

Hallelujah. May I first request you to please switch off your mobile phones? Let it not ring in the middle of the Word. Because God says, "I have exalted My Word above My name," and we honor His Word, doesn't matter where it is, we honor His Word. I greet you in the precious name of Jesus. Because I stand here and you sit there, that doesn't make me any better than any of you. If I knew Telugu, I would probably learn a lot of new things from you, because God reveals His truth to all of us. He is not a respecter of persons. If you seek Him, God says that you will find Him. This morning even as we look into the Word of God, Shall we pray?

Father this morning, I invite Your presence. Come Lord Jesus and speak to us. You have to speak Oh Lord. Only Your Word has life and Spirit in it. Only Your Word is truth that can set man free. The word of man has no power to change but the Word of God has power to bring change. Speak to us this morning Oh God. Touch our ears that we may hear Your voice, touch our hearts that we may receive Your Word. And all that is spoken from here that is not in accordance to Your Word, I pray it would just fall to the ground and die. Whatever is thy Word, let it bring forth life Oh God. I lift the Word of God above every other thought, every situation, I speak oh God by faith, that Your Word will not go void, it will bring forth fruit. It will achieve the purpose for which it is being sent forth. Speak to us this morning. We need You. Holy Spirit, we need You. Let Your anointing flow. For in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

In *Hebrews 11:6*, we always go back to *Hebrews 11*, it says,

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarded of those who diligently seek Him.

Faith is more than the acts of God. The acts of God are which God does, but when it applies to us, you and me, faith is obedience to God's Word. The question God is asking all of us, how obedient are we to the Word of God? Everything in this universe is held together by His Word. In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God. The Word was God. And as pastors, all of us in the ministry, be very careful that this is God's Word; we don't add, we don't subtract. This is what defines our ministry. In *Exodus 33:13*, (those of you who came last year for the first conference, know this verse) the first one called to be a pastor in the Bible is mentioned here. The first pastor in the Bible is Moses. He is the first one who had a congregation. And his prayer to God is this.

Exodus 33:13

¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."

The first prayer of the first shepherd: "Show me Your ways. Reason: These are Your people, these are not my people, these are Your people. And if You are calling me to lead them, I need to know Your way. Show me Your way Oh God." That is prayer from this man's heart. And let me tell you brothers, all who are teachers, every pastor sitting here, this should be our prayer throughout our life. "God, show me Your way. Even if I have five people, even if I have five hundred people, even if I have five thousand people but they are Your people. I need to know Your way that I may lead Your people."

Psalms 103:7

⁷ He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

It says in *Psalms 103:7*, God showed His ways to Moses but to the children of Israel only His acts. He never showed His ways to the children of Israel. He never showed His ways to the children of Israel, because they never asked, "Lord, show me Your ways." They only asked for acts. God showed them His acts. He did not show them His ways. And pastors, we want the acts of God, but more than that we want to know His ways. It is because the way we show, is how the sheep will take their decisions. In *Romans 3:2* God talks about the patriarchs in the Jewish nation.

Romans 3:1-3

¹ What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? ² Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God. ³ For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?

He says, "What is the advantage of being a Jew?" Most of the books in the Bible are written by Jews. Start from Genesis, you go down to Revelation, almost everybody there is a Jew. What is the advantage in being a Jew? To them were committed the oracles of God. It is to them the oracles of God were committed. That is why we study the Old Testament. God spoke to Abraham, God spoke to Isaac, God spoke to Jacob, God spoke to Moses, God spoke to David. They had the oracles of God. And it is important to have the oracles of God. Are we getting the picture? *Romans 15:4*.

Romans 15:4

⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Whatever things were written before, were written for our learning that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Everything written here is for our learning. And when we learn of the Scriptures there is a comfort and patience that comes. And God says, "I have spoken through My oracles." And you know what? God calls us to be the oracles of God. Everyone sitting over here is called to be an oracle of God. He says, "When you speak, speak My Word. As a pastor, you need to be My oracle." That is where the power lies. Power lies when you become an oracle of God.

Those who were there from the beginning, we began with Abel. The first person mentioned in the book of Hebrews. The one who walked by faith; Abel is connected with worship. And worship killed him. After Abel, the next one we have is Enoch. What is written about Enoch? Enoch walked with God. It is only after worship you learn how to walk. You cannot walk before worshiping. It is out of worship, your walk should rise. After you have worshiped God and walked with God, you have the third person in the book of *Hebrews 11* coming. His name is Noah and he works. He builds an ark. When a man has worshiped God and is walking with God, one day God will call him and say, "I have a work for you." That is how His format always is. Out of worship, out of a walk, will come a work. That work is a lasting work.

Any shepherd, any pastor who worships God and walks with Him, and then does this work unto Him, he will always save his people. In his church there will be safety, there will be protection. When the waters of judgment rise, all those who listen to his voice because his voice was the oracle of the living God, and they got into the Church, remained there obedient, when judgment was coming and people were perishing, the ark only went higher and higher towards God.

