thou art now the blessed of the LORD. (Genesis 26:28-29)

God is a consistent God. Just as God made King Abimelech acknowledge the move of God in Abraham's life, God is making King Abimelech acknowledge the God of Isaac. (Genesis 26:28) Of course King Abimelech has selective amnesia and lies by stating that he sent Isaac away in peace and caused him no harm. All you have to do is revisit the well called Esek and the well named Sitnah to know that King Abimelech is a fabricator. Isaac speaks truth and acknowledges that King Abimelech hates him and banished him to the valley. Once Isaac sets the record straight; he exhibits the spirit of hospitality and prepares a feast for his the enemy. (Genesis 26:30)

With promise, comes increased humility. Can you prepare a feast for the trolls at Esek or Sitnah? Try!

An exercise of humility

You have to prepare a dinner party for those that have caused you agitation and grief. *First,* create your guest list. Invite everybody that is not your friend! Isaac did it for Abimelech...

Second, create your menu; make sure you confirm food allergies in advance

Third, select a precious stone that you will gift to your guests. Assign a precious stone to each guest

Draft a covenant between you and your guest acknowledging the past and committing to leaving the past behind:



Day 28

That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water!" (Genesis 26:32)

Again, we see the evidence of the move of God in Isaac's life. After he prepared a feast for his enemy and allowed them to sleep in his territory, the very next day, the living water began to flow from the well.

God trust us with the promise. We gain God's trust when we surrender and walk in obedience to the will of God. As our faith increases that God will perform his promises, our humility increases. The spirit of humility naturally follows trust in God. It is humbling when God answers prayers and grants us the increase. God did not grant us the promise because of anything we did. God honors our faith. (Romans 4:13-17)

Today is our last day at the well of increase; but increase in our lives does not stop today. You may have prayed the prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10) for years, and have not experienced the increase. It is coming.

Commit 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 to memory and pray from your heart trusting and believing that God will answer just as he answered Jabez's prayer for increase. One portion of prayer that is critical to Jabez's request is that God protect him from harm and evil. (*1 Chronicles 4:10*)

Write a prayer today asking God with specificity for protection. Seek God for protection while you are waiting for the increase. Seek God for protection once God in your new territory.

My Prayer:

BOOK FIVE OCTOBER 26-31, 2017





For Books One, Two, Three, and Four please visit our church website at www.firstemanuelbaptistchurch.org.