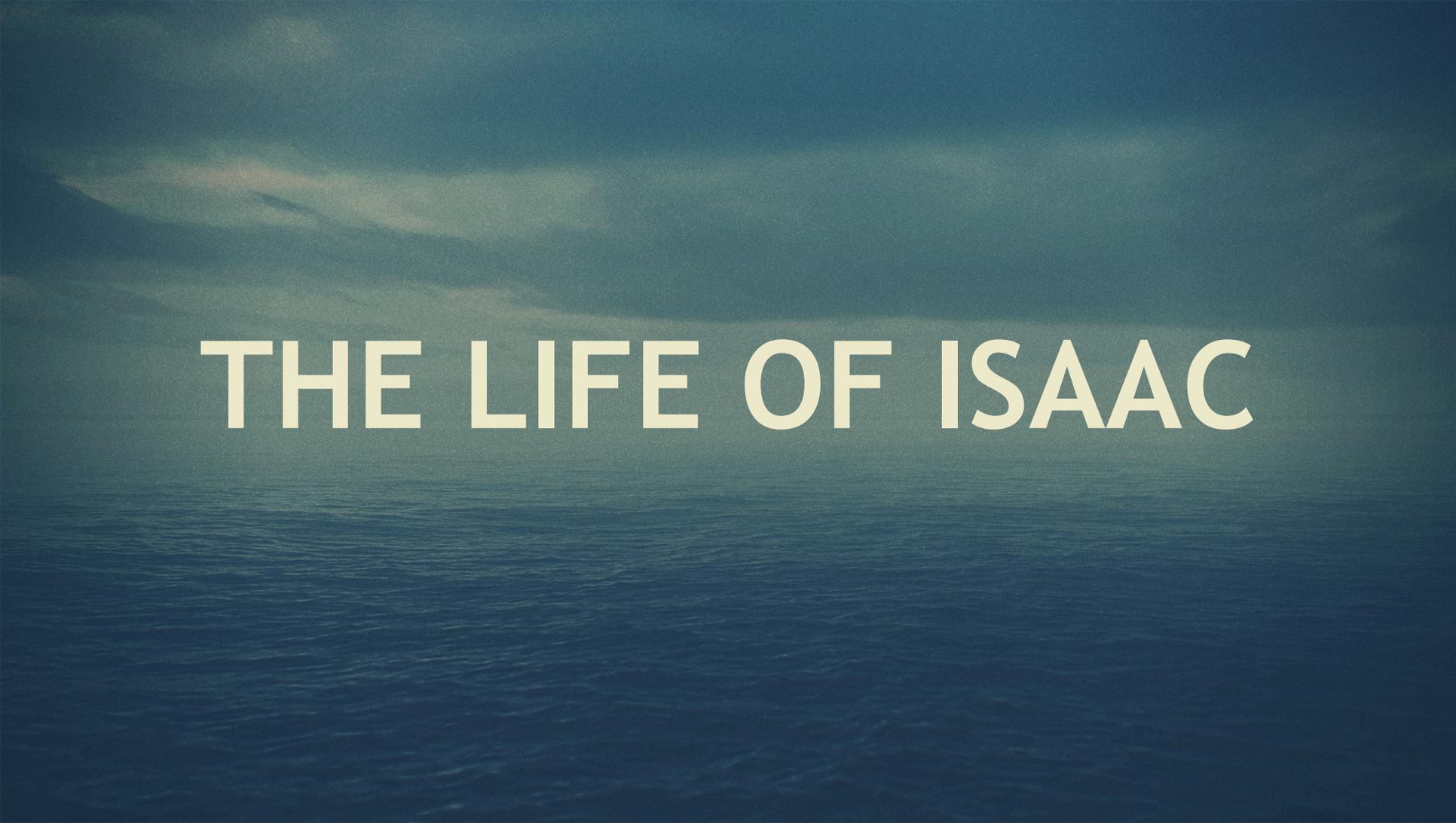


GENESIS

THE GOSPEL STARTS HERE

The background image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the foreground, there is a body of water with subtle ripples. The middle ground shows a range of mountains or hills, partially obscured by a layer of mist or low clouds. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, with a faint light source breaking through near the horizon, creating a soft glow. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, greys, and muted greens, giving it a somber and contemplative feel.