After that we looked at the life of Abraham. Abraham is the first man who is called out. Abel was not called out. Enoch was not called out. Noah was also not called out. Abraham was called out. He was asked to leave. For all of us, Abraham is important, because he is called the father of believers. So out of Abel, Enoch and Noah, we need to look at Abraham always, because Abraham is the father of believers. So we study Abraham in detail and we study and learn from the mistakes Abraham made. And last time, we looked as Isaac, Isaac was born when Abraham was hundred years old. Hundred is the number of God's perfection; the perfect child. And we looked last time, till Isaac's wedding. If you were there last month, we saw how Rebecca is a type of the Church, Isaac is a type of Jesus, Abraham is a type of God the Father, Eleazar, the chief servant who goes to look for Rebecca, is a type of the Holy Spirit. And that is where we left. Eleazar has brought Rebecca on a long, long journey. If we are Rebecca, we have been listening to the Holy Spirit talk about Jesus. Holy Spirit, when we study the Word of God, will only talk to us about Jesus. Jesus said, "I will send someone just like Me, the Holy Spirit, when He comes, He will only talk about Me." Eleazar only talks about his master Isaac, he told Rebecca how his master Isaac, the son of Abraham is the heir of all things. And the Holy Spirit will tell how Jesus is the Heir of the Father of all things. And when Rebekah marries Isaac, she becomes a joint heir with Isaac. God says the same, "If you are a genuine Church; you are joint heirs with Christ Jesus."

The first time we see little Isaac in the Bible, he is being mocked and scorned by his elder brother Ishmael. Understand this, Ishmael is flesh; Isaac is born of the Spirit. How will you know that this little boy is born again? When he is born again he will like the things of God. That's when the flesh around will start mocking him –"Hey why are you singing these songs?" "Why are you praying?" "Why are you reading the Bible?" That's why Ishmael mocks Isaac. The very sign that Ishmael mocks Isaac

is the fact that Isaac is born of God. Next time you see Isaac, he is going with his father on a three day journey, Isaac came very excited. Father said, "Come, come let's go on a three day journey." He probably had no idea where he was going. The first time we see in the Bible, words of Isaac recorded, he asks his father, "The wood is here, the fire is here, where is the sacrifice?" The first words of Isaac, recorded in the Bible. Father looks at the young man and says, "God will provide." Remember that we looked at it the last month, Abraham is going up Mount Moriah. He is carrying fire, he's got the knife but he doesn't carry the wood. He carries the fire, he carries the knife, but the wood is laid on Isaac. God, the Father, carried the fire and the sword of the judgment but His Son Jesus had to carry the cross. On the cross, the fire of God, that is the judgment fell on Him; the sword of God, judgment fell upon Him. We have an incredible picture of Isaac; probably one young, strong man and his old father but he allows his father to tie him up on the altar. The book of Philippians says that Jesus was so obedient even unto death on the Cross. The Father told the previous evening you have to get on the Cross; Jesus, the heavenly Isaac says, "Let Thy will be done, not My will. You can put Me up, I will not rebel," and then the next time we saw Isaac, he is forty years old. His father has sent Eleazar to get him a wife, how old is he? Forty years old. How many years old? Forty jubilees later, 2000 years later, 40*50 is 2000. 2000 years later, God, the Father will send His Holy Spirit and say, "Get Rebekah for My Son. It's time for the wedding of My Son. Almost time. The time for My Son to get married is very near." The Holy Spirit is looking for Rebekah everywhere. Last month when we looked at Rebekah, we saw what the Holy Spirit is looking for in His Son's bride and she is ready to leave. She has never seen Isaac, only heard of him from Eleazar and she says, "I am ready to go now." Holy Spirit is also looking into our hearts even today. He knows those who are ready to go now, even before this meeting ends. The ones who are ready in the heart, are always ready. "Maranatha, Come Lord." She sits on the camel and starts the long journey. So the third time we really see Isaac, is in *Genesis 24:63*.

Genesis 24:63

⁶³ ***And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.***

He started praying. First time when you see him in the Bible, it's a spiritual child who is being mocked by the flesh. The next time you see him in the Bible, the spiritual young man is bound on the altar by the father. The third time you see him in the Bible, you will see that he is a praying man. As he is praying, the Church is slowly coming. Who is coming? The bride is coming.

Genesis 24:64-65

⁶⁴ ***Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; ⁶⁵ for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.***

She is on the camel. She's come a long way. Suddenly she asked, "Who is that man?" Eleazar said, "That's my master." How did Rebekah know who this man was? How many men she has seen on this long journey? She did not ask Eleazar, "Who is this man? Who is that man? Who is this man?" Only about one man she asked, "Who is that man?" Eleazar says, "That is Jesus Christ." Jesus said "My sheep hear My voice." The day you meet Him, the Holy Spirit will say, "That's your Master." And when you meet the Master, how do you know the real Church? How do you know the Church is real? Verse 65 says ***she took a veil and covered herself***. What did she do? She took a veil and she covered herself. How do you know a Church is real? *1 Corinthians 11:10*

1 Corinthians 11:10

¹⁰ ***For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.***

It's not just talking about women in the Church covering their head and we are all looking around at the women here in the Church if they've covered their heads. It's not just that. God says, "The real Church will always have the symbol of authority on its head." The real Church will always be under authority and the only symbol of authority God has given is His Word. Question to us as pastors: Are we teaching the Church to come under the total authority of God's Word? Any church that doesn't come under the authority of God's Word and says, "I like this but I don't like this." Pastor will say, "I will preach only from here, I won't preach from Jeremiah? That's too tough." You don't have the sign of authority over your head. Ultimately you will become a false church and you know what God calls that false church? He calls it a harlot, because it's

not under the authority of her husband. Pastors, are we building a Church that comes under the authority of her Husband? Or are we building a church that is running into the world to become a harlot? Be very careful, that's where we will be judged as pastors. You should build a Church that has the authority over her head, always. A Church that will walk in reverence to Jesus.

