

Berwyn Church of Christ: Genesis Study

Date: October 14th, 2026	
Connecting Scriptures/Thoughts	<u>Genesis 20/21</u>
V1-2 Same lie/sin from 25 years ago, God intervened and helped Abram and Sara. V3 God pronounces judgement on Abimelech “So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.” (verse 2) It is amazing to think that Sarah was now nearly 90 years old and monarchs still desired to take her into their harems! Some have opined that Sarah had long outlived her beauty at this point in her life, and that this arrangement was entered into by Abimelech purely for political benefits of aligning himself with an influential person such as Abraham. I personally believe that since the Lord had to intervene to not allow the king to “touch her” (verse 6) that strongly suggests she was still a very beautiful woman to behold. (Commentary Louie Taylor) V4 it is ok to state your innocence in circumstances, but be sure you are innocent. (What might Abimelech be afraid of that recently happened?) God protects marriage again! Matthew 19:6 union is very important. V6 -7God directly intervenes in this situation, but still gives the clear choice and consequence just as he did for Adam and Eve. V8-12 v 10 What have you encountered that led you to do this? I Love v9 you have done things that ought not to be done! (Righteous behavior) yet what is Abraham's view of Abimelech prior to this Practical application of Matt 18:15	<u>Genesis 20</u> [1] From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar. [2] And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. [3] But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.” [4] Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, “Lord, will you kill an innocent people? [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 you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. [7] Now then, return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.” [8] So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid. [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 my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.” [10] And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you see, that you did this thing?” [11] Abraham said, “I did it because I thought, ‘There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’ [12] Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. [13] And when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, I said to her, ‘This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, “He is my brother.”’ [14] Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him. [15] And Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; dwell where

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V13-18 With honest interaction between the two something happens in which Abraham receives blessing again, Sara is vindicated and God blesses Abimelech and his household.

Abimelech responded in a manner that was respectful and obedient.

V 17 Abraham prayed to God- when you wrong someone talk to them and pray to God!

Psalms 15:1-4 how does this connect?

“Then the Lord took note of Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had promised.” (verse 1) When the Lord says He is going to do something, He always does it. When the Lord makes a promise, He always keeps it. It had been 25 years since God’s initial promise to Sarah and Abraham to bless them with posterity (Genesis 12:2; 15:4), and one year since God had specifically told Sarah she would conceive and bear a child (Genesis 18:10, 14). But the Lord had not forgotten about Sarah, even though it must have seemed to her like He had. God “took note” of Sarah as He would Hannah much later (1 Samuel 2:21), and “did for” her “as He had promised.” (Commentary Louie Taylor)

Hebrews 10:23 He who promised is faithful.

Matthew 19:26

V9 Ishmael behaved poorly, laughed, mocked, ridiculed..... Sara requests they be driven out, God intervenes and says its ok I will make him a nation as well. (Abraham didn't want to, why?)

it pleases you.” [16] To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated.” [17] Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. [18] For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife. (ESV)

Genesis 21

[1] The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. [2] And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. [3] Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. [4] And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. [5] Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. [6] And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over 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.” [8] And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. [9] But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. [10] So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.” [11] And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. [12] But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. [13] And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.” [14] So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. [15] When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. [16] Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Let me not look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. [17] And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar

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Hagar and Ishmael wander the Wilderness, seem to get lost and Hagar was going to let Ishmael die, God sends an angel to intervene and communicate and provide water.

Hagar probably selected a wife from her kinsmen, God's promises come true for Ishmael and he is an archer and his descendants become archers too. Isaiah 21:7

Irony of v 23

Abimelech, shows more wisdom, at Abraham's accusations, he claims no knowledge and says you should have told me sooner so I could have done something about it.

from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. [18] Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation." [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 boy a drink. [20] And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. [21] He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt. [22] At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to Abraham, "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 descendants or with my posterity, but as I have dealt kindly with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned." [24] And Abraham said, "I will swear." [25] When Abraham reproved Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized, [26] Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today." [27] So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two men made a covenant. [28] Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock apart. [29] And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?" [30] He said, "These seven ewe lambs you will take from my hand, that this may be a witness for me that I dug this well." [31] Therefore that place was called Beersheba, because there both of them swore an oath. [32] So they made a covenant at Beersheba. Then Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the Philistines. [33] Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. [34] And Abraham sojourned many days in the land of the Philistines. (ESV)