

# (Genesis) Genesis 26:1-5

by J. Vernon McGee

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*God warns Isaac not to go to Egypt and reminds him of the covenant He made with Abraham, emphasizing the importance of faith and obedience.*

**Duration:** 4:49

**Scripture:** Genesis 26:1-5

**Topics:** "Genesis"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of faith and obedience in the life of Abraham. Despite not being under the Mosaic system, Abraham believed God and acted upon His instructions. The preacher highlights the need for action in one's faith, rather than just relying on feelings or emotions. The sermon also discusses how sins can be passed down from generation to generation unless there is intervention. God confirms His covenant with Isaac, promising to bless him and multiply his descendants, just as He had promised to Abraham. The preacher also mentions a famine in the land and how God instructs Isaac not to go to Egypt, reminding him of the example of his father who had done so previously.

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## Transcript

I'm reading now Genesis 26, verse 1. There was a famine in the land beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham, and Isaac went unto Abimelech, king of the Philistines, unto Gerah. Now, this is the second famine that's mentioned. You remember the famine in the days of Abraham, and Abraham and Lot, they took off for Egypt.

And notice what happens now. And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down unto Egypt, dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of. Now, why did God say that to this man Isaac? Well, he had an example before him of his father, who ran off down to the land of Egypt.

That reveals the fact that like father, like son, that sins are carried from father to son. And you can talk about the generation gap all you want to, but there's no generation gap of sin. It just flows right from one to the other.

And generally, the son makes very much the same mistake that the father did, unless something intervenes. Now, God says to this man Isaac at the time of the famine, Go not down into Egypt, dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee.

Now, listen to God as He confirms the covenant that He'd made with Abraham. And I will bless thee, for unto thee and unto thy seed I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father. Now, you can see that God is merely confirming the covenant that He had made with Abraham.

He says to Isaac, don't leave the land, don't go to Egypt. I want to confirm my covenant that I made with Abraham with you. I'll give you this land.

Now, not only that, verse 4 now, And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven. I will give unto thy seed all these countries, and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. Now, that is a repetition of the covenant God made to Abraham, and that is there'd be a seed that would be the line that would have that land, and the land was involved, and he'd be a blessing to all nations.

That's important to see. Now, he says, Because that Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. Now, up to this point, God had not given any laws, that is, the Mosaic system.

Abraham wasn't inundated at all, but the important thing is that when God told Abraham something, Abraham believed God and acted upon that. Abraham believed God and acted upon it, and that's the demonstration of faith today. We have too many people they complain about.

There's no reality. A lady came in to talk to me some time ago, and she said, I believe, but I don't feel anything, and I'm not sure, and my, what a feeling of uncertainty. Well, you didn't have to talk to her long to find out that there's no action in her life whatsoever.

She was just sitting in the corner twiddling her thumbs and saying, I believe, and then expecting the house probably to fall in on her or some great something to take place. Well, that won't happen. When you believe God, you act upon God.

If you should call me up right now and say, Dr. McGee, you go down to the bank there in downtown Los Angeles. I've just put a certain amount of money down there for you, and I want you to go down there to get it. What do you think I'd do? Just sit right here the rest of the day? No, my friend, if you know me, you'll know that by the time that you are through speaking on the telephone, I will have had my hat on my head and I'll start walking.

I'll be down there. Faith is what you act on. It's something that you step out on.

Abraham believed God. God counted it righteousness, and God now says to Isaac, I want you to be that kind of a man also.

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