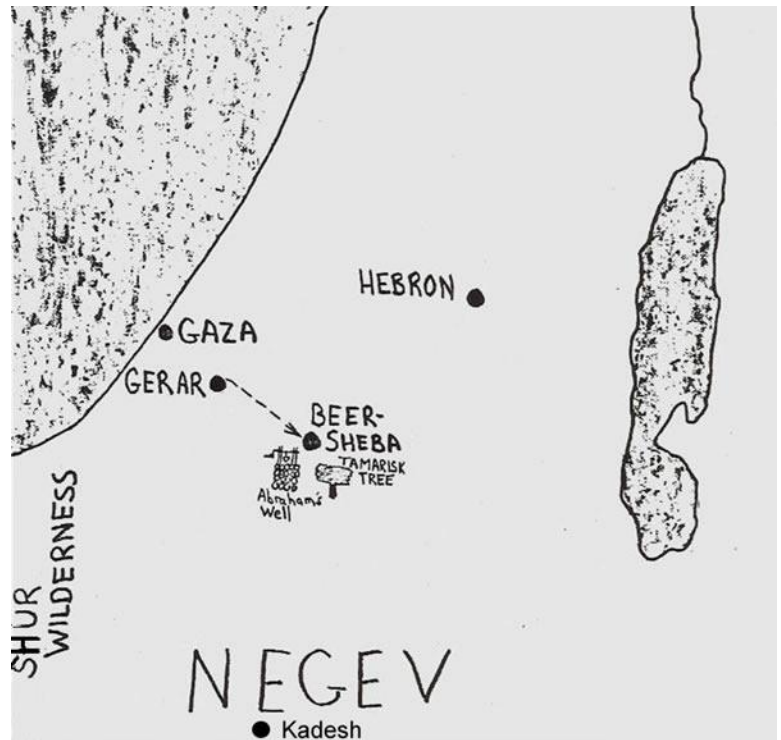


# Genesis 21:22-34

- Second Conflict with Abimelech
- Second Conflict in this chapter:
  - Ismael/Isaac 21-21
  - Well 21:22-34
- The name Beersheba is connected w/:
  - The number SEVEN (21:28-30)
  - An oath (21:31)

Genesis 21:22 – **At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to Abraham, “God is with you in all that you do.**

1. There is a balance of power shown now between Abimelech and Abraham.
2. At first Abimelech had the superiority, but Abraham had shown he has the power of God (or, the loyalty HESED of God) on his side when God answered Abraham’s prayer in 20:17 when “God healed Abimelech, his wife and his female slaves.”
3. So, Abimelech comes to Abraham, but brings the military, General Phicol. Abimelech has:
  - a. The Crown
  - b. The Military
4. Abimelech comes to make an agreement with Abraham because Abimelech knows he is outmatched.



21:23 – Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my descendants or with my posterity, but as I have dealt kindly with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned.”

lî,	8266 [e] tiš-qōr	518 [e] 'im-	2008 [e] hên-nāh,	430 [e] bê-lō-hîm	lî	7650 [e] hiš-šā-bə-'āh	6258 [e] wə-'at-tāh,
לִּי	תִּשְׁקֹר	אִם-	הֵנָּה	בְּאֵלֵהִים	לִּי	הִשְׁבַּעַה	וְעַתָּה
with me	you will not deal falsely	that	here	before God	to me	swear	Now therefore
Prep   1cs	V-Qal-Imperf-2ms	Conj	Adv	Prep-b   N-mp	Prep   1cs	V-Nifal-Imp-ms   3fs	Conj-w   Adv

שָׁקַר - *shaqar* /ahah-KAR/ = "to lie", "to deceive", "to deal falsely"

6213 [e] 'ā-šī-tî	834 [e] 'ā-šer-	2617 [e] ka-ḥe-seḡ	5220 [e] ū-le-neḡ-dî;	5209 [e] ū-le-nī-nî
עָשִׂיתִי	אֲשֶׁר-	כְּחֶסֶד	וְלִנְכֹנִי	וְלִנְיָנִי
I have done	that	but that according to the kindness	or with my posterity	or with my offspring
V-Qal-Perf-1cs	Pro-r	Prep-k, Art   N-ms	Conj-w, Prep-l   N-msc   1cs	Conj-w, Prep-l   N-msc   1cs

חֶסֶד - *hesed* /kheh-sed/ = "faithfulness", "loyalty", "covenant faithfulness", "steadfast love"

bāh.	1481 [e] gar-tāh	834 [e] 'ā-šer-	776 [e] hā-'ā-reṣ	5973 [e] wə-'im-	5978 [e] 'im-mā-dî,	6213 [e] ta-'ā-šeh	5973 [e] 'im-me-ḵā
בָּהּ:	גֵּרְתָּהּ	אֲשֶׁר-	הָאָרֶץ	וְעַם-	עָמָלִי	תַּעֲשֶׂה	עָמָלְךָ
in	you have sojourned	that	the land	and to	to me	you will do	to you
Prep   3fs	V-Qal-Perf-2ms	Pro-r	Art   N-fs	Conj-w   Prep	Prep   1cs	V-Qal-Imperf-2ms	Prep   2ms

1. Abimelech asks for a covenant so he knows Abraham “will not deal falsely with” him or his people.
2. Abraham had been dishonest with Abimelech before. This time Abimelech wants a contract.
3. Plus, God has been with Abraham and God has protected Abraham.
4. Abimelech feels he needs some assurance Abraham will not use deception and his God’s blessing to cheat Abimelech.
5. Abimelech had been HESED, now he wants HESED from Abraham

21:24 – **And Abraham said, “I will swear.”**

1. Abraham does not protest, “Trust me!”. Abraham understands the need for a treaty or vow.
2. 21 words vs 2 words

21:25 – **When Abraham reproved Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized,**

1. Next subject. The stolen well
2. Abraham follows due process and turns to the covenant and asks about a well that had been taken

21:26 – **Abimelech** said, “I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today.”

