

Chapter 25

Iaac by reafon of famine goeth into Gerara, 3. where God reneweth to him the promifes made to Abraham. 9. Abimelech blameth him for calling his wife his fifter. 15. The people enuying his wealth, quareleth for his welles. 26. At laft Abimelech maketh league with Iaac.

And when a famine was rifen in the land, after that fterilitie, that had chanced in the dayes of Abraham, Iaac went to Abimelech king of the Paleftines into Gerara. ² And our Lord appeared to him, and faid: ^a)Goe not downe into Egypt, but reft in the land which I fhall tel thee. ³ And feiourne in it, and I wil be with thee, and will bleffe thee: for to thee and thy feed, I wil geue al thefe countries, accomplifhing the oath which I fwore to Abraham thy father. ⁴ And I wil multiplie thy feed as the ftarres of heauen: and I wil geue to thy pofteritie al thefe countries: and in thy feed **SHAL BE BLESSED AL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH**, for becaufe Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my preceptes and commandements, and obserued [♠]my ceremonies & lawes. ⁵ Therefore Iaac abode in Gerara. ⁶ Who when he was asked by the men of that place, concerning his wife, answered: She is ^b)my fifter; for he was afraid to confeffe that fhe was married to him, thinking left peradventure that they would kil him becaufe of her beautie. ⁷ And when verie manie days were paffed, and he abode there, Abimelech the king of the Paleftines looking forth through a windowe, fawe him fporting with Rebecca his wife. ⁸ And calling for him, he faid: It is euident that fhe is thy wife: why didft thou faine her to be thy fifter? He answered: I feared left I fhould die for her. ⁹ And Abimelech faid: Why haft thou deceaued vs? fome man of the people might haue lyen with thy

^a God by Abrahams exāplar life inuited the Ægyptians to true religion: now commandeth Iaac to ftay in Gerara to the like end. *S. Theod. q. 76. in Gen.*

^b See the Annot. to c. 12 v. 13.

wife, & thou haddest brought vpon vs ^a)a great finne. And he commanded al the people, faying: ¹⁰ He that shal touch this mans wife, dying shal dye. ¹¹ And Ifaac fowed in that land, and he found that fame year ¹²an hundred fold: and our Lord bleffed him. ¹² And the man was made rich, and he went prospering and encreafing, til he was made exceeding great: ¹³ and he had also poffeffions of fheep and of heards, and a verie great familie. For this the Palestines enuying him, ¹⁴ ftopped at that time al the welles, that the feruants of his father Abraham had digged; filling them vp with water: ¹⁵ in fo much that Abimelech himfelfe faid to Ifaac: Depart from vs, becaufe thou art become mightier then we a great deale. ¹⁶ And departing, to come to the Torrent of Gerara, and to dwel there: ¹⁷ againe he digged other welles, which the feruants of his father Abraham had digged, and which after his death, the Philiftines had ftopped vp of old: and the called them by the fame names, which his father before had called them. ¹⁸ And they digged in the ^b)Torrent, and found liuing water: ¹⁹ but there also the pafors of Gerara made a brawle againft the pafors of Ifaac, faying: It is our water. For which caufe he called the name of the wel, by occasion of that which had hapned, Calumne. ²⁰ And they digged also an other: & for that they brawled likewise, and he called the name of it, Enmitie. Going foreward from thence he digged an other wel, for which they contended not: therefore he called the name therof, Latitude, faying: Now hath the Loed dilated vs, and made vs to encrease vpon the earth. ²¹ And he went vp from that place vnto Berfabee, ²² where our Lord appeared to him that fame night, faying: I am the God of Abraham thy father, do not feare, becaufe I am with thee I wil bleffe thee, and multiplie thy feed for my feruant Abrahams fake. ²³ Therefore he builded there an altar: and hauing called vpon the name of our Lord, he pitched his tent:

VVrangling.

^a Adulterie a great finne also among Painims.

^b The chanel where fometimes a vehement ftreame r̄uneth, fometimes none at al.

and commanded his seruants that they should digge a well. ²⁴ To the which place when there were come from Gerara Abimelech, and Ocazath his freind, and Phicol chieffe captaine of his fouldiers, ²⁵ Ifaac spake to them: Why are you come to me a man whom you hated, and haue thruft from you? ²⁶ Who answered: We saw that the Lord is with thee, and therefore we said: Let there be an oath between vs, and ^a)let vs make a league, ²⁷ that thou du vs no harme, as we also haue touched nothing of thine, neither haue we done that which might hurt thee: but with peace haue we dismissed thee encreased with the blessing of the Lord. ²⁸ Therefore he made them a feast, and after they had eaten and drunken ²⁹ arising in the morning, they sware one to an other: and Ifaac dismissed them peaceably into their place. ³⁰ And behold the same day came the seruants of Ifaac telling him of a well, which they had digged, and saying: We haue found water. ³¹ Whereupon he called it Abundance: and the name of the citie was geuen Berfabee, euen vnto this present day. ³² But Efau being fourtie yeares old married wiues, Iudith the daughter of Beeru the Hethite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon of the same place: ³³ both which had ^b)offended the mind of Ifaac and Rebecca.

ANNOTATIONS

4 My ceremonies.) These ^c)were not the same ceremonies and lawes which were afterwards prescribed by God, and deliuered by Moyfes, but other obseruances by which Abraham and other holie Patriarches before him, serued God with certaine external worship, differing from the rites of the Gentiles, especially from Enos time *Gen. 4.* and so forward.

11 An hundredfold) For ^d)this increase of wealth the King and people at first enuied Ifaac, but afterwards perceiuing that

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- ^a So nations of the world first enuied the Church of Chrif, but after made peace with it.
^b Efau by marrying againft his parents wil, made breach from them.
^c External ceremonies in the law of nature.
^d Chriftian fortitude preuaileth more by suffering, then by forcible refifting.

(v. 28.) God almightie, whom he serued, so bleffed him, the rest of the land remaining barren, they fought to make league with him Euen so the Kings and nations of the world, first enuying and persecuting Christs Church, at leingth feing it ftill prosperous became with al humilitie children of the same Church, and seruants of Chrift, being ouercome not by force of armes but by patience, & peacable endeouours of those whom they most hated. VVherof excellently faith S. Leo (*Ser. 1. in Natali. Apoft.*) Although Rome renowned by manie victories, dilated her Empyre by land and by sea, yet was it leffe, that martial trauel subdued, then that which Christian peace hath obtained. The Bishops of Rome hauing larger Iurisdiction spiritual, then euer the Roman Cæsars had temporal Dominion.