Gen 21:22-34

**22** At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his forces said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything you do. **23** Now swear to me here before God that you will not deal falsely with me or my children or my descendants. Show to me and the country where you are living as an alien the same kindness I have shown to you."

**24** Abraham said, "I swear it."

**25** Then Abraham complained to Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized. **26** But Abimelech said, "I don't know who has done this. You did not tell me, and I heard about it only today."

**27** So Abraham brought sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelech, and the two men made a treaty. **28** Abraham set apart seven ewe lambs from the flock, **29** and Abimelech asked Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs you have set apart by themselves?"

**30** He replied, "Accept these seven lambs from my hand as a witness that I dug this well."

**31** So that place was called Beersheba, **d** because the two men swore an oath there.

**32** After the treaty had been made at Beersheba, Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his forces returned to the land of the Philistines. **33** Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called upon the name of the Lord, the Eternal God. **34** And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

 Characters:-\_

 Abimelech king of Gerar, Phicol the commander of his forces

 And Abraham, God

Setting:-

 the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, Isaac had been born and Hagar the slave women and her son by Abraham had been driven out as instructed by Sarah. The place will be named Beersheba

The Plot: -

 The king of the land sees that God is with this man and he is powerful.

He seeks to make peace and asks Abraham to swear to treat him and his descendents well

Abraham brings up his grievances and gave Abimelech livestock to make a treaty.

Abraham gives Abimelech 7 ewe lambs as a witness or purchase of the well he dug

Plot resolution:-

The treaty is consummated and Abraham was able to live for a long time in peace to worship The Lord, the Eternal God.

Gen 21:22-34

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NIV

Abimelech was able to see that God was with Abraham in all he does.

Phicol the commander of Abimelech’s forces is there perhaps as the king also needs to show his might that he has generals.

He also sees that that Abraham was a schemer and had told half truths in Cha 20(wife and sister) so he ask Abraham to swear not to deal with him and descendents falsely.

Pagans could see that God was on Abraham’s side and wanted peace with him. (They fear God and also a man that God is with)

However they also see they also see the Abraham’s scheming side

Abraham then brought up the well that Abimelech’s men had seized. Abim denied knowledge.

This will occur down the line with Isaac as well in cha 26

Wells in that area and time was important as it provided a source of life in water and it had to be guarded.

Abimelech fears Abraham and wants to make peace as God is with him and Abraham wants also to live in peace. It seems like a win win situation.

Abraham gave sheep and cattle to him to make a treaty.

As we learn in Cha15 where animals were sacrificed and cut in half (God made a covenant with Abraham)

Abraham also set aside 7 ewe lambs as a witness /payment for the well he dug.

The place was named Beersheba meaning well of oaths (saba) or well of seven (seba). Man will break covenant as can be seen in cha 26 over the same issue of wells

Abraham acknowledge God and lived in the land for a long time

A new name for God is introduced here: *El Olam*, "the Everlasting God."

21:25-31. **wells and water rights**. In the semiarid region around Beersheba, water would have been a precious resource. Disputes between herdsmen and farmers over wells and springs would have arisen. To prevent this, treaties like that between Abraham and Abimelech would have established firm ownership or right of usage to wells. Note that Abraham’s payment of seven ewe lambs provides the basis for the name Beersheba (well of seven) and serves as a gesture of goodwill toward the people of Gerar.

**tamarisk tree.** The tamarisk grows in sandy soil. It is deciduous and may reach over twenty feet in height, with small leaves that excrete salt. Its bark is used for tanning and its wood for building and making charcoal. Bedouin commonly plant this hearty tree for its shade and the branches which provide grazing for animals. Abraham’s action proba-bly signifies the sealing of the treaty with Abimelech—a life-giving plant symbolizing a fertile and prosperous future.