Rebekah is sitting on a camel, many days, many weeks, and many months. Then one day she saw Isaac, scripture says that as soon as she saw Isaac, she dismounted the camel. When Jesus is standing, can Rebekah be riding? No. How come the Church does that? Jesus is standing; Church is seated much more higher than Jesus. Jesus says, "You don't have the sign of authority over your head. I am standing. I am meek and lowly. You are high and lifted up, still sitting on the camel." When you come down, always check the heart of our Church. Is our church meek? Is it a church that is lowly? Is it a church that comes under authority of the Word of God? That's very important to God, very important because He is coming for a bride who is meek, lowly and under authority. And then Isaac marries Rebekah. Next thing you hear is, Rebekah doesn't bear any children. Isn't that strange? Isaac marries Rebekah and Rebekah is barren. Remember, these are types in the Bible. God is teaching us, as pastors, as churches, as individuals, is your Church barren? Is your life barren? You came a long way. You really heard the voice of the Holy Spirit and you came a long way but when God looks into your life, there is no fruit. You are barren. You know Isaac is being tested just like his father. He is being tested just like his father. God will test each one of us as individuals and as churches. If you're barren, what will you do? *Genesis 25:20-21.*

Genesis 25:20-21

²⁰ Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian. ²¹ Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Genesis 16:2

² So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

Abraham sees that his life is not fruitful. Isaac also knows that his life is not fruitful. Abraham listens to Sarah's voice. Isaac pleads with God. What have we done? Did we listen to our Church? The Church is not growing? There is no life. "let us have a committee meeting and let us do new things" or do we as pastors go kneel before God and ask, "Why is my church dead?" Abraham listened to Sarah's voice. Isaac is pleading with God. *Verse 3*

³ Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan.

How many years? Ten years. What is Sarah saying? "Ten years is enough. Now, if you want revival in the church; let us take the Egyptian maid. Let us look to the world to get ideas. Let's put up some posters, let's put up some lights, let's get a good band." That's the Egyptian maid. Immediate result you get. So he went into Hagar and she conceives. He thinks, "It is from God." When we take the appropriate principles of the world to bring fruitfulness into the Church, you will get immediate results. You don't realize what you brought in. You didn't bring spiritual Isaac, you brought Ishmael. What did you bring? Ishmael. *Genesis 16:12.*

Genesis 16:12

¹² He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

What did the revival bring into your Church? Strife and conflict, because we birthed Ishmael. We did not plead before God; we did not cry out to God. You heard Sarah's voice. You did not listen to God's voice. God's voice is the oracle of God. Sarah's voice is the voice of flesh. You got fruit but its name was Ishmael, coming to *Genesis 25:26.*

Genesis 25:26

²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

Now, Isaac pleaded before God and God heard his prayers. Rebekah has conceived, now she's got twins. How old is Isaac? Sixty years. When did he get married? Forty years. How many years did he plead with God? Twenty years. How many years did his father wait? Ten years and gave birth to Ishmael. The son learnt from his father's mistake. "I am not going that way. I don't want to bring life to my Church through Hagar. I will wait. Even if it is fifteen years, twenty years because He is the one who ordained, He is the one who promised me, 'I will bless you and make you a blessing'." Promise over every pastor here is, "I will bless you and I will make you a blessing." Let Him do it. In His way. I am going to wait. I will not listen to Sarah's voice; the more we listen to Sarah's voice, the more Ishmaels we create. This is the worst thing to all pastors, we want to grow but we are not ready to wait and hear from God. Isaac is a type of Christ, *Hebrews 7:25*.

Hebrews 7:25

²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

What did Jesus do? He is already interceding to His Father, "Touch My Church. Make her fruitful." What is Isaac doing? "Lord, touch my wife. Make her fruitful." Who is the one that makes her fruitful? It is God. Remember it's very easy to conceive if you go to Hagar. You don't have to wait at all. Methods of Egypt, we can always gather a crowd. You can hire vans; put big LCD screens, telling people, "Come." But nobody wants to fast and pray, "Lord, the people who come should be sent by You. It should be a result because You touched the womb of my Church. It is not because I went to Hagar. I am willing to wait. I know what kind of a bride You are going to come for. You are not coming for a rebel. You are not coming for a congregation who is always fighting with each other. You are coming for a congregation that is meek and lowly, who have dealt with rebellion in their hearts." God is telling us this morning, "Don't bring an Ishmael." How many ministries have created Ishmael! And because Ishmael is growing and he is big, everybody is thinks that Ishmael is of God. God is saying, "Ishmael is not of Me. It is of the world." Ishmael's loyalty is always to the world. Ishmael's methods and patterns are always strategic. Ishmael's mother will never come under authority. Ishmael will never make choices according to the Word of God. Look at *Genesis 21:21*.

Genesis 21:21

²¹ He dwelt in the Wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Who is this? Ishmael. And when Ishmael has to get married? He went married a girl from Egypt. When Isaac had to get married, the father said to Eleazar, "You will not pick a girl from among here. You will go back to your father's house and find a wife for my son," and when Ishmael has to be married, they pick a girl from Egypt. This is the problem of birthing Ishmael, whenever Ishmael has to take decisions, it is not according to the Word of God. They don't want any separation. They like being with unbelievers, because it's born from fornication with Egypt. That revival in that church was born because the pastor had fornication with the world. The children that come out through it will always go back to it. They will not be like Isaac, "Daddy, you can tie me on the altar. You can lift the knife. I am obedient. You can pick a wife for me. Lord, I come under the authority of the Your Word. I will always say, 'Let Thy will be done'; I will not go to Egypt." That's the difference between Ishmael and Isaac. God is asking us, as Jesus is forever making intercession, Isaac is forever making intercession. For twenty years he is interceding. *Romans 8:27*,

