

~ABIMELECH 1 (146)

(A-bim'e-lech) [My Father Is King]

- The king of the city of Gerar, where Abraham and Sarah took up temporary residence in about **1919 B.C.E.** Thinking the couple were brother and sister, he took Sarah to become his wife but, providentially, did not touch her.
- Warned by Yehowah in a dream, the king returned Sarah to Abraham together with compensation consisting of livestock and slaves and, in addition, a thousand shekels of silver (**c. \$2,200**) as a guarantee of Sarah's chastity. Sometime later this king concluded a covenant of peace and mutual confidence with Abraham at Beer-sheba.
- Now Abraham moved camp from there to the land of the Negeb and took up dwelling between Kadesh and Shur and residing as an alien at Gerar. (**Genesis 20:1**)
- And Abraham repeated concerning Sarah his wife; She is my sister. With that **Abimelech** king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. (**Genesis 20:2**)
- Afterward God came to **Abimelech** in a dream by night and said to him; Here you are as good as dead because of the woman whom you have taken, since she is owned by another owner as his wife. (**Genesis 20:3**)
- However, **Abimelech** had not gone near her. Hence he said, Yehowah, will you kill a nation that is really righteous? (**Genesis 20:4**)
- Id not he say to me; She is my sister? And she, did not she too say; He is my brother? In the honesty of my heart and with innocence of my hands I have done this. (**Genesis 20:5**)
- That the true God said to him in the dream, I too have known that in the honesty of your heart you have done this, and I was also holding you back from sinning against me. That is why I did not allow you to touch her. (**Genesis 20:6**)
- But now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will make supplication for you. So keep living. But if you are not

returning her, know that you will positively die, you and all who are yours. ([Genesis 20:7](#))

- So **Abimelech** got up early in the morning and proceeded to call all his servants and to speak of all these things in their ears. And the men got very much afraid. ([Genesis 20:8](#))
- Then **Abimelech** called Abraham and said to him; What have you done to us, and what sin have I committed against you, in that you have brought upon me and my kingdom a great sin? Deeds that should not have been done you have done in connection with me. ([Genesis 20:9](#))
- And **Abimelech** went on to say to Abraham; What did you have in view in that you have done this thing? ([Genesis 20:10](#))
- To this Abraham said; It was because I said to myself, Doubtless there is no fear of God in this place, and they will certainly kill me because of my wife. ([Genesis 20:11](#))
- And, besides, she is truly my sister, the daughter of my father, only not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. ([Genesis 20:12](#))
- And it came about that, when God caused me to wander from the house of my father, then I said to her; This is your loving-kindness which you may exercise toward me. At every place where we shall come say of me, He is my brother. ([Genesis 20:13](#))
- Following that **Abimelech** took sheep and cattle and menservants and maidservants and gave them to Abraham and returned to him Sarah his wife. ([Genesis 20:14](#))
- Further **Abimelech** said; Here my land is available to you. Dwell where it is good in your eyes. ([Genesis 20:15](#))
- And to Sarah he said; Here I do give a thousand silver pieces of money to your brother. Here it is for you a covering of the eyes to all who are with you, and before everybody, and you are cleared of reproach. ([Genesis 20:16](#))
- And Abraham began to make supplication to the true God, and God proceeded to heal **Abimelech** and his wife and his slave girls,

and they began bearing children. (**Genesis 20:17**)

- For Yehowah had tightly shut up every womb of the house of **Abimelech** because of Sarah, Abraham's wife. (**Genesis 20:18**)
- Now it came about at that time that **Abimelech** together with Phicol the chief of his army said to Abraham; God is with you in everything you are doing. (**Genesis 21:22**)
- So now swear to me here by God that you will not prove false to me and to my offspring and to my posterity, that, according to the loyal love with which I have dealt with you, you will deal with me and with the land in which you have been residing as an alien. (**Genesis 21:23**)
- So Abraham said; I shall swear. (**Genesis 21:24**)
- When Abraham criticized **Abimelech** severely as regards the well of water that the servants of Abimelech had seized by violence. (**Genesis 21:25**)
- Then **Abimelech** said; I do not know who did this thing, neither did you yourself tell it to me, and I myself have also not heard of it except today. (**Genesis 21:26**)
- With that Abraham took sheep and cattle and gave them to **Abimelech**, and both of them proceeded to conclude a covenant. (**Genesis 21:27**)
- When Abraham set seven female lambs of the flock by themselves. (**Genesis 21:28**)
- **Abimelech** went on to say to Abraham; What is the meaning here of these seven female lambs that you have set by themselves? (**Genesis 21:29**)
- Then he said; You are to accept the seven female lambs at my hand, that it may serve as a witness for me that I have dug this well. (**Genesis 21:30**)
- That is why he called that place Beersheba, because there both of them had taken an oath. (**Genesis 21:31**)
- So they concluded a covenant at Beersheba, after which

Abimelech got up together with Phicol the chief of his army and they returned to the land of the Philistines. (**Genesis 21:32**)

- After that he planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba and called there upon the name of Yehowah the indefinitely lasting God. (**Genesis 21:33**)
- And Abraham extended his residence as an alien in the land of the Philistines many days. (**Genesis 21:34**)