21:27 – **So Abraham** took sheep and oxen and gave them to **Abimelech**, and the two men made a covenant.

1. Animals are given by the lesser to the greater
2. But, 7 lambs are set aside. Why. Because it is to draw Abimelech into the conflict about the well and allow Abraham to lay claim to it.
3. The animals were gifts, not sacrifices.

21:28 – **Abraham** set seven ewe lambs of the flock apart.

905 [e]	6629 [e]	3535 [e]	7651 [e]	853 [e]	85 [e]	5324 [e]
lə·bad·də·hen.	haṣ·ṣōn	kib·śōt	še·ba	'et-	'ab·rā·hām,	way·yaṣ·ṣêb
לְבַדְּהֶן:	הַצֹּאן	כִּבְשֹׁת	שֶׁבַע	אֶת-	אַבְרָהָם	וַיַּצֵּב
by themselves	of the flock	ewe lambs	seven	-	Abraham	And set
Prep-l   N-msc   3fp	Art   N-cs	N-fpc	Number-fs	DirObjM	N-proper-ms	Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConsecImperf-3ms

1. Sheba /sheh-BAH/ = “seven”
  - a. Can mean “seven”, “seven times”, “a week”, “an indefinite number”
  - b. Word origin is derived from the root שָׁבַע (shava), meaning "to be full" or "to swear an oath."
2. The number seven begins to have significance here:
  - a. Seven ewes
  - b. Names Abraham and Abimelech both mentioned 7x each in Hebrew
  - c. The “oath” of 21:31 is SHABA (“oath”) the root of the word SHEBA (“seven”)
3. “Seven” comes to signify:
  - a. Completion
  - b. Perfection
  - c. God’s involvement
  - d. Remembrance of the seventh day of creation

21:29 – **And Abimelech** said to **Abraham**, “What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?”

21:30 – **He** said, “These seven ewe lambs you will take from my hand, that this may be a witness for me that I dug this well.”

21:31 – Therefore that place was called Beersheba, because there both of them swore an oath.

7650 [e]	8033 [e]	3588 [e]	884 [e]	1931 [e]	4725 [e]	7121 [e]	3651 [e]	5921 [e]
niš·bə·'ū	šām	kī	šā·ba'; bə·'ēr	ha·hū	lam·mā·qō·wm	qā·rā	kên,	'al-
3rd Person	verb form							
שָׁבַע	שָׁם	כִּי	בְּאֵר שָׁבַע	הַהוּא	לְמָקוֹם	קָרָא	כֵּן	עַל-
swore an oath	there	because	Beersheba at	that	place	he called	thus	Upon
V-Nifal-Perf-3cp	Adv	Conj	N-proper-fs Prep	Art   Pro-3ms	Prep-l, Art   N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Adv	Prep

שָׁבַע  
- *shaba* /shah·VA/ or /shah·BA/  
- "to swear", "to take an oath"  
- this is the root form of the word

שָׁבַע בְּאֵר = B'er Sheba` - Derived from the Hebrew words  
רָאָב (be'er, meaning "well") and  
שֶׁבַע (sheva, meaning "seven" or "oath")  
Sheva (Sheba) Beer  
"SEVEN" ("OATH") "WELL"

8147 [e]  
שְׁנֵיהֶם  
the two of them  
Number-mdc | 3mp

1. "Beersheba" can mean "well number seven" or "well #7", but seems to mean in this context "the well with the oath"

21:32 – So they made a covenant at Beersheba. Then Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the Philistines.

21:33 – Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God.

8034 [e]	8033 [e]	7121 [e]	884 [e]	815 [e]	5193 [e]
bə·šēm	šām,	way·yiq·rā-	šā·ba'; bib·'ēr	'e·šel	way·yit·ta'
בְּשֵׁם	שָׁם	וַיִּקְרָא	בְּאֵר שָׁבַע	אֲשֶׁל	וַיֵּטֵעַ
on the name	there	and called	Beersheba in a tamarisk tree		And he planted
Prep-b   N-msc	Adv	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms	Prep   N-proper-fs	Prep	N-ms

שֵׁם - *shem* = "name"

בְּ - *be* = "in", "on"

הַ - *ha* = "the"

הַ שֵׁם - *Hashem* = "the name"

עוֹלָם - *owlam* /oh-LAHM/ =

- "Eternity", "everlasting", "forever",  
"perpetual", "ancient", "world",  
"universe"

- Derived from the root verb עָלַם (alam),  
meaning "to conceal" or "to hide."

- Meaning: "concealed", "hidden"  
"eternity", "always"

5769 [e]	410 [e]	3068 [e]
'ō·w·lām.	'el	Yah·weh
עוֹלָם	אֱל	יְהוָה
the Eternal	God	of Yahweh
N-ms	N-msc	N-proper-ms

21:34 – And Abraham sojourned many days in the land of the Philistines.

