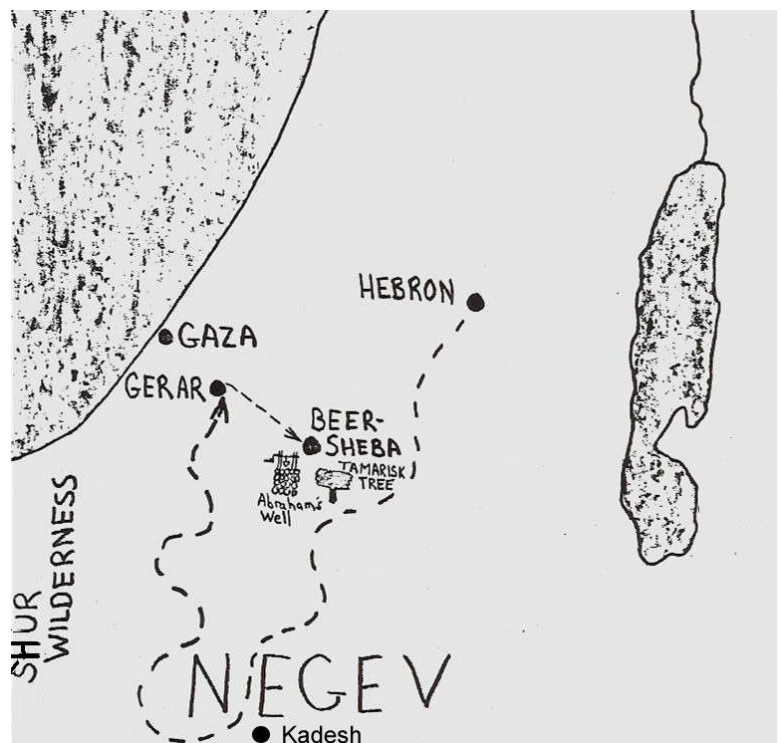


# Genesis 20:1-18

Genesis 20:1 – From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar.

|  |                                 |                                 |                         |                    |                      |                     |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6946 [e]<br>qā-dēš   | 996 [e]<br>bēn-                 | 3427 [e]<br>way-yē-šeb          | 5045 [e]<br>han-ne-geb, | 776 [e]<br>'ar-šāh | 85 [e]<br>'ab-rā-hām | 8033 [e]<br>miš-šām | 5265 [e]<br>way-yis-sa'         |
| קֹדֶשׁ   | בֵּין                           | וַיָּשֶׁב                       | הַנֶּגֶב                | אֶרֶץ              | אַבְרָהָם            | מִשָּׁם             | וַיֵּסַע                        |
| Kadesh   | between                         | and he dwelt                    | the Negev               | to                 | Abraham              | from there          | And journeyed                   |
| N-proper-fs  | Prep                            | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms | Art   N-proper-fs       | N-fs   3fs         | N-proper-ms          | Prep-m   Adv        | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms |
| גֵּרָר = <i>gur</i> /goor/ - "to sojourn", "live as a foreigner" |                                 |                                 |                         |                    |                      |                     |                                 |
| 1642 [e]<br>big-rār.   | 1481 [e]<br>way-yā-gār          | 7793 [e]<br>šūr;                | 996 [e]<br>ū-bēn        |                    |                      |                     |                                 |
| בִּגְרָר:  | וַיֵּגֵר                        | שׁוּר                           | וּבֵין                  |                    |                      |                     |                                 |
| in Gerar   | and stayed                      | Shur                            | and                     |                    |                      |                     |                                 |
| Prep-b   N-proper-fs   | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms | N-proper-fs                     | Conj-w   Prep           |                    |                      |                     |                                 |

- Genesis 20 occurs within three months of Genesis 18-19 where:
  - the Lord appears to Abraham at Mamre,
  - promises Sarah will have a child this time next year,
  - Sodom is destroyed
  - Lot and daughters go to cave
- Sarah is 89-90 years old; Abraham is 99-100 years old.
- Sarah will have a child nine months after these events (Genesis 21)
- Abimelech, King of Gerar, appears again in the next chapter to make a covenant with Abraham concerning a well.
- "and stayed" or "and he stayed" means in the Hebrew "and he LIVED AS A FOREIGNER" or "and he SOJOURNED"
- It is possible that Abraham had settled in Gerar as a family/people while his flocks and staff worked in the Negev.



20:2 – And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

|  |   |   |  |  |  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 40 [e]<br>'ā·bī·me·leḵ<br>אַבִּימֶלֶךְ<br>Abimelech<br>N-proper-ms | 7971 [e]<br>way·yiš·lah,<br>וַיִּשְׁלַח<br>And sent<br>Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms | 1931 [e]<br>hî<br>הִיא<br>she [is]<br>Pro-3fs | 269 [e]<br>'ā·ḥō·tī<br>אֲחֹתִי<br>my sister<br>N-fsc   1cs | 802 [e]<br>'iš·tōw<br>אִשְׁתּוֹ<br>his wife<br>N-fsc   3ms | 8283 [e]<br>śā·rah<br>שָׂרָה<br>Sarah<br>N-proper-fs | 413 [e]<br>'el-<br>אֶל-<br>of<br>Prep | 85 [e]<br>'ab·rā·hām<br>אַבְרָהָם<br>Abraham<br>N-proper-ms | 559 [e]<br>way·yō·mer<br>וַיֹּאמֶר<br>And said<br>Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|

|  |                                    |  |  |   |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 8283 [e]<br>śā·rah.<br>שָׂרָה:<br>Sarah<br>N-proper-fs | 853 [e]<br>'et-<br>אֶת-<br>DirObjM | 3947 [e]<br>way·yiq·qah<br>וַיִּקַּח<br>and took<br>Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms | 1642 [e]<br>gə·rār,<br>גֵּרָר<br>of Gerar<br>N-proper-fs | 4428 [e]<br>me·leḵ<br>מֶלֶךְ<br>king<br>N-msc |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---|