Romans 8:27

²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

It's not enough to make intercession. Intercession has to be made according to the will of God. Isaac knew that the promised Seed will come through Rebekah. He said, "I will wait." He never asked God to give him a concubine, he said "Lord, touch Rebekah. Touch Rebekah. The Seed has to come through Rebekah." Is it written anywhere in the Bible that Abraham interceded with God saying, 'Lord, touch Sarah'? Abraham was still growing in his faith, that's what we need to learn. The next we hear about Isaac, it's interesting. Now he has two little sons, we will come back to that later. Before looking at Jacob, we will look at Isaac, now he has two little sons, *Genesis 26:1-2* says:

Genesis 26:1-2

¹ And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. ² And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:

Now, there was a famine in the land besides the first famine in the days of Abraham. Read *Genesis 12:10*

Genesis 12:10

¹⁰ And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

Now there was a famine in the land and Abraham went to Egypt. There was barrenness in Sarah and Abraham went into Hagar. See how Abraham is reacting to tests? How Isaac is reacting to the same tests? When Sarah is barren, Abraham goes into Hagar. When there is a famine, Abraham goes into Egypt. Rebekah is barren, twenty years Isaac interceded. You know what God is telling us? Unlike Abraham, Isaac had a life of prayer. If you have a life of prayer, when a famine comes, the Lord will appear to you. He will tell you, "You don't have to go to Egypt." You know why pastors don't hear from God? Many pastors don't hear from God because they don't have a ministry of intercession. In the book of *Acts 6:4*,

Acts 6:4

⁴ But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

What did the Apostle say? "We have two ministries: The ministry of the Word and the ministry of prayer. Rest of the work is for others." Are we getting it? What is happening in the Church is, the pastor does everything, he cleans the church, he leads worship and he preaches, he prays, he is visiting homes every day, finally there is no revelation, there is no intercession. The time that should be spent before God interceding and studying the Word is spent on all the other things. The apostles, right in the beginning said, "We have a twofold ministry: ministry of the Word and the ministry of prayer." Isaac had a twofold ministry, he lifted the Word above every situations and he had a habit of waiting before the Lord and interceding. So when famine came, he heard from God. Abraham did not even *ask* God. "Famine is here, what should I do, Lord?" He didn't ask God. He went into Egypt. Is there famine in our church? Famine is not shortage of people. Barrenness is shortage of spiritual people. Famine is shortage of provision. When we have a need and we don't have the provision to meet the need that is the state of famine in the Church. What will we do? We put a scroll on Aradhana TV: "*This is my bank account and I will pray for you. Send 100 Rs, I will send you a hand kerchief.*" Did you get it? Why? It is because there is no provision. When there is no provision, you got to Egypt. Egypt has so many ways how to raise provision. So the committee will sit; nice committee and they will tell the ladies, "You make cake, you make Biryani, bring all these things and we will have a fare; a party in the church and let the others buy. We will raise provision." That's what happens in the world; nowhere in the Bible did God ever raise provision in the ways of the world. Every man of God just has to stand before God and hear from God how provision will come. We saw big ministries, not in God's eyes, but in man's eyes. They are forever asking, "Money, Money, Money", how can they talk about miracles? Great miracles. Why can't they believe for money? They show all the miracles that happen in the ministry, crippled- God healed, deaf could hear, blind could see; all these photos are put. Only miracle that doesn't happen is that the money doesn't come. Don't you find that strange? A God who has straightened somebody's leg, can He not provide for your need? God's famine is a test. Barrenness is a test. For all of us these are two tests. If your church is barren, what will you do? Will you go in the way of Abraham or will you go in the way of Isaac? If there's a famine, will you go in the way of Abraham or will you go in the way of Isaac? You know what's the way of Isaac? It's there is *Genesis 26:12*.

Genesis 26:12

¹² Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.

What did he do? He sowed. He dint ask. He sowed. He dint ask, he gave and that's very difficult to practice. The church's budget is 1000 Rs, the need is 2000 Rs, and pastor wants to raise money. After today's message you went home and your praying and interceding and you hear from God, very clearly you hear from God, "Out of 1000rs you have, take 500 and sow it in another church." "Oh God, what are You saying?" We have not heard things like that. That is what happens. In the time of famine, Isaac had little cattle left and unlike Abraham, he's got two children and Abraham had no children when the famine came. Isaac had two children and he has got little grain left. God said, "Take that seed, sow it." Tomorrow harvest is not going to come. We have all come from the village and we know that for harvest to come, it will take time. "Lord when I

look at the ground, the ground is dried. There is no rain in Canaan for months. Everything is dry. The only place green is Egypt.” God says, “Sow in the dry ground.” You hear from God, “You know in that lane, there’s a small church, poor church, only five people, go to that pastor and give him that 500 as offering.” “Why should I give there Lord? It looks like a dry church. I will go to that big church, where there are ten thousand people. I will go to that pastor and say, ‘God told me to give you this 500 Rs.’ And the pastor will give 1000rs back. If I give this pastor 500 Rs, he doesn’t even have a glass of water to give me.” God says, “Sow there.” You have to sow by faith. In Egypt you can sow by sight. If you sow in Egypt, you can get 9.5% per annum. They will say, “you put in your money, you will get it back.” There is no guarantee. Just obey God and God has to increase. Everything looks negative but you are a man of prayer and you have heard from God and God says, “Sow you’re seed there.” As soon as he sowed, same year, a hundred fold the Lord blessed. How many churches can really stand and say, ‘The Lord blessed us’? You can take the blessing as the Lord’s blessing only if you have done it the Lord’s way. Abraham came from Egypt after famine: donkeys, Camels, sheep, goats, lot of slaves but he never said, “The Lord blessed me,” he never said that the Lord blessed him. He knew the blessing was from Pharaoh because Pharaoh had taken his wife. He had sold his integrity in Egypt and became rich. Many churches and ministries are prosperous today because they have sold themselves to Egypt and they say, “The Lord has blessed me.” The Day of Judgment is coming, God says, “I will break the bread staff, I will allow famine in your midst. Let Me see who will praise God.” God is patient; He is giving time to every pastor, every church, and every ministry to repent. If we don’t repent, be very sure that ultimately the authority of the Word will prevail, it will come to pass. The wilderness journey and the lack of provision are ordained by the living God. All of our lives, all our ministries, He will test them whether we will go by God’s Word. *Deuteronomy 8, verse 3 and 4,*

