

Sunday, September 19, 2021
“The Gospel in the Lives of Isaac & Jacob”
Summary of God’s Presence – Blessing
Genesis 26
Wayne Shelton

(focal v28a: *‘We see plainly that the Lord has been with you.’*)

Isaac’s life is, in many ways, a kind of sequel to the life of Abraham, a sequel that shares plot structure and themes. Iain Duguid writes, ‘We might aptly title the movie of his life Patriarch II: Son of Abraham.’ The same themes are being deliberately reiterated in the experience of Isaac to emphasize the central message of the life of Abraham, that God can be trusted to deliver what he has promised, and to show how those promises continue to be operative in the life of the next generation. The replaying of Abraham’s experiences in the life of Isaac continues to be prominent in Genesis 26. For instance, the Promised Land was once more racked with famine, a similarity that underlines that Isaac was faced with the same temptation to abandon the promise and go down to the abundant prosperity of Egypt, just as his father did before him. Throughout this section we will note that God was with Isaac, just as he had promised. In spite of Isaac’s sin and failure, God was nonetheless faithful. This passage highlights the presence of God not only in Isaac’s life but in ours.

