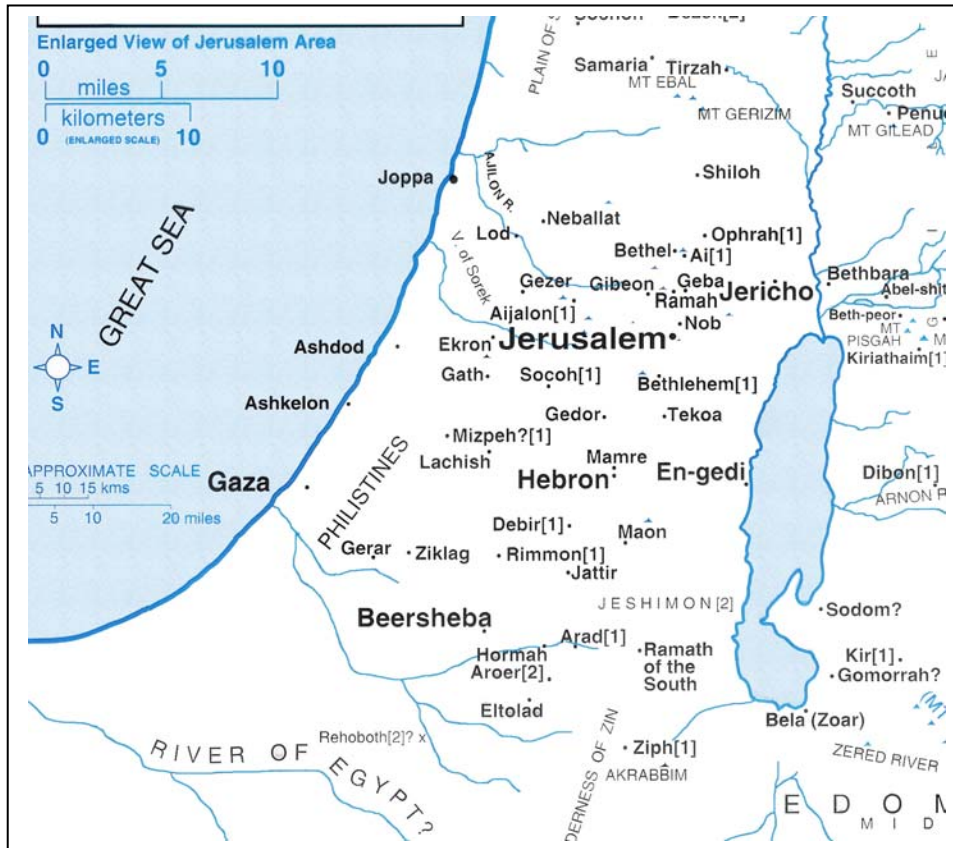


## Genesis Ch.'s 20-21



V: 1 Abraham journey's away from Hebron, southward towards the regions of Kadesh & Shur, and stays in Gerar.

- Kadesh = Holy.
- Shur: place meaning “wall” – the Northern border of Egypt.
- Gerar: “drag away” or “dwelling place”.
- It may have been omitted from the narrative, but we don't read about God speaking to Abraham to leave the terebinth trees of Mamre, near Hebron.
- Abraham leaves the place of “richness” and “communion” – into the desert wilderness between “Holy” and the “wall” – closer to Egypt, closer to being “dragged away”.

**Exodus 34:15** “Then he said to Him, if Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.”

V: 2 As like Egypt 25 years before, Abraham seems to have made a decision to move to Gerar, placing himself and his wife outside of God's will – into harms way.

- In fear, Abraham again bears false testimony.
- Sarah is 90 years old and still a babe!

No such thing as “a ½ truth or ½ lie, they are both lies.

**Hebrews 11:6** “God requires truth in the inward parts.”

- Abraham was known for his faith, a seeming strong point – and exactly where the enemy attacks.

**James 1:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup>But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

V: 3 Abraham has a lapse in his faith, but God never does!

- God speaks to Abimelech in a dream, he would later speak to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream also.
- God promised to bless and protect Abraham.

**Deuteronomy 7:9** “Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.”

**Psalms 105:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>He permitted no one to do them wrong; yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, <sup>15</sup>saying, do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm.”

