

## **~GERAR (357)** **(Ge'rar)**

- A site near Gaza mentioned in the earliest record of the boundaries of Canaanite territory.
- So the boundary of the Canaanite came to be from Sidon as far as **Gerar**, near Gaza, as far as Sodom and Gomorrah and Admah and Zeboiim, near Lasha. (**Genesis 10:19**)
- In the past **Gerar** was commonly linked with **Tell Jemmeh**, **Tel Gamma**, about 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) South of modern Gaza. But currently it is identified by numerous geographers with **Tell Abu Hureirah**, **Tel Haror**, located in the foothills of the mountains of Judea, about 19 kilometers (12 miles) Southeast of modern Gaza.
- Many earthenware fragments believed to date from the time of the patriarchs have been found at the site. Abraham and, later, Isaac resided for a time as aliens at Gerar and dealt with its king Abimelech, possibly two different rulers that bore this name or official title.
- 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**)
- Did 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 innocency 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](#))
- 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**)

**See Also ABIMELECH 1**

**See Also ABIMELECH 2**

- After Yehowah brought about the defeat of the impressive army of Zerah the Ethiopian, King Asa's forces pursued the fleeing enemy as far as **Gerar**.
- Thereafter the Judeans struck and plundered all the cities round about **Gerar**, probably because of their being allied with the Ethiopians, even the tents with livestock they struck, so that they took captive flocks in great number and camels.
- And Asa came to have a military force bearing the large shield and lance, three hundred thousand out of Judah. And out of Benjamin those bearing the buckler and bending the bow were two hundred and eighty thousand. All these were valiant, mighty men. (**2 Chronicles 14:8**)
- Later Zerah the Ethiopian went out against them with a military force of a million men and three hundred chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. (**2 Chronicles 14:9**)
- Then Asa went out against him and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. (**2 Chronicles 14:10**)
- And Asa began to call to Yehowah his God and say; O Yehowah, as to helping, it does not matter with you whether there are

many or those with no power. Help us, O Yehowah our God, for upon you we do lean, and in your name we have come against this crowd. O Yehowah, you are our God. Do not let mortal man retain strength against you. (2 Chronicles 14:11)

- At that Yehowah defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians took to flight. (2 Chronicles 14:12)
- And Asa and the people that were with him kept pursuing them as far as **Gerar**, and those of the Ethiopians continued falling down till there was no one alive of them, for they were broken to pieces before Yehowah and before his camp. Afterward they carried off a very great deal of spoil. (2 Chronicles 14:13)
- Further, they struck all the cities round about **Gerar**, for the dread of Yehowah had come to be upon them, and they went plundering all the cities, for there happened to be much to plunder in them. (2 Chronicles 14:14)
- And even the tents with livestock they struck so that they took captive flocks in great number and camels, after which they returned to Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 14:15)
- Some scholars suggest altering.
- And they proceeded to go to the entryway of Gedor, clear to the east of the valley, to look for pasturage for their flocks. (1 Chronicles 4:39)
- Eventually they found fat and good pasturage, and the land was quite wide and having no disturbance but at ease, for those dwelling there in former times were of Ham. (1 Chronicles 4:40)
- To read **Gerar**, as does **LXX**, instead of **Gedor**. This passage connects **Gedor** with a region originally inhabited by the Hamites and having good pasturage, and this description would fit the Biblical references to the area around **Gerar**.