- Abimelech means “my father is king”. This may be the throne name (like “Pharaoh”) and not the personal name of the king since the same name meets with Isaac in Chapter 26
- Both Lot and Abimelech are unaware of their crimes when they are deceived by women.
- A similar event happened with Pharaoh when Abram first entered Canaan in Genesis 12
- One of the themes seems to be to address people or nations that are in the land of Canaan or who could at some point claim the land of Canaan:
  - Pharaoh
  - Abimelech
  - Lot
  - Ishmael
  - Philistines
  - Moab
  - Ammon
- No reason is given for Abimelech taking Sarah.
  - Pharaoh took Sarah for her beauty when she was 65 (or, twenty-five years before)
  - Abimelech may have wanted an economic covenant with Abraham, and Sarah may have been part of that hoped for partnership

**20:3 – But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.”**

|                                     |  |  |  |  |                                       |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| low,<br>לֹו<br>to him<br>Prep   3ms | 559 [e]<br>way·yō·mer<br>וַיֹּאמֶר<br>and said<br>Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms | 3915 [e]<br>hal·lā·yā·lāh;<br>הַלַּיְלָה<br>by night<br>Art   N-ms | 2472 [e]<br>ba·ḥā·lō·wm<br>בַּחֲלוֹם<br>in a dream<br>Prep-b, Art   N-ms | 40 [e]<br>'ā·bī·me·leḵ<br>אַבִּימֶלֶךְ<br>Abimelech<br>N-proper-ms | 413 [e]<br>'el-<br>אֶל-<br>to<br>Prep | 430 [e]<br>'ē·lō·hīm<br>אֱלֹהִים<br>God<br>N-mp | 935 [e]<br>way·yā·bō<br>וַיָּבֹא<br>But came<br>Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|

|  |   |   |   |  |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1167 [e]<br>bā·'al.<br>בָּעַל:<br>to a man<br>N-ms | 1166 [e]<br>bə·'u·iaṭ<br>בְּעֻלַּת<br>is married<br>V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpl-fsc | 1931 [e]<br>wə·hi·w<br>וְהִיא<br>for she [is]<br>Conj-w   Pro-3fs | 3947 [e]<br>lā·qah·tā,<br>לָקַחְתָּ<br>you have taken<br>V-Qal-Perf-2ms | 834 [e]<br>'ā·šer-<br>אֲשֶׁר-<br>whom<br>Pro-r | 802 [e]<br>hā·'iš·śāh<br>הָאִשָּׁה<br>of the woman<br>Art   N-fs | 5921 [e]<br>'al-<br>עַל-<br>because<br>Prep | 4191 [e]<br>mēt<br>מֵת<br>you are as good as dead<br>V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms | 2009 [e]<br>hin·nə·kā<br>הִנֵּה<br>behold<br>Interjection   2ms |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|

- God gives nations chances to repent (Jonah 3:10)
- God appears directly to Gentile people here and in:
  - Genesis 31:24 – Laban
  - Numbers 22:9 – Balaam

3. “has taken” *laqach* – is an idiom meaning “to marry”, but also means “to take”, “to seize”, “to accept”. It can refer to taking something by force, or kidnap if it is a person who is taken

20:4 – **Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, “Lord, will you kill an innocent people?”**

|   |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| 6662 [e]<br>šad-dîq<br>צַדִּיק<br>'ighteous<br>Adj-ms | 1571 [e]<br>gam-<br>גַּם<br>also<br>Conj | 1471 [e]<br>hă-gō-w<br>הֲגוֹי<br>will a nation<br>Art   N-ms | 136 [e]<br>'ā-dō-nāy<br>אֲדֹנָי<br>Lord<br>N-proper-ms | 559 [e]<br>way-yō-mar<br>וַיֹּאמֶר<br>and he said<br>Conj-w   V-Qal-Conseclmperf-3ms | 413 [e]<br>'ê-le-hā;<br>אֵלֶיהָ<br>near her<br>Prep   3fs | 7126 [e]<br>qā-rab<br>קָרַב<br>had come<br>V-Qal-Perf-3ms | 3808 [e]<br>lō<br>לֹא<br>not<br>Adv-NegPrt | 40 [e]<br>wa-'ā-bî-me-lek<br>וְאַבְיִמֶלֶךְ<br>But Abimelech<br>Conj-w   N-proper-ms |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|

הֲגוֹי = goy - "nation", "people", "Gentile"

2026 [e]  
ta-hā-rōg.  
תַּהַרְגֵּנִי  
You slay  
V-Qal-Imperf-2ms

- Abimelech is aware of marriage morality and considers himself innocent
- The threat of death could apply to:
  - Abimelech himself
  - Abimelech's royal family (consider the barrenness)
  - Abimelech's “goy” or nation. The people Abimelech ruled

