

### Abimelech and Abraham Make a Covenant

Gn 21 <sup>22</sup> And it came to pass at that time that Abimelech and Phichol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, "God is with you in all that you do. <sup>23</sup> Now therefore, swear to me by God that you will not deal falsely with me, with my offspring, or with my posterity; but that according to the kindness that I have done to you, you will do to me and to the land in which you have dwelt." <sup>24</sup> And Abraham said, "I will swear." <sup>25</sup> Then Abraham rebuked Abimelech because of a well of water which Abimelech's servants had seized. <sup>26</sup> And Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor had I heard of it until today." <sup>27</sup> So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant. <sup>28</sup> And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves. <sup>29</sup> Then Abimelech asked Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs which you have set by themselves?" <sup>30</sup> And he said, "You will take these seven ewe lambs from my hand, that they may be my witness that I have dug this well." <sup>31</sup> Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because the two of them swore an oath there. <sup>32</sup> Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba. So Abimelech rose with Phichol, the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines. <sup>33</sup> Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. <sup>34</sup> And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines many days.

► What does Abimelech mean, and why do we see so many in the Bible? (Gn20-21; 26; Judg9; 2Sa11; cf. Ps34; 1Sa21)

► Where have we seen this Abimelech before, and what happened on that occasion?

► Abimelech is Abraham's \_\_\_\_\_  
in human terms (23, 27), so why is he seeking a covenant with him and his seed (22-23)?

► What is the purpose of the seven ewe lambs (28-30)?

► What does each receive under the covenant?

► We see that God uses his \_\_\_\_\_  
upon his people to \_\_\_\_\_ unbelievers to him.

*Isa 45 <sup>21</sup> "[T]here is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. <sup>22</sup> Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. <sup>23</sup> I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness and shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath." (cf. Phil 2.10-11)*

*Dt 4 <sup>6</sup> [T]his is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."<sup>7</sup> For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us...? ... <sup>8</sup> <sup>18</sup> And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant ... <sup>19</sup> ... [I]f you by any means forget the Lord your God, ... you shall surely perish.*

*Eze 16 <sup>14</sup> "Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord GOD. <sup>15</sup> "But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame"*

► How can we walk in God's blessing and its witness?

► It does *not* mean leading a trouble \_\_\_\_\_ or  
stumble \_\_\_\_\_ life.

– Abraham & Sarah

– Naomi in the book of Ruth

– The nation of Israel.

► It does mean persevering with \_\_\_\_\_ who  
perseveres with \_\_\_\_\_.

*1Pet 1<sup>3</sup> [T]he God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ...  
has begotten us again to a living hope ...,<sup>5</sup> who are kept by  
the power of God through faith for salvation ...<sup>6</sup> In this you  
greatly rejoice, though ... you have been grieved by various trials,  
<sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious  
than gold ... though ... tested by fire, may be found to praise,  
honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ*

*Dt 30<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you,  
that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing;  
therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may  
live; <sup>20</sup> that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey  
His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and  
the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which  
the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to  
give them."*

► We persevere in \_\_\_\_\_ (33; Gn13.1,4).

► We persevere in \_\_\_\_\_,  
covenant renewal, and sanctification.

► We persevere in fruitfulness to God over the \_\_\_\_\_ haul.

*2Pet 1<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge  
of God and of Jesus our Lord,<sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given  
to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the  
knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,<sup>4</sup> by which  
have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises,  
that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature,  
having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.  
<sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your  
faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,<sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control,  
to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,  
<sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.  
<sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither  
barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*