

Genesis Chapters 12-21

Gen 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

Gen 12:2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Gen 12:4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

Gen 12:5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Gen 12:6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

Gen 12:7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Gen 12:8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

Gen 12:9 Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Gen 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

Gen 12:11 As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are.

Gen 12:12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live.

Gen 12:13 Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."

Gen 12:14 When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman.

Gen 12:15 And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace.

Gen 12:16 He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

Gen 12:17 But the LORD inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai.

Gen 12:18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife?"

Gen 12:19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!"

Gen 12:20 Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

Gen 13:1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him.

Gen 13:2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

Gen 13:3 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier

Gen 13:4 and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Gen 13:5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.

Gen 13:6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.

Gen 13:7 And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

Gen 13:8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives.

Gen 13:9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Gen 13:10 Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

Gen 13:11 So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:

Gen 13:12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

Gen 13:13 Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

Gen 13:14 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west.

Gen 13:15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.

Gen 13:16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

Gen 13:17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

Gen 13:18 So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron,

where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the LORD.

Gen 14:1 At the time when Amraphel was king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goyim,

Gen 14:2 these kings went to war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboyim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

Gen 14:3 All these latter kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Dead Sea Valley).

Gen 14:4 For twelve years they had been subject to Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

Gen 14:5 In the fourteenth year, Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him went out and defeated the Rephaites in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites in Ham, the Emitees in Shaveh Kiriathaim

Gen 14:6 and the Horites in the hill country of Seir, as far as El Paran near the desert.

Gen 14:7 Then they turned back and went to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they conquered the whole territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who were living in Hazazon Tamar.

Gen 14:8 Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboyim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim

Gen 14:9 against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar--four kings against five.

Gen 14:10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills.

Gen 14:11 The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away.

Gen 14:12 They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.

Gen 14:13 A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram.

Gen 14:14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Gen 14:15 During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.

Gen 14:16 He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

Gen 14:17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

Gen 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,

Gen 14:19 and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

Gen 14:20 And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Gen 14:21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself."

Gen 14:22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,

Gen 14:23 that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.'

Gen 14:24 I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me--to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share."

Gen 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Gen 15:2 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Gen 15:3 And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Gen 15:4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir."

Gen 15:5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Gen 15:6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Gen 15:7 He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

Gen 15:8 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

Gen 15:9 So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Gen 15:10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged

the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

Gen 15:11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

Gen 15:12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

Gen 15:13 Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there.

Gen 15:14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

Gen 15:15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.

Gen 15:16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

Gen 15:17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

Gen 15:18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates--

Gen 15:19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,

Gen 15:20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,

Gen 15:21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."

Gen 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar;

Gen 16:2 so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

Gen 16:3 So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife.

Gen 16:4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

Gen 16:5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me."

Gen 16:6 "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

Gen 16:7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.

Gen 16:8 And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from,

and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.

Gen 16:9 Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her."

Gen 16:10 The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."

Gen 16:11 The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery.

Gen 16:12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

Gen 16:13 She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

Gen 16:14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

Gen 16:15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne.

Gen 16:16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Gen 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.

Gen 17:2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

Gen 17:3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,

Gen 17:4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.

Gen 17:5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.

Gen 17:6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.

Gen 17:7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

Gen 17:8 The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

Gen 17:9 Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come.

Gen 17:10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you,

the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

Gen 17:11 You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.

Gen 17:12 For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner--those who are not your offspring.

Gen 17:13 Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.

Gen 17:14 Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

Gen 17:15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.

Gen 17:16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Gen 17:17 Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

Gen 17:18 And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

Gen 17:19 Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

Gen 17:20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation.

Gen 17:21 But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."

Gen 17:22 When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

Gen 17:23 On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him.

Gen 17:24 Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised,

Gen 17:25 and his son Ishmael was thirteen;

Gen 17:26 Abraham and his son Ishmael were both circumcised on that very day.

Gen 17:27 And every male in Abraham's household, including those born in his household or bought from a foreigner, was circumcised with him.

Gen 18:1 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.

Gen 18:2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

Gen 18:3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by.

Gen 18:4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree.

Gen 18:5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way--now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

Gen 18:6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

Gen 18:7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it.

Gen 18:8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

Gen 18:9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said.

Gen 18:10 Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

Gen 18:11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

Gen 18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Gen 18:13 Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?'

Gen 18:14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

Gen 18:15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Gen 18:16 When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way.

Gen 18:17 Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?

