

ELOLAM – THE EVERLASTING GOD

GENESIS 21:33-34

Text:

Introduction:

We are introduced to a man whose name is Abimelech. However back in chapter 20 Abraham and Abimelech had already had some dealings. He learned that God was very powerful, and would protect Abraham.

Now that Abraham is dwelling in the area of Beershebe, he get a visit from Abimelech.

1. ABIMELECH'S PLEA (VS. 22-23)

Genesis 21:22-23

²² And it came to pass at that time, that Abimelech and Pichol the chief captain of his host spake unto Abraham, saying, God *is* with thee in all that thou doest: ²³ Now therefore swear unto me here by God that thou wilt not deal falsely with me, nor with my son, nor with my son's son: *but* according to the kindness that I have done unto thee, thou shalt do unto me, and to the land wherein thou hast sojourned.

A. The Background of the Plea (20:7)

Genesis 20:6-7

⁶ And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her. ⁷ Now therefore restore the man *his* wife; for he *is* a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore *her* not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that *are* thine.

B. The Basis of this Plea

Abimelech was more powerful than Abraham in military strength, but, he feared Abraham because of Abraham's God.

He asks for Abraham to deal with him and his children in honesty and with kindness.

2. ABIMELECH'S PLEDGE (VS. 24-31)

Genesis 21:24-31

²⁴ And Abraham said, I will swear. ²⁵ And Abraham reproved Abimelech because of a well of water, which Abimelech's servants had violently taken away. ²⁶ And Abimelech said, I wot not who hath done this thing: neither didst thou tell me, neither yet heard I *of it*, but to day. ²⁷ And Abraham took sheep and oxen, and gave them unto Abimelech; and both of them made a covenant. ²⁸ And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves. ²⁹ And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What *mean* these seven ewe lambs which thou hast set by themselves? ³⁰ And he said, For *these* seven ewe lambs shalt thou take of my hand, that they may be a witness unto me, that I have digged this well.

³¹ Wherefore he called that place Beersheba; because there they swore both of them.

A. Abraham's correction

Abraham agreed to Abimelech's requests, but not without clearing the air.

Abraham had previously dug a well in the area, which was a valuable possession in such a dry and thirsty land.

Abimelech's servants had taken the well by force and Abraham had backed off from the confrontation

Since Abimelech wants to be treated kindly and honestly, here is a way to start.

Abimelech denies any previous knowledge of this incident

B. Abraham's Covenant

Abraham gave him sheep and oxen as a show of friendship

This is exactly what Abimelech had done for him earlier.

Genesis 20:14

¹⁴ And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and

womenservants, and gave *them* unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife.

They covenant together on how they will treat one another in the future

Then he set aside seven lambs over and above the previous gift.

Abimelech questioned the purpose of these additional lambs, and Abraham explains their significance

Abimelech's acceptance indicated that he was acknowledging the fact that the well did belong to Abraham.

3. ABIMELECH'S PARTING (VS. 32-34)

Genesis 21:32-34

³² Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba: then Abimelech rose up, and Phichol the chief captain of his host, and they returned into the land of the Philistines. ³³ And *Abraham* planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God. ³⁴ And Abraham sojourned in the Philistines' land many days.

- A. Abimelech and his military advisor returned to the land of the Philistines
- B. Abraham worshipped the Lord at Beersheba

He planted a grove as a memorial to what had taken place there.

Abraham worships the everlasting God

This indicates to me that Abraham knew that what just happened was God's work.

Abimelech did the unthinkable; he came to Abraham to plea for protection.