

ISAAC - THE FATHER'S SON
The Old Testament Today
Banska Bystrica, 25th October 2020

ויפל אברהם על-פניו ויצחק	Gn 17:17-18 Abraham fell on his face and <u>laughed</u> and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!"
ותצחק שרה בקרבה	Gn 18:12 So <u>Sarah laughed</u> to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"
ותרא שרה את-בן-הער המצרית ... מצחק	Gn 21:9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, <u>laughing</u> .
	Gn 25:5 Abraham gave all he had to Isaac
ὕμεῖς δέ, ἀδελφοί, κατὰ Ἰσαὰκ ἐπαγγελίας τέκνα ἐστέ	Gal 4:28 Now you/we, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise
	Mt 8:11 many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. ISAAC → LAUGHTER

- The *laughter* of faith ↔ the *laughter* of ridicule [absurd] ↔ the *laughter* of incongruity (nezrovnalost')

- → Jesus, "the son of Pantera"¹ (**Mt 1:23** ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἔξει)
- → **Nehemiah 4:1** Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. **Nehemiah 4:3** Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building - if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!"

0.2. ENTERING THE LIFE OF FAITH

- **Gal 4:28** Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise
- **Rom 9:7** "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. → election (**Ephesians 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world καθὼς ἐξελέξατο ἡμᾶς ἐν αὐτῷ πρὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου)

1. IN THE FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

1.1. ACCEPTING FATHER'S DECISIONS WITH INITIATIVE

1.1.1. THE BARREN WIFE

- praying for a child
- **Gn 25:21** And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived
- **Gn 25:26** Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.
- → The Messianic line threatened by barrenness again.

1.1.2. THE LAND

- living in the Promised Land
- **Gn 26:12-16** And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, ¹³ and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. ¹⁴ He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him. ¹⁵ (Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.) ¹⁶ And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we."

1.1.3. THE WELLS

- **Gn 26:18-22** And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. ¹⁹ But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, ²⁰ the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well **Esek** (עֶשֶׂק), because they contended with him. ²¹ Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name **Sitnah** (שִׁטְנָה). ²² And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name **Rehoboth** (רְחוֹבוֹת), saying, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.
- ... **Gn 26:32-33** That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, "We have found water." ³³ He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

¹ Jesus is referred to as "Yeshu ben Pantera". Early Jewish sources make Jesus the son of Panthera, a Roman soldier. "Rabbi Shimon ben Azzai has said: I found in Jerusalem a book of genealogies; therein was written that Such-an-one [a common Jewish euphemism for Jesus] is the bastard son of an adulteress." (Mishnah) <https://jesusfatheradocumentofwarchildren.wordpress.com/2017/07/11/yeshu-ben-pantera-jesus-son-of-pantera/>

1.1.4. "ACTIVELY PASSIVE"

- The *sacrifice* of faith. (the mount of Moriah) → "My father, for the sake of *his God*, almost killed me."(?)
- Receiving wife by the decision of Abraham. (getting married to Rebekkah) → romantic love (?)
- the problem of "identity"; "originality"; "individuality"; "personality"; "distinction"; "talent"; "novelty"; → SELF (identita, originalita, individualita, personalita, osobitost', talent, novost'...)

[EDWARDS *Thoughts on the Revival of Religion in New England, 1740*] Spiritual pride often disposes persons to singularity in external appearance, to affect a singular way of speaking, to use a different sort of dialect from others, or to be singular in voice, or air of countenance or behavior :...

- "ACTIVE PASSIVITY" → identifying with the will of the father → **John 5:19** So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father¹ does, that the Son does likewise.

[LEWIS *Screwtape XIII*] Of course I know that the Enemy also wants to detach men from themselves, but in a different way. Remember always, that He really likes the little vermin, and sets an absurd value on the distinctness of every one of them. When He talks of their losing their selves, He only means abandoning the clamour of self-will; once they have done that, He really gives them back all their personality, and boasts (I am afraid, sincerely) that when they are wholly His they will be more themselves than ever. Hence, while He is delighted to see them sacrificing even their innocent wills to His, He hates to see them drifting away from their own nature for any other reason. *Já ovšem vím, a Nepřítel také chce, aby lidé opustili sami sebe, ale jinak. Vždycky si pamatuj, že On tu chamrad' skutečně miluje a že klade nesmyslně velký důraz na jedinečnost každého z nich. Když On jim říká, aby se vzdali svého „já“, žádá po nich jen to, aby překonali hluk své sobeckosti. Jakmile to dokážou, On jim vrátí celou jejich osobnost a ještě se chvástá (a obávám se, že právem), že když Mu zcela patří, stávají se sami sebou více než kdykoli předtím. Z toho plyne, že On sice má radost, když Mu obětují i svou nevinnou vůli, ale nesnáší, když se z jakéhokoli důvodu vzdalují své vlastní přirozenosti.*

- **Gn 35:28** Now the days of Isaac were 180 years

1.2. LYING ABOUT WIFE

- **Gn 26:8-9** When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife. ⁹ So Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, 'She is my sister?'" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, 'Lest I die because of her."

2. FIGHTING FOR "NORMALCY"

- [Karl POPPER] "Great men may make great mistakes..."

2.1. THE TWINS

- **Genesis 25:20** and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to be his wife,
- **Genesis 25:22-24** The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger." ²⁴ When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb.

2.2. PREFERING ESAU

- [→ Abraham and Ishmael]
- **Gn 25:28** Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. **Malachi 1:2-3** I have loved Jacob ³ but Esau I have hated (יְהוָה אָהַב אֶת-יַעֲקֹב וְאֶת-עֵשָׂו שָׂנְאָהוּ).
מִנְּאִי).
- Esau → vitality; energy; practicality; provision; prosperity...

3. THE DRASTIC AWAKENING

3.1. DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY

- The estranged wife
- **Genesis 27:13** His mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me.

3.2. THE DECEIVING SON

- **Gn 27:22-29** So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." ²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. ²⁴ He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." ²⁵ Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." ²⁷ So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed! ²⁸ May God give you of (1) the dew of heaven and of (2) the fatness of the earth and (3) plenty of grain and wine. ²⁹ (4) Let peoples serve you, and (5) nations bow down to you. (6) Be lord over your brothers, and (7) may your mother's sons bow down to you. (8) Cursed be everyone who curses you, and (9) blessed be everyone who blesses you!"
- **Gn 27:33** Then Isaac trembled very violently (וַיִּחַדּוּר יִצְחָק חֲרָדָה גְדֹלָה עַד-מְאֹד) and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.

3.3. THE REAL BLESSING OF ABRAHAM

- **Heb 11:20** By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau (Πίστει καὶ περὶ μελλόντων εὐλόγησεν Ἰσαὰκ τὸν Ἰακώβ καὶ τὸν Ἡσαῦ)
- **Gn 28:3-4** God Almighty bless you and make you (1) fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. ⁴ May he give the (2) blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take (3) possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!

4. TO REMEMBER

- In the first place, faith means humble receiving of the merits of the Son of God.
- Spiritual understanding of God's ways may come with terrible disappointment in one's cherished persuasions.
- Let us identify, let us be "actively passive", in doing the known will of God – even if it comes through a human agent.