Gen 18:18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

Gen 18:19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

Gen 18:20 Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous

Gen 18:21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

Gen 18:22 The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

Gen 18:23 Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

Gen 18:24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?

Gen 18:25 Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Gen 18:26 The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Gen 18:27 Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes,

Gen 18:28 what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?" "If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."

Gen 18:29 Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

Gen 18:30 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?" He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

Gen 18:31 Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?" He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."

Gen 18:32 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

Gen 18:33 When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

Gen 19:1 The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

Gen 19:2 "My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning." "No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square."

Gen 19:3 But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.

Gen 19:4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom--both young and old--surrounded the house.

Gen 19:5 They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."

Gen 19:6 Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him

Gen 19:7 and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing.

Gen 19:8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof."

Gen 19:9 "Get out of our way," they replied. "This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.

Gen 19:10 But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door.

Gen 19:11 Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.

Gen 19:12 The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here--sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here,

Gen 19:13 because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."

Gen 19:14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

Gen 19:15 With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."

Gen 19:16 When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.

Gen 19:17 As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee

for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"

Gen 19:18 But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please!

Gen 19:19 Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die.

Gen 19:20 Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it--it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared."

Gen 19:21 He said to him, "Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of.

Gen 19:22 But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it." (That is why the town was called Zoar.)

Gen 19:23 By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land.

Gen 19:24 Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah--from the LORD out of the heavens.

Gen 19:25 Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities--and also the vegetation in the land.

Gen 19:26 But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Gen 19:27 Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD.

Gen 19:28 He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

Gen 19:29 So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

Gen 19:30 Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave.

Gen 19:31 One day the older daughter said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man around here to give us children--as is the custom all over the earth.

Gen 19:32 Let's get our father to drink wine and then sleep with him and preserve our family line through our father."

Gen 19:33 That night they got their father to drink wine, and the older daughter went in and slept with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.

Gen 19:34 The next day the older daughter said to the younger, "Last night I slept with my father. Let's get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and sleep with him so we can preserve our family line through our father."

Gen 19:35 So they got their father to drink wine that night also, and the

younger daughter went in and slept with him. Again he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.

Gen 19:36 So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father.

Gen 19:37 The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today.

Gen 19:38 The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.

Gen 20:1 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,

Gen 20:2 and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

Gen 20:3 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."

Gen 20:4 Now Abimelek had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation?"

Gen 20:5 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."

Gen 20:6 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.

Gen 20:7 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."

Gen 20:8 Early the next morning Abimelek summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid.

Gen 20:9 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."

Gen 20:10 And Abimelek asked Abraham, "What was your reason for doing this?"

Gen 20:11 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.'

Gen 20:12 Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife.

Gen 20:13 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."'"

Gen 20:14 Then Abimelek brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him.

Gen 20:15 And Abimelek said, "My land is before you; live wherever you like."

Gen 20:16 To Sarah he said, "I am giving your brother a thousand shekels of silver. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated."

Gen 20:17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again,

Gen 20:18 for the LORD had kept all the women in Abimelek's household from conceiving because of Abraham's wife Sarah.

Gen 21:1 Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised.

Gen 21:2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

Gen 21:3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

Gen 21:4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him.

Gen 21:5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Gen 21:6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."

Gen 21:7 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."

Gen 21:8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast.

Gen 21:9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking,

Gen 21:10 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."

Gen 21:11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son.

Gen 21:12 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 will be reckoned.

Gen 21:13 I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

Gen 21:14 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.

Gen 21:15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes.

Gen 21:16 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 began to sob.

Gen 21:17 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.

Gen 21:18 Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

Gen 21:19 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.

Gen 21:20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.

Gen 21:21 While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

Gen 21:22 At that time Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything you do.

Gen 21:23 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."

Gen 21:24 Abraham said, "I swear it."

Gen 21:25 Then Abraham complained to Abimelek about a well of water that Abimelek's servants had seized.

Gen 21:26 But Abimelek said, "I don't know who has done this. You did not tell me, and I heard about it only today."

Gen 21:27 So Abraham brought sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelek, and the two men made a treaty.

Gen 21:28 Abraham set apart seven ewe lambs from the flock,

Gen 21:29 and Abimelek asked Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs you have set apart by themselves?"

Gen 21:30 He replied, "Accept these seven lambs from my hand as a witness that I dug this well."

Gen 21:31 So that place was called Beersheba, because the two men swore an oath there.

Gen 21:32 After the treaty had been made at Beersheba, Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces returned to the land of the Philistines.

Gen 21:33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Eternal God.

Gen 21:34 And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time.