
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Gen. 25:19-34	The birth of Esaw and Ya'aqob; Esaw sells his birthright
Tuesday:	Gen. 26:1-11	Yahweh's promise to Yitshaq; Like father like son (Yitshaq and Abimelek)
Wednesday:	Gen. 26:12-33	Abimelek and Yitshaq make an agreement
Thursday:	Gen. 26:34 - 27:40	Stolen blessing; Esaw arrives too late
Friday:	Gen. 27:41 - 28:9	Esaw wants to kill Ya'aqob; Ya'aqob is sent away

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson we will continue our theme of covenants. We will witness a covenant of peace between Abraham and also his son Yitshaq with the sovereign Abimelek of the Philistines. Beginning with the story of Abraham from parsha Vayeira and concluding with Yitshaq's story from this parsha we will see the similarities they encountered with Sovereign Abimelek. Yahweh also reaffirms with Yitshaq the covenant that He first made with his father Abraham. Now, let's read Gen. 20; 21:22-34 & 26:1-33.

PARSHA POINTS

Abraham's story

- When Abraham arrived in Gerar, he told sovereign Abimelek (meaning, 'my father is king') that his beautiful wife Sarah was his sister. So, Abimelek sent for her to be brought to his palace - 20:1-2
- Elohim spoke to Abimelek in a dream and told him (20:3):
 - that Sarah was actually Abraham's wife
 - that because of Sarah, he was a dead man
- Abimelek pleaded that he had treated Sarah with respect and that he had not come near her - 20:4
- He explained to Elohim that Abraham and Sarah had each told him that they were brother and sister - 20:5
- He told Yahweh that he was innocent in this matter, asserting that he was a man of integrity regarding marriage; and Yahweh believed him - 20:5
- However, Yahweh warned him to release Sarah or else he would die - 20:7
- He also told Abimelek to ask Abraham to pray for him, because all the women of his household had become barren - 20:7, 18



- Abimeleḵ was not happy with Abraham's deceit and told him so - 20:9
- Abraham confessed his fear that because the people of the land did not reverence Elohim, they might have killed him in order to take his wife - 20:11
- He did say that he'd told only a partial untruth, for Sarah was the daughter of his father (Terah) but not the daughter of his mother - 20:12
- He also revealed that he and Sarah had made an agreement that wherever they went, she would say she was his sister as proof of her kindness/loving-commitment to Abraham - 20:13
- Sovereign Abimeleḵ released Sarah and bestowed gifts to Abraham of (20:14-16):

- sheep
- cattle
- male and female servants
- land of Abraham's choice
- 1,000 (**elef**) pieces of silver



- Abraham did pray to Elohim on the king's behalf. Then Abimeleḵ and his household were healed, and the women were able to have children again - 20:17-18
- Abimeleḵ and Piḵol, the commander of his army, recognized that Elohim was with Abraham in all that he did, and made a point to speak to Abraham - 21:22
- Abimeleḵ wanted Abraham to treat him and his future offspring well, so he wished to make an agreement with Abraham for peaceable relations between their peoples. And Abraham promised to do so - 21:23-24
- However, Abraham informed Abimeleḵ that the king's servants had seized one of his wells for water - 21:25
- Abimeleḵ was surprised to hear this report, for he had not been aware of any such action - 21:26
- Abraham made a covenant with Abimeleḵ and gave him (21:27):

- sheep
- cattle
- 7 (**sheva**) ewe lambs by themselves

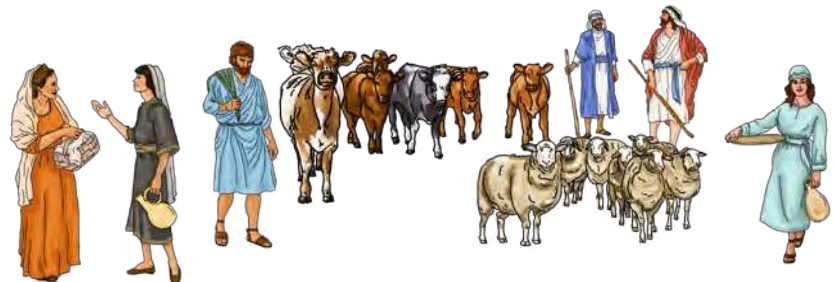


- Sovereign Abimeleḵ asked what the 7 ewe lambs by themselves were for - 21:29
- Abraham told him that they were a witness that the well belonged to Abraham - 21:30
- The 2 (**shtayim**) men made a covenant there at Be'ersheba (meaning 'well of seven' or 'well of the oath') - 21:32
- Sovereign Abimeleḵ and his army commander, Piḵol, returned home, and Abraham planted a tamarisk tree there and called on the name of Yahweh, the Everlasting EI - 21:33
- Abraham dwelt in the land of the Philistines many days - 21:34