THE LIFE OF ISAAC

¹ Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham’s time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. ² The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. ³ Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you.

Genesis 26:1-18

For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. ⁴ I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed,

Genesis 26:1-18

⁵ because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.”

⁶ So Isaac stayed in Gerar. ⁷ When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.”

Genesis 26:1-18

He thought, “The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.”⁸ When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah.

Genesis 26:1-18

⁹ So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, “She is really your wife! Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac answered him, “Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her.” ¹⁰ Then Abimelek said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.”

Genesis 26:1-18

¹¹ So Abimelek gave orders to all the people:
“Anyone who harms this man or his wife
shall surely be put to death.” ¹² Isaac planted
crops in that land and the same year reaped a
hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him.
¹³ The man became rich, and his wealth
continued to grow until he became very
wealthy.

Genesis 26:1-18

¹⁴ He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.

¹⁵ So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.¹⁶ Then Abimelek said to Isaac, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us."

Genesis 26:1-18

¹⁷ So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled. ¹⁸ Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

Genesis 26:1-18

Biblical covenants are made with
one person, but are representative
of many people

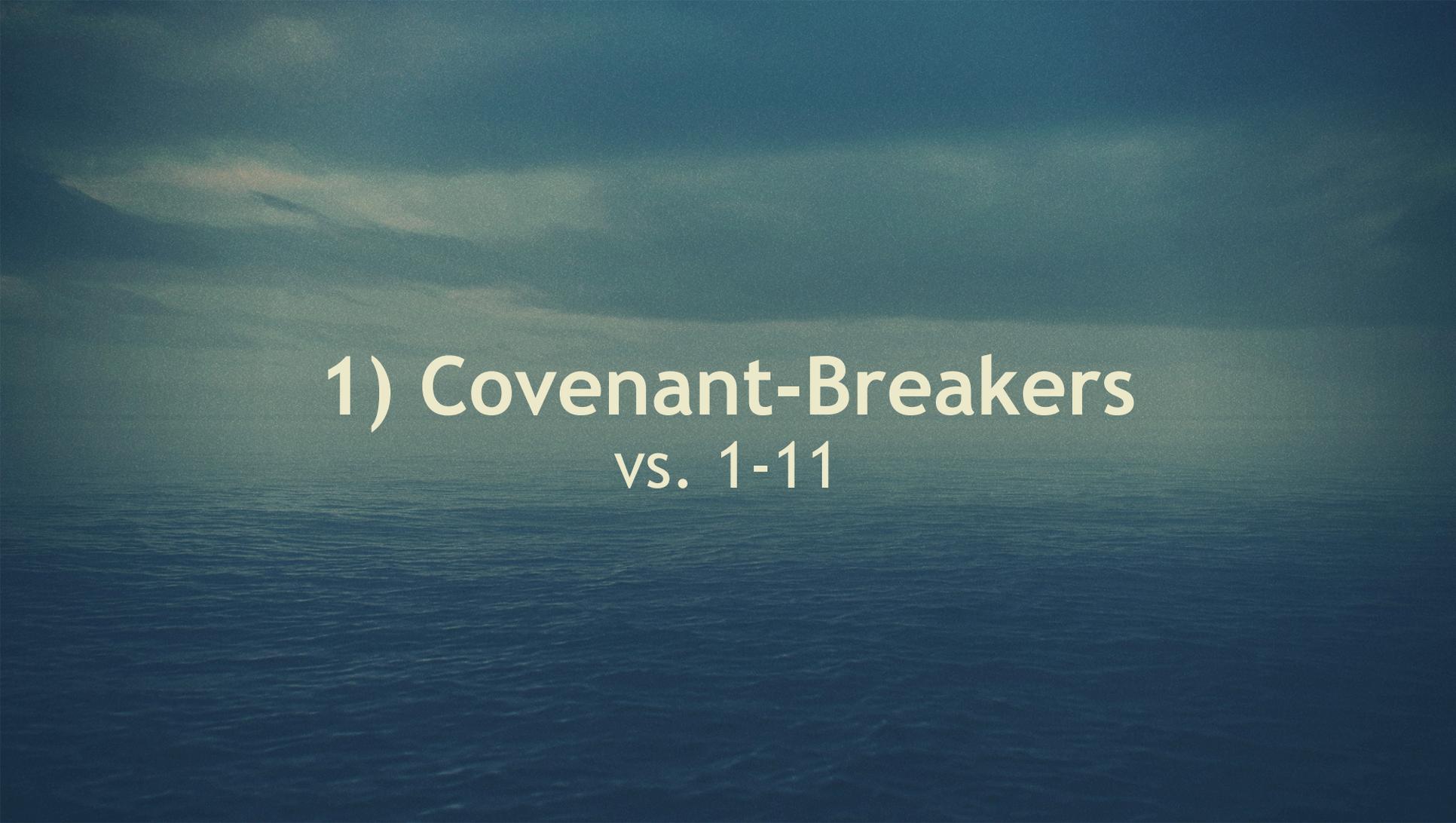
God displays His covenant promises to His people in three interchangeable ways:

- 1) The conditionality of Abraham's obedience
(as the parent)
- 2) The conditionality of Isaac's obedience
(as the child)
- 3) The conditionality of God's grace

Isaac is preceded by Abraham whose story is contained in 14 chapters (Genesis 11-25)

Isaac is processed by Jacob whose story is contained in 11 chapters (Genesis 25-36)

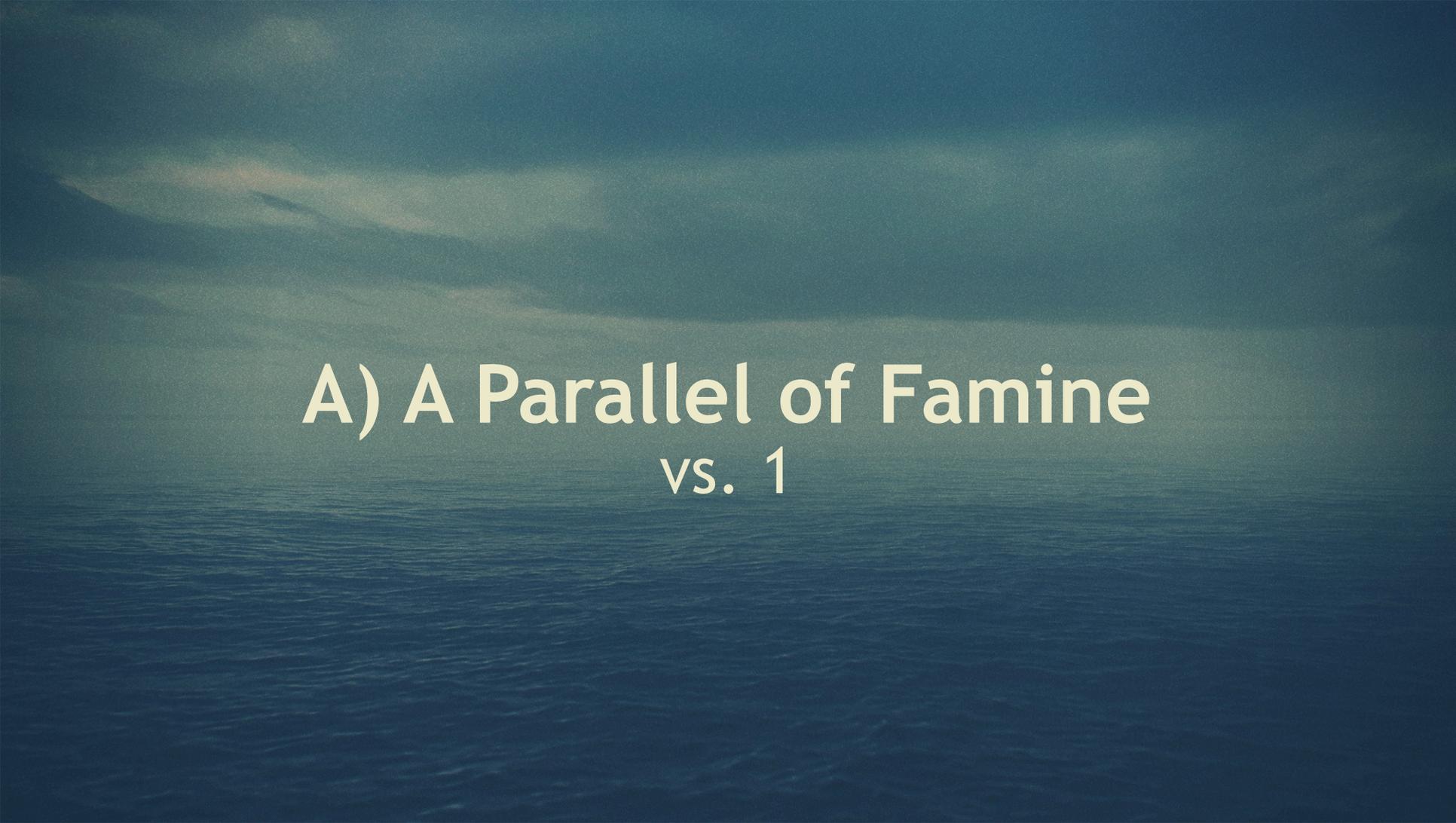
Isaac's entire life can be encapsulated in this one single chapter (Genesis 26)