20:5 – **Did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”**

|   |  |   |  |  |   |   |  |                                  |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1931 [e]<br>hū;<br>הוּא<br>He [is]<br>Pro-3ms | 251 [e]<br>'ā-hî<br>אֶחָי<br>my brother<br>N-msc   1cs | 559 [e]<br>'ā-mə-rāh<br>אָמְרָה<br>said<br>V-Qal-Perf-3fs | 1931 [e]<br>hî<br>הִיא<br>herself<br>Pro-3fs | 1571 [e]<br>gam-<br>גַּם<br>even<br>Conj | 1931 [e]<br>wə-hî-<br>וְהִיא<br>and she<br>Conj-w   Pro-3fs | 1931 [e]<br>hî<br>הִיא<br>she [is]<br>Pro-3fs | 269 [e]<br>'ā-ḥō-tî<br>אֶחָתִי<br>my sister<br>N-fsc   1cs | lî<br>לִי<br>to me<br>Prep   1cs | 559 [e]<br>'ā-mar-<br>אָמַר<br>say<br>V-Qal-Perf-3ms | 1931 [e]<br>hū<br>הוּא<br>he<br>Pro-3ms | 3808 [e]<br>hā-lō<br>הָלֹא<br>did not<br>Adv-NegPrt |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|--|---|---|

|  |  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 2063 [e]<br>zōt.<br>זֹאת<br>this<br>Pro-fs | 6213 [e]<br>'ā-sî-tî<br>עָשִׂיתִי<br>have I done<br>V-Qal-Perf-1cs | 3709 [e]<br>kap-pay<br>כַּפִּי<br>of my hands<br>N-fdc   1cs | 5356 [e]<br>ū-bə-niq-yōn<br>וּבְנִיקְיוֹן<br>and innocence<br>Conj-w, Prep-b   N-msc | 3824 [e]<br>lə-bā-bî<br>לִבִּי<br>of my heart<br>N-msc   1cs | 8537 [e]<br>bə-tām-<br>בְּתָמִם<br>in the integrity<br>Prep-b   N-msc |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|

- Abimelech claims:
  - Innocence in the integrity of his heart...Intentions
  - Innocence in what he has done with his hands...Actions
- Abimelech claims to have trusted Abraham's claim.

20:6 – **Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her.”**

|                         |                     |                |                       |                     |                 |                        |                          |                   |                                  |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3824 [e]<br>lə·bā·bə·kā | 8537 [e]<br>bə·tām- | 3588 [e]<br>kī | 3045 [e]<br>yā·da'·tī | 595 [e]<br>'a·nō·kī | 1571 [e]<br>gam | 2472 [e]<br>ba·hā·lōm, | 430 [e]<br>hā'·'è·lō·hīm | 413 [e]<br>'è·lāw | 559 [e]<br>way·yō·mer            |
| לְבַבְךָ                | בְּתִמְ             | כִּי           | יָדַעְתִּי            | אֲנֹכִי             | גַם             | בְּחֵלִים              | הָאֱלֹהִים               | אֵלָיו            | וַיֹּאמֶר 6                      |
| of your heart           | in the integrity    | that           | know                  | I                   | Yes             | in a dream             | God                      | to him            | And said                         |
| N-msc   2ms             | Prep-b   N-msc      | Conj           | V-Qal-Perf-1cs        | Pro-1cs             | Conj            | Prep-b, Art   N-ms     | Art   N-mp               | Prep   3ms        | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms |

|                 |                 |                  |            |                        |                     |                     |                  |                                  |                  |                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 3808 [e]<br>lō- | 3651 [e]<br>kên | 5921 [e]<br>'al- | lî;        | 2398 [e]<br>mê·hā·tōw- | 853 [e]<br>'ō·wt·kā | 595 [e]<br>'a·nō·kī | 1571 [e]<br>gam- | 2820 [e]<br>wā'·eh·śōk           | 2063 [e]<br>zōt, | 6213 [e]<br>'a·śī·tā |
| לֹא             | כֵּן            | עַל־             | לִי        | מִחַטֹּ                | אֹתְךָ              | אֲנֹכִי             | גַם־             | וְאֶחָשֵׁךְ                      | זֹאת             | עָשִׂיתָ             |
| not             | thus            | upon             | against Me | from sinning           | you                 | I                   | also             | for withheld                     | this             | you did              |
| Adv-NegPrt      | Adv             | Prep             | Prep   1cs | Prep-m   V-Qal-Inf     | DirObjM   2ms       | Pro-1cs             | Conj             | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-1cs | Pro-fs           | V-Qal-Perf-2ms       |

|                      |                       |                          |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 413 [e]<br>'è·le·hā. | 5060 [e]<br>lin·gō·a' | 5414 [e]<br>nə·tat·tī·kā |
| אֵלֶיהָ:             | לִגְעַ                | בְּתִתִּיד               |
| her                  | touch                 | I did let you            |
| Prep   3fs           | Prep-l   V-Qal-Inf    | V-Qal-Perf-1cs   2ms     |

1. “keep in check” is *hasak* – The Lord has kept Abimelech from sinning
2. The Philistine king knew taking another man’s wife was wrong
3. The sin would have been against God