**Philippians 1:6** “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

V: 4-5 God kept Abimelech from going near to Sarah.

- God knew that Abimelech was not responsible and protected him – giving him a chance for salvation, and gave him a way out.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

- **1<sup>st</sup> mention** of “integrity” in the Bible.

V: 6 God agrees with Abimelech regarding the issue of integrity and kept him from sin.

- When we seek to be men of integrity, even though we fall short – there is an inherent protection against sin.

**Psalm 25:21** “Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You.”

- Sinning against God, not Abraham.
- When we sin, it is always against God.

**Psalm 51:4** “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight – that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.”

V: 7 Very clear direction – what to do and why to do it.

- *“for he is a prophet”* – 1<sup>st</sup> mention of prophet.
- 1<sup>st</sup> thing we learn about prophets in this 1<sup>st</sup> mention, is that prophets are not perfect.

V: 8 Abimelech is up early – not wasting any time.

- Abimelech testifies to his servants – and they feared God – they believed.

V: 9-13 Abimelech confronts Abraham with his lie, asking why he did it – rebuking him.

- There are only two responses to sin:
  1. Repentance.
  2. Rationalization.
- Abraham responds that they don't fear God in this place.
- Abraham rationalizes the ½ truth, and that he's always done it – leftovers from the Ur of the Chaldees.

**Proverbs 29:25** “The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.”

V: 14-15 Whether or not Abrahams responses made sense to him or not, God's warning did!

- Abimelech obeyed God and returned Sarah to Abraham along with compensation for the offense.
- Abimelech gives Abraham sheep, oxen, and servants – then invites him to stay in his land.

**Genesis 12:3** “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

V: 16 *“And unto Sarah he said, behold, I have given thy brother a thousand pieces of silver: behold, he is to thee a covering of the eyes, unto all that are with thee, and with all other: thus she was reprovved.”* KJV

- Sarah was part of the deception – the silver is to restore her honor, and restoring her to her “brother” – using Abraham & Sarah’s terms.
- The rebuke is that Abraham should not be hiding behind his wife, but that he is to be her covering, and if her beauty is going to stumble people – she should be veiled / covered up.
- Thus she is reprovved for her part of the deception.

V: 17-18 Abraham prayed to God on Abimelech’s behalf and his household was healed.

**James 5:16b** “... the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

- The consequences would have been devastating and far reaching.
- God blesses Abraham.
  1. Tests and failures are part of the process, they are what causes us to trust in the Lord.
  2. This is the last recorded lapse in Abraham’s faith.
  3. Seemingly this needed to be dealt with prior to the birth of Isaac.

## Genesis Chapter 21

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V: 1 Just as God said!

Joshua's testimony at the end of his life:

**Joshua 23:14** “Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them failed.”

**Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

**2 Timothy 3:16** <sup>16</sup>“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

V: 2-3 For Sarah conceived and bore a son – just as God said she would.

- Isaac = Laughter

**Romans 4:17-22** <sup>17</sup>(as it is written, I have made you a father of many nations) in the presence of Him whom he believed – God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; <sup>18</sup>who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, so shall your descendants be. <sup>19</sup>And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup>and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. <sup>22</sup>And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

- God's appointed child at God's appointed time.
- The child of promise born in the land of promise, at the time of promise.
- Just like Jesus.

**Galatians 4:4-5** <sup>4</sup>“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

V: 4 Abraham is obedient, keeping the covenant, and circumcises Isaac on the eighth day.

- 8<sup>th</sup> day = new beginning.
- 8<sup>th</sup> day is also when the blood clotting agents in a new born baby's body develops, and in fact are at their peak performance.

V: 5-7 Abraham is 100 years old, Sarah is 90 years old – both well past child bearing years.

- Isaac is the product of God's blessing in their lives.
- Ishmael was born in the normal way.
- The son of a slave is a slave.
- Isaac is born of the Spirit, the son of a free man is free.
- Distinction between the child of the flesh and the child of the Spirit.