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One Liner

1. Others can see God’s presence with Abraham as he acknowledges God in his own life.
2. God continues to be faithful to Abraham to make the way for Abraham a peaceful life
3. When a man's way ( Abraham's) pleases the Lord, He makes even his enemies ( Abimelech) to be at peace with him. ( Proverbs 16:7)
4. God's blessing on Abraham put the fear of the Lord in Abimelech's heart.
5. Faith can rest upon the covenant promises of God; fear has no basis at all.
6. With God's blessings, Abraham was bold and earnest in dealing with Abimelek to secure his stay in the land of Philistines
7. Fear the Lord for He is Holy. Trust Him for he is omnipotent and faithful
8. God’s blessing is evidence in Abrahams’ life.
9. If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31
10. A historical account of how Abraham, being nomadic in the past, has settled in a foreign land of the Phillistines
11. Abraham’s strove to establish every human who create and improve his own property shall have a right to their own property or wealth instead of forcibly trying to take property from someone else.
12. Abraham's faith was not in Abimelech or in the treaty between them, but in God who is faithful.
13. God reassures Abraham that He is with him.
14. Abraham's faith in God is evident to the people around him, even so Abimelech, that he choose to make a covenant with him.

Application

It would be a good witness to non believers if they can see God in our lives.

May we treat others fairly.

Let us remember to acknowledge God in all our ways.

Abraham shows that when people who improve their property and their lot are allowed to keep the reward.( Which shows that there is no limit to God’s given ability to increase the wealth of Abraham’s descendents )

We need to depend on God’s promises

We must learn and acknowledge where our blessings come from

Glorify God and call upon Him in all situations

 In any agreement or treaty we must involve God

God in our lives will make our paths straight

God is always with us in everything we do

Walk Find amicable way to make peace with others rather than confrontation.Find

Be used by God in ordinary matters of our life to bear witness to a world that needs to repent to God

Live a Godly life, in the world, though not of the world, so that people can see where our faith is placed.: Application.

We must ask God for his blessings in things that we do

All glory to GOD. Praise Him & worship to Him.

Those who belong to God need not fear, for He is with them.

Seek His ways at all time and in all circumstances.

live our life according to God’s teaching so that others may see Christ in our life

Honouring God to do what is right and pleasing to God.

Genesis 21:22-34

A subtle rebuke, however, is found in the story (cf. Abimelech's rebuke in Gen 20:9-10). Abimelech pressed for the treaty so that Abraham would not deal falsely with him (21:23). All Abimelech knew of this man was that (a) God blessed him (v. 22) and (b) he was deceptive (v. 23). This tragic contradiction called for a binding treaty.

Likewise, Israel was to keep her oaths and avoid falsehood. Today believers should speak the truth without using oaths (Matt 5:37; James 5:12). Truthful and faithful dealings that preserve such peaceful relations enhance the work of God.

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Col 4:5-6

**5** Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. **6** Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

1 Thess 4:12

**12** so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Tim 3:7

**7** He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Genesis 21:25-26

***Reproving (vv. 25-26).*** Water is still a very precious commodity in the Holy Land. Today, various methods of irrigation are used; but in Abraham's day, it was necessary to dig wells and guard them carefully. If you did not guard your well, your enemies might seize it or fill it up (26:18). Some of Abimelech's servants had seized Abraham's well, so the treaty between the two men had not done much good.

Genesis 21:25-26

Abraham did the right thing and confronted his neighbor with the facts, but Abimelech declared that he knew nothing about it. Was he telling the truth? Only God knows, but Abraham made sure the problem would never appear again.

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Genesis 21:34

***Worshiping (v. 33).*** You could follow Abraham's journey by looking for the wells he dug and the altars he built (12:7-8; 13:4,18). He was not ashamed to build his altar in the presence of his neighbors and offer his worship to the Lord. A new name for God is introduced here: *El Olam*, "the Everlasting God." Abraham already knew *El Elyon* ("God Most High" — 14:19,22) and *El Shaddai* ("God Almighty, the All-Sufficient One" — 17:1); but now he had a new name to use in his worship. It is important as we go through life that we learn more and more about God so we can worship Him better.

Genesis 21:34

What an encouragement to know "the Everlasting God"! Wells would disappear, trees would be cut down, ewe lambs would grow up and die, altars would crumble, and treaties would perish; but the Everlasting God would remain. This Everlasting God had made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants (17:7,13,19), and He had given them the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession (v. 8; 48:4). As Abraham faced the coming years, he knew that God would not change and that "underneath [were] the ever-lasting arms" (Deut 33:27).

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