20:7 – **Now then, return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”**

|                       |                       |                                   |                 |                   |                 |                   |                    |                    |                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 2421 [e]<br>weh·yêh;  | 1157 [e]<br>ba'·aḏ·kā | 6419 [e]<br>we·yit·pal·lêl        | 1931 [e]<br>hū, | 5030 [e]<br>nā·bî | 3588 [e]<br>kī- | 376 [e]<br>hā'·iś | 802 [e]<br>'è·šet- | 7725 [e]<br>hā·śēb | 6258 [e]<br>we'·at·tāh, |
| וַיְהִי               | בְּעֶדְךָ             | וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל                    | הוּא            | נָבִיא            | כִּי־           | הָאִישׁ           | אִשְׁתּוֹ          | הַשֹּׁב            | וְעַתָּה 7              |
| and you shall live    | for you               | and he will pray                  | he [is]         | a prophet         | for             | the man's         | wife               | restore            | Now                     |
| Conj-w   V-Qal-Imp-ms | Prep   2ms            | Conj-w   V-Hitpael-ConjImperf-3ms | Pro-3ms         | N-ms              | Conj            | Art   N-ms        | N-fsc              | V-Hifil-Imp-ms     | Conj-w   Adv            |

|                 |           |                    |                    |                     |                   |                 |                 |                      |                     |                    |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 834 [e]<br>lak. | 'ā·śer-   | 3605 [e]<br>we·kāl | 859 [e]<br>'at·tāh | 4191 [e]<br>tā·mūt, | 4191 [e]<br>mō·wt | 3588 [e]<br>kī- | 3045 [e]<br>da' | 7725 [e]<br>mê·śīb,  | 369 [e]<br>'è·nə·kā | 518 [e]<br>we'·im- |
| לְךָ:           | אֲשֶׁר־   | וְכָל־             | אַתָּה             | תָּמוּת             | מוֹת              | כִּי־           | דַע             | מְשִׁיב              | אֵינְךָ             | וְאִם־             |
| yours           | who [are] | and all            | you                | you shall die       | surely            | that            | know            | you do restore [her] | not                 | But if             |
| Prep   2fs      | Pro-r     | Conj-w   N-msc     | Pro-2ms            | V-Qal-Imperf-2ms    | V-Qal-InfAbs      | Conj            | V-Qal-Imp-ms    | V-Hifil-Prtcpl-ms    | Adv   2ms           | Conj-w   Conj      |

1. Restitution and intercession
2. First mention of a prophet in Scripture.
3. Here the role of the prophet is to make intercession for a foreign nation
4. Again, the threat of death if Sarah is not returned refers to Abimelech and all who are his (royal family?, nation?)

20:8 – **So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid.**

|                                   |                        |                    |                                  |                         |                        |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1696 [e]<br>way·ḡab·bēr           | 5650 [e]<br>'ā·bā·ḡāw, | 3605 [e]<br>lə·kāl | 7121 [e]<br>way·yiq·rā           | 1242 [e]<br>bab·bō·qer, | 40 [e]<br>'ā·bī·me·lek | 7925 [e]<br>way·yaš·kēm            |
| וַיִּדְבֵּר                       | עֲבָדָיו               | לְכָל־             | וַיִּקְרָא                       | בַּבֹּקֶר               | אַבִּימֶלֶךְ           | וַיִּשְׁכֶּם                       |
| and he told                       | his servants           | all                | and called                       | in the morning          | Abimelech              | So rose early                      |
| Conj-w   V-Piel-ConseclImperf-3ms | N-mpc   3ms            | Prep-l   N-msc     | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms | Prep-b, Art   N-ms      | N-proper-ms            | Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConseclImperf-3ms |

|                    |                         |                                  |                             |                       |                           |                  |                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 3966 [e]<br>mə'ōḡ. | 376 [e]<br>hā·'ā·nā·šim | 3372 [e]<br>way·yī·rə·'ū         | 241 [e]<br>bə·'ā·zə·nē·hem; | 428 [e]<br>hā·'ēl·leh | 1697 [e]<br>had·dē·bā·rīm | 3605 [e]<br>kāl- | 853 [e]<br>'et- |
| מְאֹד־             | הָאֲנָשִׁים             | וַיִּירָאוּ                      | בְּאָזְנֵיהֶם               | הָאֵלֵה               | הַדְּבָרִים               | כָּל־            | אֶת־            |
| very much          | the men                 | and were afraid                  | in their hearing            | these                 | things                    | all              | -               |
| Adv                | Art   N-mp              | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3mp | Prep-b   N-fdc   3mp        | Art   Pro-cp          | Art   N-mp                | N-msc            | DirObjM         |

1. These next events happen the very next day and begin very early in the morning
2. Abimelech calls a staff meeting first thing in the morning and revealed the dream and the situation with Abraham and Sarah
3. Abimelech's staff was very afraid of this sin and God's judgment
4. The fear expressed by Abimelech and his Philistine staff could have been intensified due to recent events that had happened on the Kirkir, or the cities of the plain including Sodom.
  - a. These events could have happened as recently as 2-3 weeks before
  - b. These events could not have happened more than three months before