#### Parallels between the birth of Isaac and the birth of Jesus:

1. Both had been promised long before their respective births.
  - Isaac when Abraham had been called out of the Ur of the Chaldees, 25 years prior.
  - Jesus – “A virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son.” Isaiah 7:14 700 years prior.
2. Both had a long wait for the fulfillment.
3. The announcements seemed incredible if not impossible to the recipients:
  - Sarah laughed unbelievably. Genesis 18:12
  - Mary said how can this be? I haven't known a man. Luke 1:34
4. Both Isaac & Jesus were named before their birth.
5. Both births occurred at exactly God's appointed time: Genesis 21:2 & Galatians 4:4
6. Both births were miraculous:
  - Isaac came forth from two dead people.
  - Jesus was born of a virgin.
7. Both sons brought and were a joy to their fathers:
  - Isaac = Laughter, Jesus: This is My Son in whom I am well pleased. Matt. 3:17
8. Both sons were obedient, even to the point of death.
9. Isaac's birth represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Out of death, Abraham and Sarah, came life.

- V: 8 Weaned: cultural milestone, the child had survived ([Isaac was guaranteed this](#)).
- The child was now moving from mother's milk to solid food.

**1 Peter 2:2** “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,”

Gwen / truly desires the milk!

**Hebrews 5:12-14** <sup>12</sup>For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup>For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup>But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

**Matthew 4:4** “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

V: 9-11 The child of the flesh mocking the child of the spirit.

- Ishmael is about 15-16 years old, Isaac is 2-3 years old.
- The only son, is no longer the only son – typical sibling rivalry.
- Sarah says get rid of “her” son – not acknowledging Abraham's relationship.
- Ishmael represents sin, the old nature, which must be set aside, put out – dealt with, often times an unpleasant situation, but needful.

V: 12-13 Ours is the God of all comfort!

- Abraham is grieved – and the Lord is right there, speaking to Abraham, comforting him.
- Don't worry about Ishmael, because he is your “seed” / “offspring” – not “son” – he will be blessed.
- God never acknowledges Ishmael as Abraham's son.

“Listen to Sarah”

**Galatians 4:22-31**

V: 14 Abraham, trusts in the Lord – Abraham is obedient!

- No hesitation – early in the morning.
- Abraham sets them off with some food and water into the desert.
- Why doesn't Abraham who is rich, set them up with camels and greater provision, servants, etc.? Faith – God said He would take care of them.

V: 15-18 The water is used up, the situation looks hopeless, they prepare to die.

- Again – our is the God of all comfort: As they cry out, God hears Ishmael's cry.
- God speaks words of comfort – that Ishmael will be a great nation – meaning they will survive this trial.
- Ishmael & Hagar are the beneficiaries of the promise made by God to Abraham.

The angel of "God" – Elohim: power & creation

The angel of "God" – Jehovah (Genesis 16:7) – covenant name.

- In Genesis 16:7 the angel of Jehovah spoke to Hagar because she was still under Abrahams roof, and part of the covenant.
- Now the Angel of Elohim speaks to her because she is no longer under Abraham's roof, or part of the covenant.

V: 19 God opens her eyes, leads her to living water, and they are saved.

V: 20-21 God was with Ishmael, keeping His promise.

- They lived in the wilderness of Paran – near Egypt, from where Hagar gets him a wife – world.

V: 22 Good witness! His neighbors are watching and taking notice. God is blessing him no matter what!

**2 Corinthians 3:2-3** <sup>2</sup>You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; <sup>3</sup>clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."



V: 23 Abimelech sees that God is blessing Abraham and wants to be sure that they will be on good terms.

- You lied to me once, and almost got me killed, I want to know that it won't happen again.

V: 24-32 Abraham & Abimelech strike a bargain, settle things between them, and part in peace.

**Proverbs 16:7** “When a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

V: 33-34 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba.

- Beer-sheba = “well of the oath” / “well of the seven” referring to the sheep.
- Tamarisk trees is a low shrub, with white and pink flowers, common to the area.
- Abraham called the name of the Lord – El Elyon – the “Everlasting God.”
- Abraham stayed many days – he rested, he was at peace.

Because his relationship with God is as it should be, he is back in the center of God’s perfect will – abiding in Christ Jesus.

**Psalm 1:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup>but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup>He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper.”