Yitshaq's story

- Later, Yitshaq also suffered a lack of food, and did the same as his father Abraham; he went to Gerar where sovereign Abimelek of the Philistines reigned - 26:1
- Yahweh told Yitshaq to dwell there and not to go to Mitsrayim, for He would be with Yitshaq and bless him, and give him the lands He promised to Abraham his father - 26:2-3
- Yahweh also reiterated the promises of the covenant (26:4):
 - Yitshaq's seed would increase like the stars of the heavens
 - His seed would inherit these lands
 - Through his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed
- This covenant was made because Abraham obeyed Yahweh's voice and guarded Yahweh's Charge (**mishmereth**): His commands (**mitzvot**), laws (**chukkot**) and **Torot** (teachings and instructions) - 26:5
- Like Sarah, Yitshaq's wife Ribqah was also very beautiful, and the men of sovereign Abimelek inquired about her. Just as his father Abraham had done, Yitshaq told them that she was his sister, fearing that he would be killed so someone else could take her - 26:7
- One day sovereign Abimelek saw Yitshaq being affectionate with Ribqah. Clearly this demonstrated that she was his wife, so Abimelek wanted to know why Yitshaq had claimed that she was his sister - 26:8-9
- Like his father Abraham, Yitshaq confessed that he was afraid he would be killed so that they could take Ribqah - 26:9
- Sovereign Abimelek had learned his lesson the first time, so he commanded that no one lay a hand on Yitshaq or his wife Ribqah - 26:10-11
- When Yitshaq sowed his seed in that land, Yahweh blessed him with a hundredfold (**me'ah**) increase, so that he became very great in the land of the Philistines - 26:12-13
- He acquired possession of (26:14):
 - flocks
 - herds
 - a great body of servants
- The Philistines began to envy him, so they found all the wells (**be'er**) which his father's servants had dug and stopped them up with dirt (**aphar**) - 26:14-15
- After this, Sovereign Abimelek asked Yitshaq to leave his land, for Yitshaq had become more prosperous than his own people and was causing him a problem - 26:16
- Yitshaq and his people left and dwelt in the wadi Gerar - 26:17
- There Yitshaq dug up the wells which had been stopped up after his father's death, and named them by the names which his father had called them - 26:18



- The herdsmen of Gerar strove (**reev**) with Yitshaq over 2 wells Yitshaq dug up in the wadi (meaning, 'river'), so Yitshaq named them Eseq (meaning, 'contention') and Sitnah (meaning, 'strife' or 'enmity') - 26:20-21
- Finally, Yitshaq dug one more well. There was no strife over that one, so Yitshaq named it Rehoboth (meaning, 'wide spaces'), for Yahweh had made room for them and they would be fruitful in this land - 26:22
- After this Yitshaq traveled to Be'ersheba, just as his father Abraham had done - 26:23; 21:32
- There Yahweh appeared to him and told him that He was the Elohim of his father Abraham - 26:24
- He told Yitshaq to not fear, for He would be with him and bless him, and increase his seed for his father Abraham's sake - 26:24
- Yitshaq built an altar/slaughter place and called on Yahweh's name, just as his father Abraham did when he planted the tamarisk tree - 26:25; 21:33
- His servants also dug a well there - 26:25
- After this, Sovereign Abimelek and Pikel his army commander, along with one of his friends, Ahuzzath, paid a visit to Yitshaq - 26:26
- Yitshaq enquired why they would visit him, since they had hated him and sent him away - 26:27
- Just as he had said to Abraham, Sovereign Abimelek told Yitshaq that he clearly saw that Yahweh was with him, and that he wanted to make a covenant with him as well - 26:28; 21:22
- Abimelek wanted their covenant to be a promise that they would not do evil to each other, because he had only done good to Yitshaq. He had sent him away in peace, and Yahweh had blessed him - 26:29
- They made a covenant pact with feasting and drinking, and then departed in peace from each other - 26:30
- That same day Yitshaq's servants came and told him that they got water (**mayim**) from another well, so he named it Shibah (meaning, 'seven' or 'oath') which is in the city of Be'ersheba - 26:32-33



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Read Genesis 12:9-20 to reveal another instance where Abraham told Pharaoh of Mitsrayim that Sarai was his sister. Do you think that Abraham came up with this idea because as her brother he could have control over any would-be suitors and dismiss them?
- Compare and contrast the 2 stories. In what ways do we see 'like father, like son?'
- Discuss how marriages in ancient times were often made to secure political alliances or financial benefits, as opposed to the reasons people marry these days. Do you think that the sovereign may have hoped to add to his protection or wealth in taking Sarah and Ribqah?
- Notice that in both accounts Sovereign Abimelek recognized that Yahweh was with Abraham and Yitshaq. In fact, he admired that enough to pay them a visit. Notice how he always brought his army commander with him, to be eyes and ears. Do you think this visit was his acknowledgment of Yahweh as Elohim, or just smart play on his part?
- After they both swore their oaths to bind the covenant/agreement, the place where they met was called Be'ersheba. It became an important place in Yisra'el's history (21:31-34). Research Be'ersheba.
- Since so many years had passed between the similar stories of father and son, do you think they both dealt with the same sovereign and army commander, or did their names simply get passed down to their children? Could they both be titles such as Pharaoh? What does Abimelek mean? Research other areas in Scripture where Abimelek is mentioned.
- Note that Yahweh spoke with Abimelek in a dream. List some other 'non-covenanted' men whom Yahweh chose to speak with in a dream, and what He communicated to them.
- As Yahweh had blessed Yitshaq 100X (a hundred-fold), how do you think this made the natural-born Philistines feel?

