

Abraham Deceives King Abimelech (2066 BC)

Genesis 20

- 1 Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar.
- 2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.
- 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married.”
- 4 Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, “Lord, will You slay a nation, even *though* blameless?
- 5 Did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”
- 6 Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.
- 7 Now therefore, restore the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore *her*, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”
- 8 So Abimelech arose early in the morning and called all his servants and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were greatly frightened.
- 9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.”
- 10 And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What have you encountered, that you have done this thing?”
- 11 Abraham said, “Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.
- 12 Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife;
- 13 and it came about, when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, that I said to her, ‘This is the kindness which you will show to me: everywhere we go, say of me, “He is my brother.”’”
- 14 Abimelech then took sheep and oxen and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and restored his wife Sarah to him.
- 15 Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; settle wherever you please.”
- 16 To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; behold, it is your vindication before all who are with you, and before all men you are cleared.”
- 17 Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his maids, so that they bore *children*.
- 18 For the LORD had closed fast all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

The Birth of Isaac (2066 BC)

Genesis 21:1–7

- 1 Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised.
- 2 So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. [[Heb 11:11](#)]
- 3 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.
- 4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.
- 5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
- 6 Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.”
- 7 And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Sarah Asks Abraham to Make Hagar and Ishmael Leave (c. 2064–63 BC)

Genesis 21:8–21

8 The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.
9 Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking.
10 Therefore she said to Abraham, “Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac.” [\[Gal 4:30\]](#)
11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son.
12 But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named. [\[Rom 9:6–8; Heb 11:18\]](#)
13 And of the son of the maid I will make a nation also, because he is your descendant.”
14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave *them* to Hagar, putting *them* on her shoulder, and *gave her* the boy, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba.
15 When the water in the skin was used up, she left the boy under one of the bushes.
16 Then she went and sat down opposite him, about a bowshot away, for she said, “Do not let me see the boy die.” And she sat opposite him, and lifted up her voice and wept.
17 God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.
18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him.”
19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the skin with water and gave the lad a drink.
20 God was with the lad, and he grew; and he lived in the wilderness and became an archer.
21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

The Covenant Between Abraham and King Abimelech (c. 2063 BC)

Genesis 21:22–34

22 Now it came about at that time that Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, “God is with you in all that you do;
23 now therefore, swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my offspring or with my posterity, but according to the kindness that I have shown to you, you shall show to me and to the land in which you have sojourned.”
24 Abraham said, “I swear it.”
25 But Abraham complained to Abimelech because of the well of water which the servants of Abimelech had seized.
26 And Abimelech said, “I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor did I hear of it until today.”
27 Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant.
28 Then Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves.
29 Abimelech said to Abraham, “What do these seven ewe lambs mean, which you have set by yourselves?”
30 He said, “You shall take these seven ewe lambs from my hand so that it may be a witness to me, that I dug this well.”
31 Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because there the two of them took an oath.
32 So they made a covenant at Beersheba; and Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, arose and returned to the land of the Philistines.
33 *Abraham* planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.
34 And Abraham sojourned in the land of the Philistines for many days.

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