**20:9 – Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.”**

|                   |                      |          |            |                                  |                          |                        |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------|------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6213 [e]<br>lā·nū | 4100 [e]<br>'ā·sī·tā | meh-     | lōw        | 559 [e]<br>way·yō·mer            | 85 [e]<br>lə·'ab·rā·hām, | 40 [e]<br>'ā·bī·me·lek | 7121 [e]<br>way·yiq·rā           |
| לָנוּ             | עָשִׂיתְ             | מַה־     | לֹו        | וַיֹּאמֶר                        | לְאַבְרָהָם              | אַבִּימֶלֶךְ           | וַיִּקְרָא                       |
| to us             | have you done        | what     | to him     | and said                         | Abraham                  | Abimelech              | And called                       |
| Prep   1cp        | V-Qal-Perf-2ms       | Interrog | Prep   3ms | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms | Prep-l   N-proper-ms     | N-proper-ms            | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms |

|                 |                   |                       |                        |                       |                        |                     |                    |                     |                 |            |                      |                    |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 3808 [e]<br>lō- | 834 [e]<br>'ā·šer | 4639 [e]<br>ma·'ā·šim | 1419 [e]<br>ḡə·dō·lāh; | 2401 [e]<br>hā·tā·'ah | 4467 [e]<br>mam·lak·tī | 5921 [e]<br>wə·'al- | 5921 [e]<br>'ā·lay | 935 [e]<br>hē·bē·tā | 3588 [e]<br>kī- | lāk,       | 2398 [e]<br>hā·tā·tī | 4100 [e]<br>ū·meh- |
| לֹא־            | אֲשֶׁר            | מַעֲשִׂים             | גְּדֹלָה               | חַטָּאָה              | מַמְלַכְתִּי           | וְעַל־              | עָלַי              | הַבֵּיתְךָ          | כִּי־           | לְךָ       | חַטָּאתִי            | וְכַה־             |
| not             | that              | deeds                 | great                  | a sin                 | my kingdom             | and on              | on me              | you have brought    | that            | you        | have I offended      | and how            |
| Adv-NegPrt      | Pro-r             | N-mp                  | Adj-fs                 | N-fs                  | N-fsc   1cs            | Conj-w   Prep       | Prep   1cs         | V-Hifil-Perf-2ms    | Conj            | Prep   2fs | V-Qal-Perf-1cs       | Conj-w   Interrog  |

|                        |                      |                       |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 5978 [e]<br>'im·mā·dī. | 6213 [e]<br>'ā·sī·tā | 6213 [e]<br>yē·'ā·šū, |
| עִמָּדִי־              | עָשִׂיתְ             | יַעֲשֶׂוּ             |
| to me                  | You have done        | ought to be done      |
| Prep   1cs             | V-Qal-Perf-2ms       | V-Nifal-Imperf-3mp    |

1. Abimelech calls Abraham immediately and makes two speeches:
  - a. Rebukes Abraham
  - b. Seeks reconciliation with Abraham
    - i. God had said this was necessary
    - ii. Abimelech needs Abraham to pray for him so he doesn't die
2. Abraham was the source of both a CURSE and BLESSING on Abimelech and his nation.
  - a. Abraham's deceit brought the Philistines to a point of great sin

**20:10 – And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you see, that you did this thing?”**

|   |              |            |         |                |          |  |                |          |  |             |         |              |        |        |                       |    |
|---|--------------|------------|---------|----------------|----------|--|----------------|----------|--|-------------|---------|--------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|----|
|   | 2088 [e]     | 1697 [e]   | 853 [e] | 6213 [e]       | 3588 [e] |  | 7200 [e]       | 4100 [e] |  | 85 [e]      | 413 [e] |              | 40 [e] |        | 559 [e]               |    |
|   | haz-zeh.     | had-dā-bar | 'et-    | 'a-sī-tā       | kī       |  | rā-ī-tā,       | mah      |  | 'ab-rā-ham; | 'el-    | 'ā-bī-me-lek |        |        | way-yo-mer            |    |
| ? | הִנֵּה       | הַדָּבָר   | אֶת־    | עֲשִׂיתָ       | כִּי     |  | רָאִיתָ        | מָה      |  | אַבְרָהָם   | אֶל־    | אַבִּימֶלֶךְ |        |        | וַיֹּאמֶר             | 10 |
|   | this         | the thing  | -       | you have done  | that     |  | did you see    | what     |  | Abraham     | to      | Abimelech    |        |        | And said              |    |
|   | Art   Pro-ms | Art   N-ms | DirObjM | V-Qal-Perf-2ms | Conj     |  | V-Qal-Perf-2ms | Interrog |  | N-proper-ms | Prep    | N-proper-ms  |        | Conj-w | V-Qal-Conseclperf-3ms |    |

