

26:6-8

So Isaac dwelt in Gerar. 7 And the men of the place asked about his wife. And he said, “*She is my sister*” which was true for Abraham regarding Sarah (in both Genesis 12 and Genesis 20), but not so here: Isaac and **Rebekah** are 1st cousins, one generation removed.

for he was afraid to say, “*She is my wife,*” *because he thought,* “lest the men of the place kill me for **Rebekah**, because *she is beautiful to behold.*” ⁸ Now it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that **Abimelech** Probably nothing but a title since it means “my father is a king.”

of the Philistines looked through a window, and saw, and there was Isaac, ¹showing endearment to **Rebekah his wife**. So married folks act particularly affectionate to each other—after all, **Abimelech** didn’t say, in the next verse, “quite obviously she is your favorite sister.” ⁹ Then **Abimelech** called Isaac and said, “Quite obviously *she is your wife; so how could you say, ‘She is my sister?’*” It seems this is a different **Abimelech**...hopefully...or this poor man death with this same scenario with **Isaac**’s father (Genesis 20). We do know **Isaac** was born in Genesis 21 and he is 60 when his twins are born in Genesis 25, and they are now old enough to hunt and trick one another (last part of chapter 25). So it has been at least 75 years probably. However, there may have been lots of talk and the family may have had quite a reputation, given their size and all. Don’t forget, **Isaac** owns a lot of the real estate near **Abimelech**.

Isaac said to him, “Because I said, ‘Lest I die on account of her.’ ” People have often done things from fear (Matthew 25:25).

26:10-11

And **Abimelech** said, “What *is this you have done to us? One of the people might soon have lain with your wife,* that doesn’t speak too well about **Abimelech**’s culture. **Might have soon lain?** Really? It happens that quickly and that loosely? And it would have been Isaac who **would have brought guilt on** these people? ¹¹ So **Abimelech** charged all *his* people, saying, “He who ^qtouches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”

26:12-16

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. Which goes well with verse 3. Apparently **Isaac** has “sojourned” long enough. **13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;** It looks like we are seeing fulfillment of the last part of chapter 9. We are seeing “Shem dwell in the tents of Ham.” These men are, from the evidence of Genesis 10, fulfilling this prophecy of Noah’s.

¹ caressing

^q Ps. 105:15