

## Lesson X.

## ISAAC A LOVER OF PEACE

March 10, 1907

**BETWEEN THE LESSONS**—Several of the most interesting stories in the Bible lie between last Lesson and to-day's. Amongst these there is the account of Isaac's birth, and of the feast made in his honor (see ch. 21 : 1-21). Then there is the thrilling tale of the journey of father and son to Mount Moriah, where God had commanded Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, ch. 22 : 1-19. Ch. 23 tells us of Sarah's death and burial. We have in ch. 24 the charmingly romantic tale of Isaac's marriage to Rebekah. The scene of the Lesson is the region about Gerar, a city of the Philistines, and a valley of the same name. Hither Isaac had come to escape from a famine in Canaan.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—Blessed are the peacemakers : for they shall be called the children of God.—Matthew 5 : 9.

**Memorize vs. 16, 17. THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 26 : 12-25. Read Genesis, chs. 20 to 26.

12 <sup>1</sup>Then Isaac sowed in that land, and <sup>2</sup>received in the same year an hundred-fold : and the Lord blessed him.

13 And the man waxed great, and <sup>3</sup>went forward, and grew until he became very great :

14 <sup>4</sup>For he had <sup>5</sup>possession of flocks, and <sup>6</sup>possession of herds, and <sup>7</sup>great store of servants : and the Philistines envied him.

15 <sup>7</sup>For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth.

16 And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us ; for thou art much mightier than we.

17 And Isaac departed thence, and <sup>8</sup>pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

18 And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father ; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham : and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

**Revised Version**—<sup>1</sup>And Isaac : <sup>2</sup>found ; <sup>3</sup>grew more and more until ; <sup>4</sup>and ; <sup>5</sup>possessions ; <sup>6</sup>a great household ; <sup>7</sup>Now ; <sup>8</sup>encamped in the valley ; <sup>9</sup>strove ; <sup>10</sup>contended ; <sup>11</sup>they.

**Daily Readings**—(Courtesy, I. B. R. A.)—M.—Isaac a lover of peace, Gen. 26 : 12-25. T.—A treaty of peace, Gen. 26 : 26-33. W.—Exhortation to peace, 1 Pet. 3 : 8-17. Th.—Wisdom of peace, James 3 : 5-18. F.—The peace of God, Col. 3 : 9-17. S.—The Peacemaker, Matt. 5 : 1-12. S.—"Our Peace," Eph. 2 : 8-18.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**I. ISAAC'S WEALTH.**—12-15. Sowed. By combining the tilling of the soil with the keeping of flocks and herds, Isaac set firmer foot in the land than Abraham. That land ; of the Philistines, in the southwest corner of Palestine. An hundred-fold ; of wheat or barley—a very large yield, though not uncommon now in the rich soil of Hauran, the region across the Jordan from Northern Palestine. The wells ; upon which, in that country of little rain, and streams that dried up in summer, people were, and are, very dependent for water. Days of Abraham ; who also had dwelt for a time in the same region, ch. 20 : 1. Had stopped them ; to prevent Isaac from camping or settling on their land.

**II. ISAAC'S FOES.**—16-21. Abimelech ; king of the Philistines, v. 8. There had been a king of the same name in Abraham's time, ch. 20 : 2. It was probably a title, like Kaiser. Pitched his tent ; made his encampment. Valley of Gerar ; away from the neighborhood of the city. The "valley"

was one of the many watercourses found in Palestine, filled in the wet season with a rushing torrent, which dwindles in the dry season to a mere thread of water, or goes dry entirely. In the bed of such watercourses wells may often be found by digging. Here,



AT THE WELL'S MOUTH

A desert well, topped by a low stone wall. The water is drawn with a rope and leathern bucket, and carried away in large earthenware jar.

too, the Philistines had stopped the wells dug by Abraham, so resolved were they to keep the strangers out of their land. Springing water ; a vein of water furnishing an unfailing supply—a priceless "find" in that hot, dry region. Esek . . . Sitnah. For the meaning of the names see Margin of Bible.

**III. ISAAC'S FRIEND.**—22-25. Removed ; choosing to yield rather than quarrel—so truly was he a man of peace. Rehoboth. For meaning, see Margin of Bible. This place was 19 miles southwest of Beer-sheba. The remains of wells are still to be seen there. Fruitful ; prosperous. Beer-sheba ; a southernmost city. The God of Abraham. We can get no better inheritance from our fathers than the knowledge of God and the love of His ser-