

~ABIMELECH 2 (151)

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

- Possibly another king of Gerar at the time Isaac went there because of a famine. This was after the death of Abraham in **1843 B.C.E.** Isaac, like his father Abraham, attempted to pass Rebekah off as his sister, but when the king, by accident, discovered she was Isaac's wife, he issued a public decree granting them protection.
- Isaac's God-given prosperity, however, became the object of envy, and so the king requested Isaac to move out. Sometime later this king of Gerar concluded a covenant of peace with Isaac similar to the one his predecessor had made with Abraham.
- Now there arose a famine in the land, besides the first famine that occurred in the days of Abraham, so that Isaac directed himself to **Abimelech**, king of the Philistines, to Gerar. (**Genesis 26:1**)
- Then Yehowah appeared to him and said; Do not go down to Egypt. Tabernacle in the land that I designate to you. (**Genesis 26:2**)
- Reside as an alien in this land, and I shall continue with you and bless you, because to you and to your seed I shall give all these lands, and I will carry out the sworn statement that I swore to Abraham your father. (**Genesis 26:3**)
- And I will multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens and I will give to your seed all these lands, and by means of your seed all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves. (**Genesis 26:4**)
- Due to the fact that Abraham listened to my voice and continued to keep his obligations to me, my commands, my statutes, and my laws. (**Genesis 26:5**)
- So Isaac went on dwelling at Gerar. (**Genesis 26:6**)
- Well, the men of the place kept asking with respect to his wife, and he would say; She is my sister. For he was afraid to say; My wife, for fear that, to quote him, the men of the place should kill

me because of Rebekah, because she was attractive in appearance. ([Genesis 26:7](#))

- So it came about that as his days there extended themselves **Abimelech**, king of the Philistines, was looking out of the window and taking in the sight, and there was Isaac having a good time with Rebekah his wife. ([Genesis 26:8](#))
- At once **Abimelech** called Isaac and said; Why, she is no other than your wife! So how is it that you said; She is my sister? At this Isaac said to him; I said it for fear I should die on her account. ([Genesis 26:9](#))
- But **Abimelech** continued; What is this you have done to us? A little more and certainly one of the people would have lain down with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us! ([Genesis 26:10](#))
- Then **Abimelech** commanded all the people, saying; Anybody touching this man and his wife will surely be put to death! ([Genesis 26:11](#))
- Afterward Isaac began to sow seed in that land, and in that year he was getting up to a hundred measures to one, as Yehowah was blessing him. ([Genesis 26:12](#))
- Consequently the man became great and went on advancing more and more and growing great until he got very great. ([Genesis 26:13](#))
- And he came to have flocks of sheep and herds of cattle and a large body of servants, so that the Philistines began to envy him. ([Genesis 26:14](#))
- As for all the wells that the servants of his father had dug in the days of Abraham his father, these the Philistines stopped up and they would fill them with dry earth. ([Genesis 26:15](#))
- Finally **Abimelech** said to Isaac; Move from our neighborhood, because you have grown far stronger than we are. ([Genesis 26:16](#))
- So Isaac moved from there and encamped in the torrent valley of Gerar and took up dwelling there. ([Genesis 26:17](#))

- And Isaac proceeded to dig again the wells of water that they had dug in the days of Abraham his father but which the Philistines went stopping up after Abraham's death, and he resumed calling their names by the names that his father had called them. ([Genesis 26:18](#))
- And the servants of Isaac went on digging in the torrent valley and so they found there a well of fresh water. ([Genesis 26:19](#))
- And the shepherds of Gerar fell to quarreling with the shepherds of Isaac, saying; The water is ours! Hence he called the name of the well Esek, because they had contended with him. ([Genesis 26:20](#))
- And they went digging another well, and they fell to quarreling over it also. Hence he called its name Sitnah. ([Genesis 26:21](#))
- Later he moved away from there and dug another well, but they did not quarrel over it. Hence he called its name Rehoboth and said; It is because now Yehowah has given us ample room and has made us fruitful in the earth. ([Genesis 26:22](#))
- Then he went up from there to Beersheba. ([Genesis 26:23](#))
- And Yehowah proceeded to appear to him during that night and to say; I am the God of Abraham your father. Do not be afraid, because I am with you, and I will bless you and multiply your seed on account of Abraham my servant. ([Genesis 26:24](#))
- Accordingly he built an altar there and called on the name of Yehowah and pitched his tent there, and the servants of Isaac went excavating a well there. ([Genesis 26:25](#))
- Later on **Abimelech** came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his confidential friend and Phicol the chief of his army. ([Genesis 26:26](#))
- At this Isaac said to them; Why have you come to me, seeing that you yourselves hated me and so sent me away from your neighborhood? ([Genesis 26:27](#))
- To this they said, We have unmistakably seen that Yehowah has proved to be with you. Hence we said; Let, please, an oath of

obligation occur between us, between us and you, and let us conclude a covenant with you. (**Genesis 26:28**)

- That you will do nothing bad toward us just as we have not touched you and just as we have done only good toward you in that we sent you away in peace. You now are the blessed of Yehowah. (**Genesis 26:29**)
- Then he made a feast for them and they ate and drank. (**Genesis 26:30**)
- Next morning they were early in rising and they made sworn statements one to the other. After that Isaac sent them away and they went from him in peace. (**Genesis 26:31**)