Deuteronomy 8:3-4

³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. ⁴ Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

There are two things mentioned here. One is being led into the wilderness, wilderness is a place that is barren. Second thing mentioned is He causes them to be hungry, lack of provision. He led men, women and children, almost two million people, twenty Lakh people, into barrenness and lack of provision and caused them to hunger to see how they will react. What was the purpose? *Verse 3*

Deuteronomy 8:3

³ That man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

That is what God is doing. Abraham left and God came to Abraham, “I will bless you and I will make you a blessing. All the nations will call you blessed, do you believe?” He gave him one word. Looking at Sarah, she is barren, five years, six years, seven years, ten years, is God’s Word true? Is it going to happen? “I’ve been ten years in the ministry. I have only ten people so far, I remember when He called me and He promised that He will bless me and He would increase me. Lord I waited ten years, should I look at Hagar? Should I look at the world? If you see this pastor, he is doing all these things, growing everyday but he knows his methods are not right. But he (the other pastor who is in the world) is growing; shall I also go that way?” Be still brother, don’t make Abraham’s mistake. You’re ministry will not birth Isaac, it will birth Ishmael. The Church has so many needs, we have so many plans but there is no provision, God says, “Wait, don’t run into Egypt. I will test you whether you will live by the bread alone or by every Word that proceeds from My mouth.” That was the test for Isaac and you know Isaac succeeded where Abraham had failed. All He gave Abraham was Isaac and His word and to us He gave His entire Word and He says, “Do you believe My Word? Will you wait patiently? And hope?” Now read again *Romans 15:4*

Romans 15:4

⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Everything has been written for us so that from the Scripture we get our patience, our comfort. If you believe His Word and we say, “Your Word is true and I’m still going to stand on Your Word, believe Your Word and I am going to do what Your Word says,” and it will come to pass. It’s not an easy journey. Abraham had to be brought to that point where he put the Word above everything else. Abraham did not finish as a failure, He finished as an overcomer. Because God came to

Abraham and said, "Take your son, your only son and put him on the altar and kill him," now he believed and he went all the way up the mountain and he lift his hands believing Him, "Even if he is dead, God promised through him that all generations will be blessed. I will believe His Word, even if Isaac dies, he will come back." That's why God said, "Father of believers, now you started to believe Me." James Chapter 2, verse 20-13,

James 2:20-23

²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

The word *works* over there, I want to put it across as obedience. If your faith doesn't lead you to the obedience to the Word of God, how can God call you His friend? What did Jesus say? "I do not call you My servants, I call you My friends. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. You will obey." The genuineness of faith is tested by our obedience. God is asking us this morning, "How obedient are you? How obedient are you to the Word of God?" How obedient are we to leading our Church to the obedience to the Word of God? That's what happened to Isaac, Isaac obeyed and Scripture says that God blessed him. And because God blessed him, he became big. Now his greatness is because God blessed him. Immediately the enemies are after him. The enemies are after him, if you come to *Genesis 26:14-16*

Genesis 26:14-16

¹⁴ for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him. ¹⁵ Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with earth. ¹⁶ And Abimalech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we."

What does Scripture say? As soon as he was obedient and God blessed him, how do you know God blessed him? The ruler of the world came and told him, "Move away from here, you are too big." Abimalech is the ruler. The point is, does the ruler of this world know us? Does Satan know us? Does Satan think we are a threat for him? For God it doesn't make a difference if the CM knows you? The difference is if the devil knows us? CM may know you but devil says, "I don't know you. He/she is no threat to my kingdom." Does the devil know you? Do they know you by name? In the book of Acts it's written, the demons asked, "Jesus I know, Paul I know, but who are you?" Question is asked by the demons, "Jesus I know; Pastor Paul I know, but who are you?" Abimalech, when he saw Isaac, knew that the hand of God was upon him. And Abimalech is saying, "You are too mighty. Your anointing is scary." In the world you may be nobody, in your town you don't have to be anybody. What matters is; does the enemy know you? The minute enemy knows you that means that God's hand is upon you. There is a sister in my church, nobody knows her very well in this world, in India. The enemy knows her very well, very well. And all people call her 24 hours for prayer; people come from all over India to get prayed over. She doesn't tell anybody except her Pastor. If we had a ministry like that we would put up posters everywhere around the town "Come to me for prayer, people from all of India are coming to me for prayer." Last month, if I am right, people from 38 countries flew in to Hyderabad so that she could pray over them and yesterday two people who were dying and one was in the Apollo ambulance is parked in front of her house, that sister came to the ambulance and prayed over her and they took the patient to the hospital, the whole street is watching. The enemy knows her name. God is asking, "Does the enemy know your name?" No pamphlet, no poster, nothing anywhere. Around the world, in the enemy's kingdom, well-known name because God's hand is upon her. *Jesus I know; Paul I know, but who are you?* Jesus I know, Isaac I know, please go away from me, you are too mighty." Isaac moved away. Isaac was not going to fight. A man who knows his blessing is from God, doesn't have to fight. "If God has blessed me, nobody can take that blessing away from me," and he goes away and he finds all the wells his father has dug which are filled with water and they covered them up with mud. All the wells his father had dug, the enemy came and filled them with mud. We need to go back to the wells dug by our spiritual fathers. Go back to the wells dug by your spiritual fathers. The enemy of this world has come and filled it with dirt; dirt refers to flesh. The wells of Abraham which had pure water had been filled with the dirt of false ministries. Now we are not sure, we get confused when we read the Word of God, whether what we are reading is true or what the man in the TV is saying is true. But it was a well dug originally by Abraham and God says, "Now you go dig the well. Don't look for any man's revelation, you yourself go and dig it. I will open it up for you. And call it by name that Abraham called it. Don't give it a fancy name given by the

