**GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE**

Genesis 20:1- 21:34                                                                   Lesson 15

Key verse: 21:1

**1. Look at 20:1-18. When had Abraham previously done something like this? (12:10-20) Why did he lie? (10-13) What does this reveal about his weaknesses?**

**Abraham and Abimelek**

**20**Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, **2**and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her. **3**But God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, “You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman.” **4**Now Abimelek had not gone near her, so he said, “Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? **5**Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister,’ and didn’t she also say, ‘He is my brother’? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands.” **6**Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. **7**Now return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all who belong to you will die.” **8**Early the next morning Abimelek summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid. **9**Then Abimelek called Abraham in and said, “What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should never be done.” **10**And Abimelek asked Abraham, “What was your reason for doing this?”

**11**Abraham replied, “I said to myself, ‘There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’ **12**Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. **13**And when God had me wander from my father’s household, I said to her, ‘This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, “He is my brother.”’”

1. Ge 12:10-20. Abraham lied to Pharaoh by saying that Sarah is his sister.
2. Faith which overcomes ‘fear’. 2 Ti 1:7: God did not give us the spirit of fear, but the spirit of love, power, and self-discipline. We receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on us. (Ac 1:8)
3. Abraham’s weakness was fear. Fear comes from uncertainty, lack of confidence, absence of God, and committing sin.

**2. How did God help Abraham? How was the matter resolved? (What did Abraham do and what did Abimelech do?--14-18) How had Abraham misjudged him? What does this event show about God's character?**

**14**Then Abimelek brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him. **15**And Abimelek said, “My land is before you; live wherever you like.” **16**To Sarah he said, “I am giving your brother a thousand shekels[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+20-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-512a)] of silver. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated.” **17**Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again, **18**for the Lord had kept all the women in Abimelek’s household from conceiving because of Abraham’s wife Sarah.

1. God appeared in Abimelek’s dream.
2. There will be no fear of God in this place…Abraham’s misjudgment.
3. God bears our repeated mistake and misjudgment. Our God is faithful God. Heb 4:16

**3. Look at 21:1-7. What does Isaac's birth teach us about God? (1-5) (Deut 7:9, Ps 145:13, He 10:23) How did Abraham show his obedience to God? Why was Sarah so joyful?**

**The Birth of Isaac**

**21**Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. **2**Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. **3**Abraham gave the name Isaac[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+20-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-517b)] to the son Sarah bore him. **4**When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. **5**Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. **6**Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” **7**And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

**9**Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

**13**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut+7%3A9%2C+Ps+145%3A13%2C+He+10%3A23&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16334a)]

**23**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

1. God keeps his promise
2. Abraham circumcised Isaac as the Lord had said
3. She was so joyful because of Isaac.

**4. Look at 21:8-21. What happened on the day Isaac was weaned? What did Sarah tell Abraham to do? Why was it necessary? (Gal 4:23,30) How was this a turning point in Abraham’s life of faith? (Ro 2:29, Gal 5:24) How did God take care of Hagar and Ishmael? (21:17)**

**Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away**

**8**The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. **9**But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, **10**and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.” **11**The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. **12**But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+20-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-526c)] will be reckoned. **13**I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.”

**14**Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. **15**When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. **16**Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, “I cannot watch the boy die.” And as she sat there, she[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+20-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-530d)] began to sob.

**17**God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. **18**Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” **19**Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. **20**God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. **21**While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

**23**His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

**30**But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gal+4%3A23%2C30&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29162a)]

**29**No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.

**24**Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

God took care of Hagar and Ishmael for the sake of Abraham.

**5. Look at 21:22-34. Why did Abimelech come to Abraham? How did Abraham take the initiative to be clear with Abimelech? What did he do after this event? (33) Why? How might we account for Abraham's changed attitude?**

**The Treaty at Beersheba**

**22**At that time Abimelek 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 now reside as a foreigner the same kindness I have shown to you.”

**24**Abraham said, “I swear it.” **25**Then Abraham complained to Abimelek about a well of water that Abimelek’s servants had seized. **26**But Abimelek 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 Abimelek, and the two men made a treaty. **28**Abraham set apart seven ewe lambs from the flock, **29**and Abimelek 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,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+20-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-545e)] because the two men swore an oath there. **32**After the treaty had been made at Beersheba, Abimelek 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 on the name of the Lord, the Eternal God. **34**And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

1. Abimelek saw that God was with Abraham. He feared God of Abraham. God exalted Abraham among the gentiles when he obeyed God.
2. They made a peace treaty
3. Abraham became generous. He did not take it for granted, but paid with full price and bought it for the future.