

THE VICTORIES OF ISAAC

(Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-7; 17:1-8,15-22; 18:1-15; 21:1-8)

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Isaac was a child of promise and the promised child of Abraham and Sarah. His parents were told by God that they would have a son despite the fact that both of them were very old and Sarah was barren. 25 years after God had first mentioned it to them, Sarah was supernaturally assisted to conceive and she gave birth to Isaac. Abraham was 100 years old, and Sarah was 90 years old when Isaac was born. "Isaac" means "God has made me laugh!"

The Problems that Isaac Faced and How God Assisted Him

The domestic situation at home was not always peaceful. There was rivalry between him and Ishmael, his step-brother, and between his mum and Ishmael's mum, Hagar. Isaac also had other step-brothers and sisters. (Genesis 16:1-6; 21:8-12; 25:1-10)

Isaac grew up in a country that was full of idols, and the people had no knowledge of the true God. Foreigners, such as Abraham's household, were treated badly. When Isaac needed a wife, God had to find him one. (Genesis 20:1-18; 23:1-20; 24:1-10)

Isaac's wife, Rebekah, chosen for him by God, was barren. Isaac was 40 years old when he married her. He prayed to God to intervene, and God assisted Rebekah to conceive 20 years later. She gave birth to twins, Esau and Jacob. There was much rivalry between the brothers, and their parents took sides as well. (Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-46)

There was famine in the land and this affected Isaac's livelihood. Isaac was a sheepbreeder, this was his father, Abraham's trade. He inherited the company when Abraham died, but the famine threatened to destroy this trade. Moreover, because of the problems caused by the famine, the local economy was very poor. This made the indigenous people to treat foreigners far badly than usual. (Genesis 26:1-33)

In short, the problems that Isaac faced were domestic, social and economic. The kind of problems that we all face from time to time, although we are Christian. That we sometimes face these problems is not strange, after all we are in a world that is very similar to Isaac's world, and we are also human beings with various shortcomings. But Isaac gained victories in all his battles because God assisted him. God assisted Isaac all the way because Isaac himself depended upon God all the way, so much so that Jacob describes his father Isaac's God as the "Fear of Isaac". (**Genesis 31:42**) This means that Isaac was a God-fearing man, he had a genuine fellowship with God. He did not allow his problems to move him away from God, or to make him trust God less.

Check the Following Scriptures to Strengthen Your Faith

Proverbs 24:16; Psalm 16:8; Psalm 21:7; Psalm 34:19; Psalm 46:5; Psalm 55:22; Psalm 62:2; Psalm 62:6; Psalm 66:9; Psalm 121:3; Psalm 125:1; Isaiah 43:2; John 14:27; John 16:33