fancy preachers; call it by the name Abraham called it. And he is speaking and he starts digging for water and there is pure water. Now the philistines are after him. If you look at *Verse 19*,

Genesis 26:19

¹⁹ ***Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there.***

Jesus' servants, Isaac's servants, whenever they dig, they will always get water in the Word. He is the one who said, "All those who are thirsty come to Me and I will give you water." Every servant of Isaac, every servant of Jesus, if you dig, you will find water. People of the flesh will come and fight with you and they will say, "That water belongs to us, that revelation is ours," he said, "Take it and go," and we will go further. Not only the book of Genesis, we will go to Exodus, there are 66 books and I have no problem in finding water, wherever I dig, I will get water. You take it." What did he call it? Esek. Esek in Hebrews means strife or contention and what did he do? *Verse 21*.

Genesis 26:21

²¹ ***Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sitnah.***

As you go through digging the wells of Abraham, you will realize, contention and strife will come and we have to move away from it. *Sitnah* means hatred or slander or false accusation. When Jesus starts preaching the real Word, the Pharisees came and stirred up strife, He moved off. He said, "You preach, I won't preach." He dug another well, fresh water is coming and they came there too. They called it Sitnah. They slandered, they said, "Your Master drinks wine, He is with prostitutes and tax collectors." Slander and accusations from false ministries. God says, "Don't fight, move on, and dig another well." The third well he dug and he named it Rehoboth. What does Rehoboth mean? I have found room to stay. In the midst of contention, God made a place for me. Come to the next verse, it's important. He did not stop at Rehoboth. If God makes a little room for us, we will settle down at Rehoboth, but not Isaac. He said, "I will go to Beersheba." He said, "Even though there is a well and water at Rehoboth, I will go to Beersheba." Beersheba is the place of covenant. At Beersheba, Abraham had made a covenant with Abimelech. You have to go back to the place of covenant. Jacob also, later went back to Beersheba. A place of covenant is the Cross. Don't be content when you have room, you always have to go back to the place of the covenant; that is Beersheba; that is the Cross. You know what? He went on from there to Beersheba and he built an altar there. As soon as he goes to Beersheba and takes up the Cross, Scripture says that God appeared to him. Whenever you go to the Cross and allow the Cross to work in your life, brothers and sisters, God will speak to you. God always speaks where the Cross is lifted up. That's what is happening. God appears to him and he receives the promise. Now read verse 25.

Genesis 26:25

²⁵ ***And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.***

Did u read it carefully? He went to Beersheba, God spoke to him, he built an altar, he pitched a tent, he dug a well. Now turn with me to *Genesis 12:8-9*,

Genesis 12:8-9

⁸ ***And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.*** ⁹ ***So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.***

Observe verse 8 and verse 9, what did he do? He journeyed away from the altar. Where do you see him next? You see him in Egypt selling his wife. What did Isaac do? God spoke to him, he built an altar and pitched a tent and dug a well there. "I am going to stay close to my altar." He learnt from the mistakes of his father, all these are recorded for our sake. All these are recorded for our sake. Now let's go back to *Genesis 25:22-23*, not only has he prayed for twenty years, now Rebekah has conceived. Rebekah has conceived. When God starts moving and God touches your womb, God touches your church and immediately you believe that now peace is going to come, when revival starts in your church, expect also conflict.

Genesis 25:22-23

²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³ And the Lord said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

"Lord I prayed for revival, the revival has come but along with revival, conflict has also come. I asked for new members to come and people have come. I dint do anything, I prayed. I fasted, people have come but conflict has also come. God is saying, "There are two nations in your womb. And there will be conflict. The Word of God will always bring division. The Word of God will always bring division; it will show the division between flesh and the Spirit. The elder one is always the flesh and the younger one is always the one who is born of the Spirit. God says, "I will tell you one thing; the elder will serve the younger." Whenever the Word of God, Jesus, Isaac, comes and touches a life, then immediately Esau will start hunting Jacob. Till then there has been no strife, the minute you are born again, flesh and spirit are fighting, but only the spirit will rule. God says, "Only the spirit will rule." Do you understand? This is the fight in everyone's life. In every church, between Esau and Jacob. Jacob is called, Jacob is the chosen one. Esau is never called. As pastors, ask discernment from God, "Show me the Esaus and the Jacobs in my church." As for Jacob, *Romans 8:28-29*,

