

Genesis 21:22-34 **Abraham & Abimelech - Treaty at Beersheba**

22 “And it came to pass at that time that Abimelech and Phichol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, "God is with you in all that you do. 23 Now therefore, swear to me by God that you will not deal falsely with me, with my offspring, or with my posterity; but that according to the kindness that I have done to you, you will do to me and to the land in which you have dwelt." 24 And Abraham said, "I will swear."

25 Then Abraham rebuked Abimelech because of a well of water which Abimelech's servants had seized. 26 And Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor had I heard of it until today." 27 So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant. 28 And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves. 29 Then Abimelech asked Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs which you have set by themselves?" 30 And he said, "You will take these seven ewe lambs from my hand, that they may be my witness that I have dug this well." 31 Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because the two of them swore an oath there. 32 Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba. So Abimelech rose with Phichol, the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines. 33 Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. 34 And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines many days.” NKJV

Facts revealed:

- ✧ Abraham had moved from Mamre in Hebron to Gerar in the land of the Philistines near Gaza after God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and before the birth of Isaac. [Genesis 20:1]
- ✧ The Philistines could see how obviously God was with Abraham especially since the incident with Sarah when God informed Abimelech that Abraham was a prophet. [Genesis 20:3-7]
- ✧ It was also obvious that God had blessed Abraham in everything he did as evidenced by his great wealth acquired since he moved to Haran and his victory over the four kings that raided Sodom and Gomorrah when Lot was taken captive and Abraham rescued him.
- ✧ So Abimelech king of Gerar and Phichol the commander of his army came to Abraham who was dwelling in the area of Beersheba and requested a treaty that Abraham and his descendants would treat Abimelech and his descendants with the same kindness Abimelech had extended to Abraham when he first came to Gerar, to which Abraham agreed.
- ✧ Abraham had dug a well which the servants of Abimelech had seized for which Abraham rebuked Abimelech and Abimelech denied any prior knowledge of the matter.
- ✧ Then Abraham had dug another well in Beersheba where he was staying at the time Abimelech came to him requesting a treaty.
- ✧ Abraham gave sheep and oxen to Abimelech and the two of them made a covenant.
- ✧ Abraham then set seven ewe lambs aside and gave them to Abimelech as a witness that Abraham had dug the well where he was and he named the place **Beersheba** (“*well of the oath*” or “*well of the seven.*”).
- ✧ Abraham planted a Tamarisk tree at Beersheba and called on the name of **Yehowah, Owlam El** (the Lord, the Everlasting God).