**20:11 – Abraham said, “I did it because I thought, ‘There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’**

|              |                    |            |          |          |          |                |            |             |                               |              |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 2088 [e]     | 4725 [e]           | 430 [e]    | 3374 [e] | 369 [e]  | 7535 [e] | 559 [e]        | 3588 [e]   | 85 [e]      | 559 [e]                       |              |
| haz·zeh;     | bam·mā·qō·wm       | ’ē·lō·hīm, | yir·’at  | ’ēn·     | raq      | ’ā·mar·tī,     | kī         | ’ab·rā·hām, | way·yō·mer                    |              |
| —            | הֵנָּה             | בְּמָקוֹם  | אֱלֹהִים | יִרְאָת  | אֵין     | וְרָק          | אֲמַרְתִּי | כִּי        | אַבְרָהָם                     | וַיֹּאמֶר 11 |
|              | this               | in place   | of God   | the fear | [is] not | surely         | I thought  | because     | Abraham                       | and said     |
| Art   Pro-ms | Prep-b, Art   N-ms | N-mp       | N-fsc    | Adv      | Adv      | V-Qal-Perf-1cs | Conj       | N-proper-ms | Conj-w   V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3ms |              |

|             |          |          |                                    |
|-------------|----------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 802 [e]     | 1697 [e] | 5921 [e] | 2026 [e]                           |
| ʾiṣ-ti.     | də-bar   | ʾal-     | wa-hā-rā-ḡū-nī                     |
| אִשְׁתִּי   | דְּבַר   | עַל      | וְהָרָגוּנִי                       |
| of my wife  | account  | on       | and they will kill me              |
| N-fsc   1cs | N-msc    | Prep     | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp   1cs2 |

1. Abraham has a series of impotent excuses, lies and manipulation to justify himself. Abraham does not look or act like a great man in these verses.
2. Abraham's five carnal defenses:
  - a. No fear of God in Gerar
    - i. Fear of God = Conformity to a moral code
    - ii. It appears Abimelech and his staff have a great moral code and a fear of God
    - iii. Abraham was wrong. Misjudged them or is lying to them now.
  - b. Moral loophole concerning "sister/wife"
    - i. This may be a continuation of a lie
    - ii. But, the wording sounds like Abraham is telling the truth, although it is a half-truth that does not change the fact that his sister Sarah is still Sarah's wife.
    - iii. This was the practice, though eventually forbidden in the Law of Moses:
      1. Nahor married his niece Milcah
      2. Isaac married Rebekah his second cousin
      3. Jacob married two sisters, Leah and Rachel who were also his cousins.
  - c. Since Abraham was a sojourner living as a foreigner in another land, he had used this as a form of self-preservation since entering Egypt in Genesis 12. This had been his modus operandi for the last 25 years.
  - d. This fear is expressed in 20:13 where Abraham BLAMES GOD for:
    - i. Making him leave "his father's homeland" where Abraham would not have had to be afraid
    - ii. In 20:13 "wander" is taah meaning "to err", "to go astray" and is used of Hagar being lost as she wandered when the Lord found her and Joseph who was lost looking for his brothers and of lost sheep in Psalm



- e. In 20:13 Abraham uses the plural Elohim (which is not unusual), but the verb “wander” is also plural. If Abraham is talking about God, Elohim, YHWH the plural Elohim should have a singular verb. If Abraham is talking about the pantheon or elohim (“gods”) the verb should match and be plural
- f. Sarah was forced to show here “love” (hesed = covenant commitment) to Abraham by going in to other men such as pharaoh and Abimelech.

20:12 – **Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.**

|                                 |                    |                  |                |                |                |                |                  |                     |                       |                     |    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----|
| 1961 [e]<br>wat-te-hī-          | 517 [e]<br>'im-mī; | 1323 [e]<br>bat- | 3808 [e]<br>lo | 389 [e]<br>'ak | 1931 [e]<br>hī | 1 [e]<br>'a-bī | 1323 [e]<br>bat- | 269 [e]<br>'ā-hō-tī | 546 [e]<br>'a-mə-nah, | 1571 [e]<br>we-gam- | 12 |
| וַתְּהִי                        | אִמִּי             | בַּת             | לֹא            | אֲךָ           | הִיא           | אֲבִי          | בַּת             | אֲחֹתִי             | אֲמֵנָה               | וְגַם               |    |
| And she became                  | of my mother       | the daughter     | not            | but            | she [is]       | of my father   | the daughter     | my sister           | indeed                | But truly           |    |
| Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3fs | N-fsc   1cs        | N-fsc            | Adv-NegPrt     | Adv            | Pro-3fs        | N-msc   1cs    | N-fsc            | N-fsc   1cs         | Adv                   | Conj-w   Conj       |    |

1. **Gam** = "Indeed", "Even", "Also", "Moreover"

2. **Omnah** = "faithfulness", "trustworthiness"

Modern equivalent could be:

"Listen, to be completely honest" or "If I'm really going to be truthful"

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| 802 [e]<br>la-'iš-šah, | lī         |
| לְאִשָּׁה:             | לִי        |
| wife                   | my         |
| Prep-l   N-fs          | Prep   1cs |

20:13 – **And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, "He is my brother."'**

|                                 |                |                     |                      |                   |                    |                      |                                 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 559 [e]<br>wā-'ō-mar            | 1 [e]<br>'a-bī | 1004 [e]<br>mib-bēt | 430 [e]<br>'ē-lo-hīm | 853 [e]<br>'o-tī, | 8582 [e]<br>hit-'u | 834 [e]<br>ka-'ā-šer | 1961 [e]<br>way-hī              |
| וָאָמַר                         | אֲבִי          | מִבֵּית             | אֱלֹהִים             | אֹתִי             | הִתְעָו            | כַּאֲשֶׁר            | וַיְהִי                         |
| that I said                     | of my father   | from the house      | God                  | me                | caused to wander   | when                 | And it came to pass             |
| Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-1cs | N-msc   1cs    | Prep-m   N-msc      | N-mp                 | DirObjM   1cs     | V-Hifil-Perf-3cp   | Prep-k   Pro-r       | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms |

תַּעֲוָה = **taah** /tah-ah/ - "to err", "to go astray"  
as Hagar, Joseph or lost sheep

|                    |                      |                    |                   |                          |                  |                |                        |                      |                   |                      |                 |            |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 559 [e]<br>'im-rī- | 8033 [e]<br>šām-māh, | 935 [e]<br>nā-bō-w | 834 [e]<br>'ā-šer | 4725 [e]<br>ham-mā-qō-wm | 3605 [e]<br>kāl- | 413 [e]<br>'el | 5978 [e]<br>'im-mā-dī; | 6213 [e]<br>ta-'ā-šī | 834 [e]<br>'ā-šer | 2617 [e]<br>has-dēk, | 2088 [e]<br>zeh | lāh,       |
| אָמַרְיִ           | שָׁמָּה              | נָבוֹא             | אֲשֶׁר            | הַמָּקוֹם                | כָּל-            | אֵל            | עִמָּדִי               | תַּעֲשִׂי            | אֲשֶׁר            | חֲסִדְךָ             | זֶה             | לָהּ       |
| say                | there                | we go              | wherever          | place                    | every            | in             | for me                 | you should do        | that              | your kindness        | this [is]       | to her     |
| V-Qal-Imp-fs       | Adv   3fs            | V-Qal-Imperf-1cp   | Pro-r             | Art   N-ms               | N-msc            | Prep           | Prep   1cs             | V-Qal-Imperf-2fs     | Pro-r             | N-msc   2fs          | Pro-ms          | Prep   3fs |

|                 |                  |            |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| 1931 [e]<br>hū. | 251 [e]<br>'ā-hī | lī         |
| הוּא:           | אָחִי            | לִי        |
| [is] he         | my brother       | of me      |
| Pro-3ms         | N-msc   1cs      | Prep   1cs |

20:14 – **Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him.**

|                               |                          |                         |                       |                 |                        |                               |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5414 [e]<br>way-yit-tên       | 8198 [e]<br>û-ša-pā-hōt, | 5650 [e]<br>wa-ā-bā-dīm | 1241 [e]<br>û-bā-qār, | 6629 [e]<br>šōn | 40 [e]<br>'ā-bī-me-lek | 3947 [e]<br>way-yiq-qah       |
| וַיִּתֵּן                     | וַשְׁפָּחַת              | וַעֲבָדִים              | וּבָקָר               | צֹאן            | אַבִּימֶלֶךְ           | וַיִּקַּח 14                  |
| and he gave [them]            | and maidservants         | and menservants         | and oxen              | sheep           | Abimelech              | And took                      |
| Conj-w   V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3ms | Conj-w   N-fp            | Conj-w   N-mp           | Conj-w   N-ms         | N-cs            | N-proper-ms            | Conj-w   V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3ms |

|                     |                    |                |            |                                 |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 802 [e]<br>'iš-tow. | 8283 [e]<br>ša-rah | 853 [e]<br>'êt | low,       | 7725 [e]<br>way-yā-šeb          | 85 [e]<br>lā-'ab-rā-hām; |
| אִשְׁתּוֹ:          | סָרָה              | אֵת            | לּוֹ       | וַיָּשֶׁב                       | לְאַבְרָהָם              |
| his wife            | Sarah              | -              | to him     | and restored                    | to Abraham               |
| N-fsc   3ms         | N-proper-fs        | DirObjM        | Prep   3ms | Conj-w   V-Hifil-Conseclmpf-3ms | Prep-I   N-proper-ms     |

1. Abimelech makes three forms of restitution:

- To Abraham he gave livestock and servants and returns Sarah
- To Abraham he offers land where Abram ends up in Beersheba with a well
- To Sarah he gives “her brother” 1000 shekels, which is a lot
  - 400 buys a field with a cave; 100 buys land in Shechem; 20 buys a slave
  - “Cover the eyes” of the people Sarah is returned to

20:15 – **And Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you.”**

|                  |                        |                       |                          |                   |                     |                         |                               |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3427 [e]<br>šēb. | 5869 [e]<br>bā-ē-ne-kā | 2896 [e]<br>bat-tō-wb | 6440 [e]<br>lā-pā-ne-kā; | 776 [e]<br>'ar-šī | 2009 [e]<br>hin-nēh | 40 [e]<br>'ā-bī-me-lek, | 559 [e]<br>way-yō-mer         |
| שָׁב:            | בְּעֵינֶיךָ            | בְּטוֹב               | לְפָנֶיךָ                | אַרְצִי           | הִנֵּה              | אַבִּימֶלֶךְ            | וַיֹּאמֶר 15                  |
| dwell            | it pleases you         | where                 | before you               | my land [is]      | See                 | Abimelech               | And said                      |
| V-Qal-Imp-ms     | Prep-b   N-cdc   2ms   | Prep-b, Art   Adj-ms  | Prep-I   N-cpc   2ms     | N-fsc   1cs       | Interjection        | N-proper-ms             | Conj-w   V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3ms |