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

For Jacob, all things work together for the good of those who love Christ Jesus and are called according to His purpose. Jacob will go through a lot of trouble in his life because he has to be conformed into the image of Christ Jesus. There's no trouble for Esau. God is not interested in Esau at all. Jacob, God is interested. There are two things that are important: Are you called? Do you love? Has God called you? Has God chosen you? Then God looks into your heart and asks, "Do you love Me?" God chose Jacob and Jacob always loved the things of God. Esau never loved the things of God. Now we will see something about Esau and Jacob, let's see how they are described in *Genesis 25:27*

Genesis 25:27

²⁷ And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

I don't know what it says in Telugu but it says, *Esau was a cunning hunter, Jacob is a mild man*. If you want to be a good hunter, you have to be very cunning otherwise you won't get your catch. These things are not written there by accident. It says that Esau was a very cunning and deceptive man in the heart. Some people choose professions according to their heart; some people are excellent insurance agents because they can sell anything. Brother is healthy, he doesn't need insurance at all but he will convince him that he may die tomorrow and needs insurance. Profession is connected to the heart. Some people are very good lawyers, "Doesn't matter what ever case you bring to me, I will win it for you." That's what it means Esau was a cunning hunter; Hebrew word for cunning is *Yara* which means deceitful. And the word described about Jacob is a Hebrew word *Yam* which means he is a gentle person. So far, Isaac has come really well and the enemy is looking, "This fellow is really good, too good and I need something to use against him and let's look at *verse 28*,

Genesis 25:28

²⁸ And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Isaac loved Esau because Isaac loved eating meat. Pastor loves biryani and this brother has a Biryani joint. If this brother has a deceitful heart, every evening he will come from the back door to the pastor with biryani. And a time will come when pastor wants an assistant and God is telling, "There is a simple brother who should be the assistant," but stomach is telling, "The other brother brings me biryani every day." A day will come when Isaac will have to make a choice, that day he doesn't lift the Word of God, he puts meat above the Word of God. This is why God says, "Be very careful of the deceitfulness of the enemy, he is looking for that one thing in our life to take us away from God." A praying, interceding man, a man who allowed his father to put him on the altar, a man who carried the sticks on his own back, never said a word when his father told his servant, "Go pick a wife for him." He prayed and interceded from far, "Lord, let it be the right wife." When the wife is barren, he prayed and fasted for twenty years so she would conceive. What brought him down? Love for meat. And we think it is not so important. All the pastors have some things which we like; be very careful about those

things. Enemy will not touch us now. The enemy will touch you much later, when we are very weak and spiritually blind but you still have authority then, he will touch you there and say, "Change the course of your journey, change it now." And you could ruin the entire course of the ministry. This is what is happening to Isaac. Scripture says, "Isaac loved Esau." Is it wrong to love his son? He loved Esau because Esau brought him meat and that is the wrong reason to love your child. And the father he looked at the two sons, he did not look at the fact that Esau did not love the Word of God, he loved the world, he was out in the world. You know what the Word of God calls Esau? Hebrew 12, verse 6.

Hebrews 12:16

¹⁶ lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

Why does He use the word called *fornicator* here? Because he was not interested in the things of God, he was interested in the things of the world. Any man or woman or church loves the world of the things of the world, God calls them fornicators in His Word. A profane person is the one who does not respect and have any love for the Word of God. He despises his birthright. What is our birthright? Our birthright is the double portion of the anointing. Esau's birthright was to get a double portion of property from his father. Jacob wanted that birthright and knew that it was his birthright, because God had told his mother, "The elder shall serve the younger." One day Esau came hungry from the world and Jacob was making something nice. He said, "Give that to me, I'm so hungry, I'm about to die." Jacob said, "Give me your birthright." Esau said, "What is the birthright to me, give me the food that I want." In Telugu language, he sold his birthright for *pappu*. Are you getting the picture? Do you know how many men and women of God have sold their birthright for the things of the world? They sell their birthright. God says, "You have the spirit of Esau in you." All the things of the world are like lentil soup and you are willing to sell your birthright; all the blessings and the anointing just for a handful of lentil soup. You are not willing to wait, your mother is there, why did you go to your mother and say, "Cook food now fast, I'm hungry." She would have said, "Wait for half an hour, I will cook good food for you, fast." Esau did not sell his birthright because he was hungry; he sold his birthright because he did not value the things of God. Pastors sell their double portion of anointing because they do not take seriously their anointing of God upon their lives. If tomorrow, that is Sunday, the MLA calls all the pastors from the local churches to come for a meeting, they will leave their churches and leave their posts and go sit in front of the MLA. We will sell our calling and our anointing just to be appreciated by this man. Any little thing in the world, you will sell it. The same thing happened to Jesus, the ruler of this world is calling. You know what Jesus said, "Go tell that fox. Today and tomorrow I will do the miracles and on the third day I will rise again." You know what John the Baptist said? He was not bothered by the things of the world. You know what Jesus told about the religious leaders? "You all like to have big borders on your robes and you like being called teacher, rabbi, reverend, most reverend. And you want to be seated in those prominent places." And do you know what Jesus said about John the Baptist? He said, "Do you know how the forerunner came? Among all who are born of a woman, he is the greatest. He was clothed in camel's hair, wore a leather belt and he came out of the wilderness." He didn't have round collars, he didn't have long borders, he didn't have a title as Most Reverend John the Baptist. He just came as God sent him and he is coming out of the wilderness, he is not coming from the city. He is the one who met God in the wilderness. These days everyone is going around the city for appreciation from the people. Here crowds from the city went to John the Baptist to listen to his words; he did not change the message for anybody. He said, "Repent for the Kingdom of God is near." God is saying, "Can I commit real ministry into your hands?" or are we running after fancy messages? Brothers and sisters don't raise any idea above the truth of God's Word. Moses had to leave his throne and be in the wilderness for forty years before God would commit His work into his hands. David had to be in the wilderness and prove God in the wilderness before God could commit Israel into his hands. Elijah, the Tishbite, suddenly came out of the wilderness and he looked straight into the king's eye and said, "Until my word comes, there will be no more blessing in this kingdom." John the Baptist comes suddenly out of the wilderness, he said, "The Prince of Glory is coming. Every mountain shall be brought low, every valley shall be filled, every crooked path will be made straight. Every rough road shall be made smooth. Then the Prince of glory shall come." Whoever is proud will be humbled. Everybody who is deep in sin will be lifted up. Everyone whose ways are crooked will be straightened. When we have dealt with sin, iniquity and transgression in our life, then the Balm of Gilead will come, then the Prince of glory will come. There is one more ministry; it is the ministry of your and my time. God says, "Before the dreadful day of Lord, before the second coming, I will pour the spirit of Elijah who will call people back to repentance and enter the Kingdom of God. It will not lead them to prosperity; those are all failed ministry. Men and women who will stand there for God. This is what God is calling us to. No advertisements, no nameplates, we don't need any of that. They asked John the Baptist, "Who are you, a prophet?" "No, I am not a prophet." "Are you a prophet?" "No, I am not a prophet." "Then who are you? Are you the Messiah?" "No, I am not the Messiah. I am just a voice in the wilderness." Is there anyone here who wants to remain just a voice in the wilderness?