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric landscape. The top half shows a sky with soft, horizontal bands of light, possibly from a low sun or moon, creating a misty or ethereal effect. The bottom half shows a body of water with gentle ripples, reflecting the light from the sky. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, teals, and greys.

1) Covenant-Breakers

vs. 1-11

“Go where He tells you to go” and
“Do what He tells you to do”

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric photograph. The top half shows a sky with soft, horizontal bands of light, possibly from a low sun or moon, creating a hazy, ethereal glow. Below the sky, the horizon line is visible, and the bottom half of the image shows a body of water with gentle ripples, reflecting the light from above. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, teals, and greys, giving it a somber and contemplative feel.

A) A Parallel of Famine vs. 1

¹ Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham's time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar.

Genesis 26:1

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

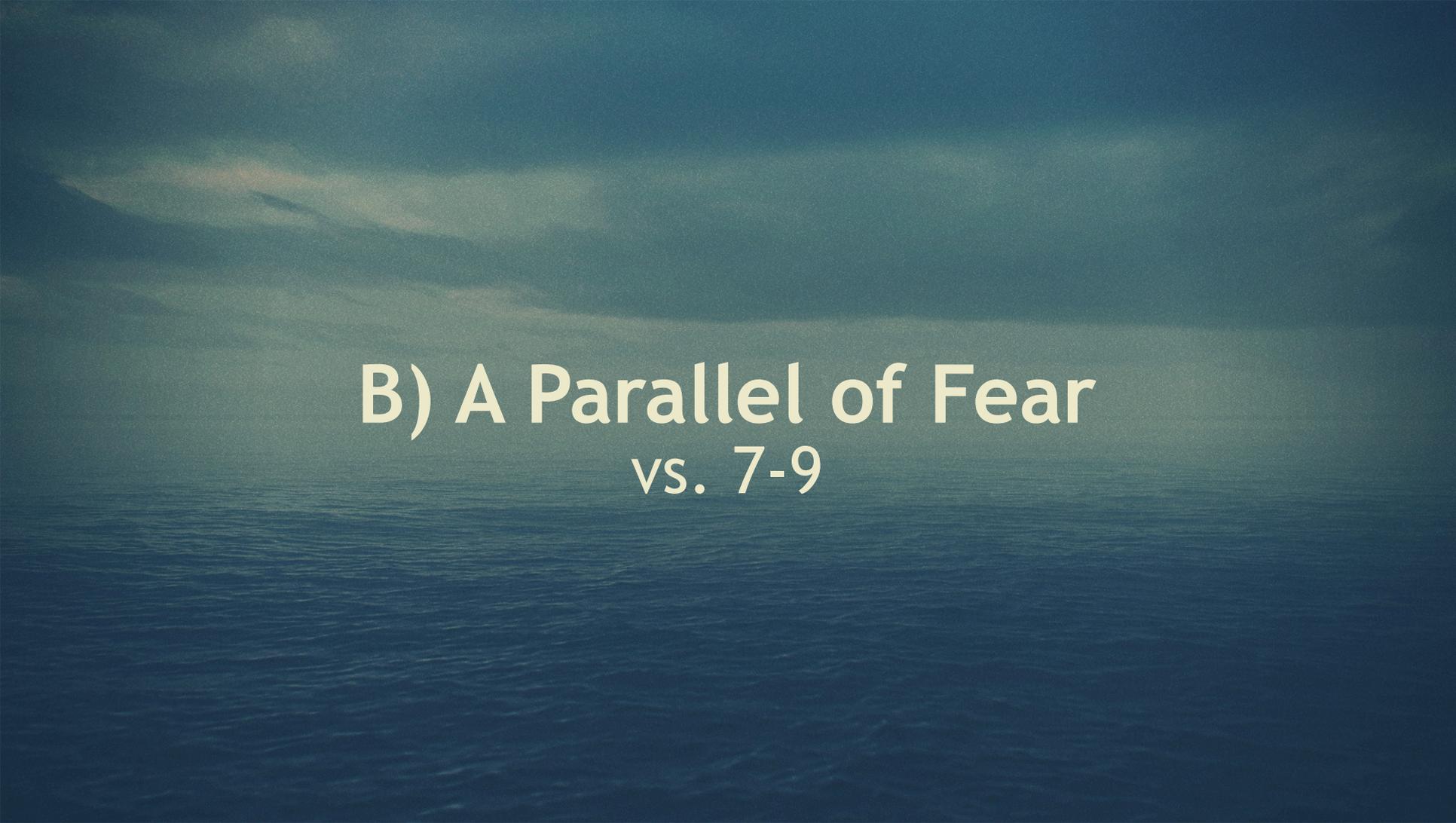
Genesis 12:10

Isn't the God of promise the same
God of provision?

² The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. ³ Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you.

Genesis 26:2-3

God should always be the first
person and not the last person we
turn to in the midst of crisis

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric landscape. The upper portion shows a sky with a gradient from deep blue to a lighter, hazy greenish-blue, suggesting a misty or overcast day. Below the sky, there are faint, dark silhouettes of hills or mountains. The lower portion of the image is dominated by a body of water with subtle ripples, reflecting the colors of the sky above. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

B) A Parallel of Fear
vs. 7-9

⁷ When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” ⁸ When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah.

Genesis 26:7-9

Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, ² and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

Genesis 20:1-7

³ But God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, “You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman.” ⁴ Now Abimelek had not gone near her, so he said, “Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation?”

Genesis 20:1-7

⁵ Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister,’ and didn’t she also say, ‘He is my brother’? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands.” ⁶ Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me.

Genesis 20:1-7

That is why I did not let you touch her. ⁷ Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all who belong to you will die.”

Genesis 20:1-7

When we fear, our impulse is to lie.
Do not ever put your trust in a lie.

There is no lie that can truly protect.

Lying never makes things better,
but always makes things worse.