20:16 – **To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated.”**

|                 |                     |                       |                      |                   |                       |                     |                    |                         |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1931 [e]<br>lak | 2009 [e]<br>hin-nēh | 251 [e]<br>lā-'ā-hīk, | 3701 [e]<br>ke-sep   | 505 [e]<br>'e-lep | 5414 [e]<br>nā-tat-tī | 2009 [e]<br>hin-nēh | 559 [e]<br>'ā-mar, | 8283 [e]<br>û-lā-ša-rah |
| לָךְ            | הִנֵּה              | לְאַחֶיךָ             | כֶּסֶף               | אֶלֶף             | נָתַתִּי              | הִנֵּה              | אָמַר              | וּלְסָרָה 16            |
| you             | it                  | indeed                | unto your brother    | of silver         | a thousand [pieces]   | I have given        | behold             | he said                 |
| Prep   2fs      | Pro-3ms             | Interjection          | Prep-I   N-msc   2fs | N-ms              | Number-ms             | V-Qal-Perf-1cs      | Interjection       | V-Qal-Perf-3ms          |

|                            |                 |                  |                     |                   |                    |                        |                    |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 3198 [e]<br>wē-nō-kā-hat.  | 3605 [e]<br>kōl | 854 [e]<br>wē-ēt | 854 [e]<br>'it-tak; | 834 [e]<br>'ā-šer | 3605 [e]<br>lā-kōl | 5869 [e]<br>'ē-na-yim, | 3682 [e]<br>ke-sūt |
| וַנִּקְחָת:                | כָּל            | וְעַתָּה         | אֶתְךָ              | אֲשֶׁר            | לְכָל              | עֵינַיִם               | קְסוּת             |
| thus she was vindicated    | everybody       | and before       | [are] with you      | who               | to all             | of the eyes            | [is] a covering    |
| Conj-w   V-Nifal-Prtcpl-fs | N-ms            | Conj-w   Prep    | Prep   2fs          | Pro-r             | Prep-I   N-ms      | N-cd                   | N-fsc              |

20:17 – **Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children.**



|                  |              |         |           |                               |             |               |         |             |                                   |                   |
|------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 853 [e]          | 40 [e]       | 853 [e] | 430 [e]   |                               | 7495 [e]    | 430 [e]       | 413 [e] | 85 [e]      |                                   | 6419 [e]          |
| wə·'et-          | 'ä·bî·me·lek | 'et-    | 'ë·lô·hîm |                               | way·yir·pā  | hā·'ë·lô·hîm; | 'el-    | 'ab·rā·hām  |                                   | way·yit·pal·lêl   |
| וְאֶת־           | אַבִּימֶלֶךְ | אֶת־    | אֱלֹהִים  |                               | וַיִּרְפָּא | וְהָאֱלֹהִים  | אֶל־    | אַבְרָהָם   |                                   | וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל 17 |
| and              | Abimelech    | -       | God       |                               | and healed  | God           | to      | Abraham     |                                   | So prayed         |
| Conj-w   DirObjM | N-proper-ms  | DirObjM | N-mp      | Conj-w   V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3ms |             | Art   N-mp    | Prep    | N-proper-ms | Conj-w   V-Hitpael-Conseclmpf-3ms |                   |

|  |                               |             |                      |  |             |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|-------------|
|  | 3205 [e]                      |             | 519 [e]              |  | 802 [e]     |
|  | way·yê·lê·dū.                 |             | wə·'am·hō·tāw        |  | 'iš·tōw     |
|  |                               | וַיֵּלְדוּ: | וְאִמָּהֶתָּיו       |  | אִשְׁתּוֹ   |
|  | and they could bear children  |             | and his maidservants |  | his wife    |
|  | Conj-w   V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3mp |             | Conj-w   N-fpc   3ms |  | N-fsc   3ms |

**20:18 – For the Lord had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.**

|         |             |          |          |               |                |           |          |          |             |                |                |          |
|---------|-------------|----------|----------|---------------|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| 802 [e] | 8283 [e]    | 1697 [e] | 5921 [e] | 40 [e]        | 1004 [e]       | 7358 [e]  | 3605 [e] | 1157 [e] | 3068 [e]    | 6113 [e]       | 6113 [e]       | 3588 [e] |
| 'ē·šet  | šā·rāh      | də·bar   | 'al-     | 'ä·bî·me·lek; | lə·bêṭ         | re·hem    | kāl-     | bə·'aḏ   | Yah·weh,    | 'ā·šar         | 'ā·šōr         | kî-      |
| אִשְׁת  | שָׂרָה      | דְּבַר   | עַל־     | אַבִּימֶלֶךְ  | לְבֵית         | רַחֲמָם   | כָּל־    | בְּעֵד   | יְהוָה      | עָצַר          | עָצַר          | כִּי־ 18 |
| wife    | Sarah       | of       | because  | of Abimelech  | of the house   | the wombs | all      | -        | Yahweh      | had closed up  | had completely | For      |
| N-fsc   | N-proper-fs | N-msc    | Prep     | N-proper-ms   | Prep-I   N-msc | N-ms      | N-msc    | Prep     | N-proper-ms | V-Qal-Perf-3ms | V-Qal-InfAbs   | Conj     |

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
|      | 85 [e]      |
| s    | 'ab·rā·hām. |
| ס    | אַבְרָהָם:  |
| -    | of Abraham  |
| Punc | N-proper-ms |