No face, just a voice. God is still looking for voices. A voice that doesn't have a face; even to be that voice, it has to tally with the Word. When your voice tallies with the Word of God then it won't be your face, it will be the face of Jesus. Then we will be able to say, "God said," not pastor said. Not the pastor said. We don't have our own ministry. There's a King and His Kingdom coming. And Jesus said, "Everyone who falls upon the Rock will be broken, everyone on whom the Rock will fall will be crushed." What are you preparing the people for? We are living in the times of the second coming of Jesus. When He came the first time, Israel was ruled by the Romans. People were struggling under the Roman rule. They wanted a King and they thought that the King would come and throw the Romans out and we will all be free. Jesus came as a Lamb of God. He didn't come as the King. All the miracles were happening and when the miracles were happening, they were all excited and they also started following, now the Kingdom will be established and the apostles are asking, "Jesus, when will Your Kingdom be established," He says, "That is not for you to know." The mother is coming and saying, "Lord, when Your Kingdom is established, let my son sit on Your right and the other son on Your left." They didn't understand that He came as the Lamb of God. He will deal with sin in our hearts first, the Kingdom should be established in us first, it is not about throwing away the Roman rulers. Two thousand years later, He is not coming as a Lamb of God; He is coming as the King. The problem; we have no more kings, we have democracy, people's rule. We don't want a king. People want the Lamb to come. "Lord, don't tell me what to do, I will do whatever I want and come back to you and say, 'Lamb of God, cleanse me'" but we don't realize that it is not the Lamb that is coming but the King is coming. People then waited for a king and the Lamb of God came and today we are waiting for the Lamb of God but it is the King who is coming back. That's why Paul says, "In the last days there will be terrible times." Everybody is a king, all the churches are filled with kings, "Don't tell me what to do, don't tell what to surrender, I just want forgiveness for my sins. I will do what I want to do." And then they are expecting Jesus to come as a King. Are we ready for the King? Have we dealt with the authority of God's Word in our hearts? First as pastors, are we teaching our Church that this is primary, when Rebecca comes and sees Isaac, she has a sign over her head that she is under her authority. As soon as she hears, "That is your master," she covers her head. Scripture says, "You should have a sign of power over your head." God is not fooled by the appearance. God is looking at every heart and He knows which heart has the authority of His Word. That's why in the Book of Malachi He said, "Jacob I loved, Esau I hated." Father loved Esau but God said, "He is a fornicator. Do you know Jacob? He will fall but he loves Me. He will fall again but I will cleanse him. I will make him into what he should be." That's what God is asking, "Are you Esau or Jacob?" When God looks at your heart, He is looking at this: Are you a man under authority? Are you able to say, "It is written therefore I believe. I will not listen to the voice of Sarah, I listen to the voice of my Lord." If He has said, then I will wait. I will wait; He will fulfil His promise in His time. I don't want to go before God's time. I want to grow in God's time, in God's way. I will wait for God. I will lift God's Word above the situation." We will see in afternoon session, how Abraham messed up and ended flourished. How Jacob messed up, messed up and at the end flourished. How Isaac flourished, flourished but ended up messed up. That's why these things are recorded for us. Four patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, very little is mentioned about Isaac. He began very well but didn't end up well. Abraham and Jacob didn't start well but ended up excellent. God is not looking at how we started, anyone who is here; any church; He is looking at how we are ending it. "Do you love Me? Can you be taught? Do you come under the authority of My Word? Then I can finish your course as an overcomer." Shall we pray?

Closing Prayer:

Father this afternoon as we stand in Your presence, all these Scriptures are recorded for our purposes. Many began the race, many did not finish. Many were called, some were chosen, very few were faithful. Father, help us to remain faithful till the end. The time is here. The end is here. The trumpet may blow anytime. Only Your bride that's ready, prepared obediently and faithfully will hear the sound. Help us too Lord, to be the bride of Christ Jesus. Not a bride that will run into the world as a harlot. We thank You, we praise You for the provision in Your house. We take it with thanksgiving and may each one who part takes of it be blessed. Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word of God. Amen.