

SARAH AND THE PHILISTINES
(Genesis 20:1-18)

- I. Abraham MOVES to Gerar (Gen. 20:1-2)
 - A. Abraham travels SOUTH, toward EGYPT, to the land of the PHILISTINES (20:1; cf. 26:1-2)
 - B. He LIES about SARAH’S identity (20:2*a*; cf. 12:11-13)
 - C. He LOSES Sarah to Abimelech, the KING (20:2*b*; cf. 12:14-15)
- II. God INTERVENES for Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 20:3-7)
 - A. God DEMONSTRATES His POWER (20:3)
 - 1. SPOKE to Abimelech in a DREAM
 - 2. THREATENED Abimelech with DEATH-
 - 3. EXPLAINED Sarah’s REAL identity
 - B. Abimelech protests his INNOCENCE (20:4-5)
 - C. God declares His MERCY toward Abimelech (20:6)
 - 1. Knew Abimelech had been DECEIVED
 - 2. PROTECTED Abimelech by PREVENTING him from VIOLATING Sarah
 - D. God explains what Abimelech must do to PREVENT JUDGMENT (20:7)
 - 1. RESTORE Sarah to Abraham

2. Ask Abraham, the PROPHET, to PRAY for Abimelech

III. Abimelech CONFRONTS Abraham (Gen. 20:8-13)

- A. He explains to his SERVANTS the DANGER of God's WRATH (20:8)
- B. He REBUKES Abraham for ENSNARING him in SIN (20:9-10)
- C. Abraham ADMITS his FEAR (20:11-13)
 1. Knew they had no FEAR of GOD
 2. Thought they would KILL him for his WIFE
 3. Had not INTENDED to HARM the Philistines

IV. Abimelech Seeks DELIVERANCE from JUDGMENT (Gen. 20:14-18)

- A. He RETURNS Sarah UNHARMED (20:14*b*)
- B. He treats Abraham with GRACE (20:14*a*, 15)
 1. Provided gifts of SHEEP, OXEN, and SERVANTS
 2. Granted ROYAL privilege to LIVE anywhere he chose
- C. He REPROVES Sarah (20:16)
 1. Paid a BOUNTY in SILVER to Sarah's "BROTHER"
 2. Warned her against INFIDELITY
- D. Abraham PRAYS for Abimelech (20:17*a*)
- E. God HEALS Abimelech (20:17*b*-18)
 1. REPENTANCE and RESTITUTION were prerequisites, but God's judgment was REMOVED by PRAYER
 2. No further record of Abraham DOUBTING God's GOODNESS