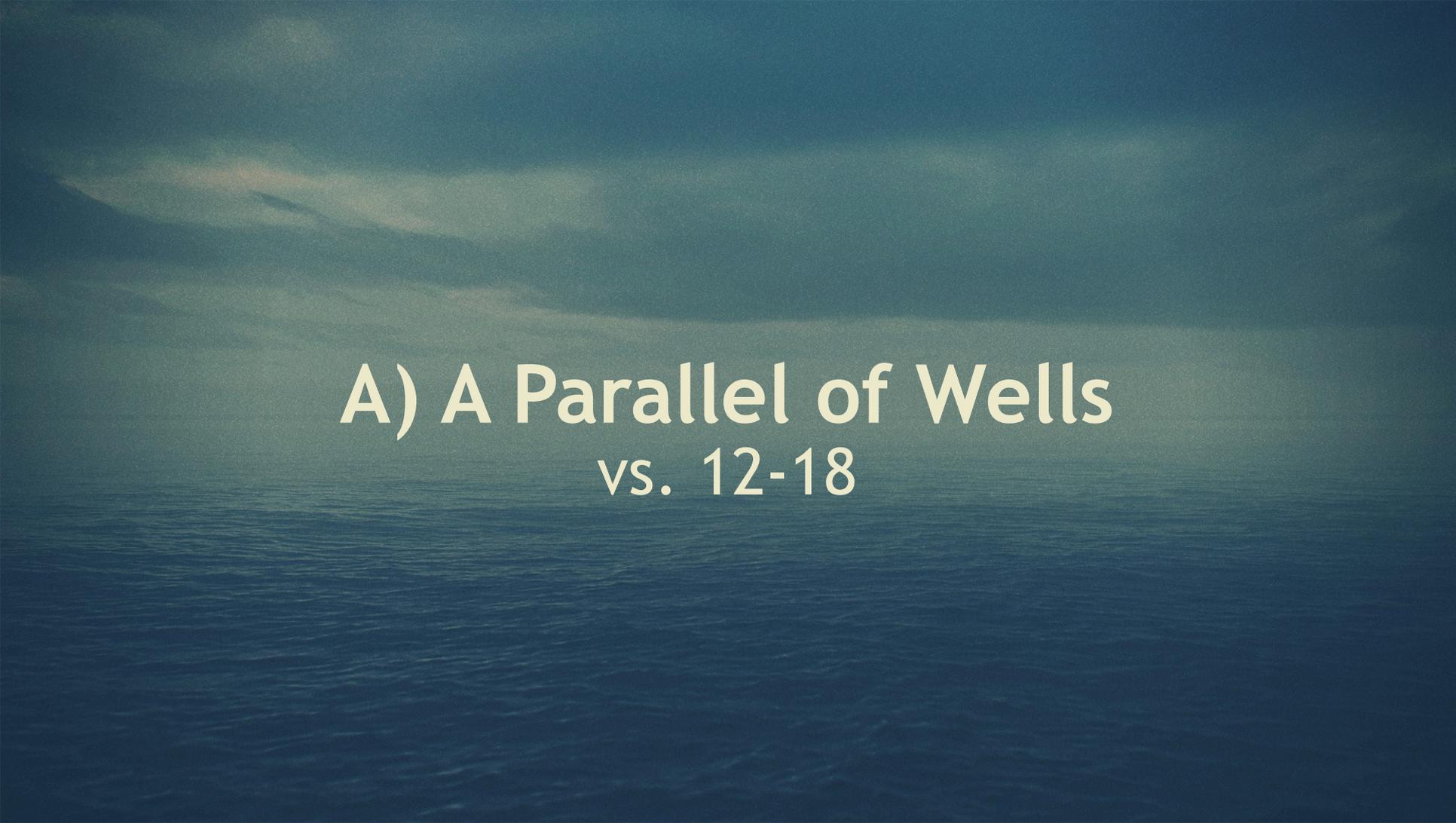
⁸ When Isaac had been there a long time...

Genesis 26:8

When you obey God, you do not
have to be afraid!

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric landscape. The upper portion shows a sky with soft, horizontal bands of light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise over a range of mountains. The lower portion is dominated by a body of water with gentle ripples, reflecting the ambient light. The overall color palette is muted, consisting of various shades of teal, blue, and grey.

2) Covenant Keepers vs. 12-25



A) A Parallel of Wells
vs. 12-18

¹² Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him. ¹³ The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. ¹⁴ He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.

Genesis 26:1-18

¹⁵ So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.¹⁶ Then Abimelek said to Isaac, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us."¹⁷ So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled.

Genesis 26:1-18

¹⁸ Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

Genesis 26:1-18

After Abimelek forced Isaac to move away from Gerar, his servant dug four wells for him:

- 1) The well of Esek (vs. 20)
- 2) The well of Sitnah (vs. 21)
- 3) The well of Rehoboth (vs. 22)
- 4) The well of Shibah (vs. 25, 33)



B) A Parallel of Worship
vs. 25

²⁵ Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.

Genesis 26:25

There were three occasions in Abraham's life when he built an altar:

- 1) Calling in Genesis 12:7
- 2) Separation from Lot in Genesis 13:8
- 3) Isaac in Genesis 22:9

When and where have you built an altar(s) for the Lord?

¹ In view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

The covenant is always means
to bring us back to the heart
of worship

Your worship can start a
generational chain reaction
of worship

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

Hebrews 13:15

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you,
Exalted for you or brought low by you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and
disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
You are mine, and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

John Wesley, *The United Methodist Hymnal*

GENESIS

THE GOSPEL STARTS HERE