

THE LIFE OF JACOB

By Titus Chu

**MESSAGE SIX:
THE HEAVENLY PROVISIONS
FOR THE DIVINE COURTSHIP (4):**

**THE FIFTH PROVISION:
ENLARGEMENT THROUGH
GOD'S ARRANGED ENVIRONMENT**

ISAAC WAS DIRECTED BY GOD TO GERAR

From Beer-lahai-roi there were three possible directions for Isaac and Rebekah to go: 1) Egypt, 2) the good land, and 3) Gerar. During a famine Isaac wanted to go to Egypt, but the Lord intervened and told him to go to Gerar (which was to follow his father Abraham's footsteps). Abimelech (the "father of kings") was the king in Gerar. This environment at Gerar was for the sake of Isaac's enlargement.

The name Gerar means "circle." It implies that to live in the world is a circling life. For most people their human life is a circling without any goal or meaning. For God's people Gerar is a place of sojourning where they can be enlarged.

The Hebrew Word for Gerar Has Four Additional Implied Meanings

1. Gerar is a "halting place."

Once you are there Gerar is filled with elements to halt your spiritual growth. God puts you there for your enlargement and growth, but you must know how to survive.

2. Gerar is a “dwelling” or “abiding place.”

Once you come to Gerar you will be encouraged to set up your lodging there. If you lodge there you may lose your sense of purpose in following the Lord. Gerar should only be a place of your sojourning, not of your dwelling or abiding.

3. Gerar is a “dragging away.”

The environment in Gerar will attempt to drag you away from the Lord.

4. Gerar means “ruminating.”

This is the only positive meaning of “Gerar.” To ruminate is to redigest, and it implies spending time with the Lord in His presence. Ruminating on the Lord or in His word will allow you to be enlarged in the midst of all the negative things in Gerar. In the world you must have the ability of ruminating. You need to learn how to slow down and “digest” before the Lord. Then you will know how to receive whatever is of Christ and reject whatever is not of Him.

Brief Summary of Genesis Chapter 26

Verses 1-5: God's speaking to Isaac to go to Gerar.

Verses 6-11: God's protection of Isaac and Rebekah.

Verses 12-14: God's blessing of Isaac in Gerar. Isaac experienced enlargement and multiplication.

Verses 15-22: Isaac being sent away by Abimelech, and redigging the wells of his father.

Verses 23-25: God's appearing to Isaac at the well Beer-sheba - the height of his spiritual experience.

Verses 26-35: The world's attempt to compromise with Isaac. The world is here represented by Abimelech ("the father of kings"), Ahuzzath ("holding fast"), and Phicol ("strong"). These three join together to reach a compromise with Isaac.

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