

## Timeline of Truth – God Delivers Sarah from Abraham’s Fear & Abimelech’s Folly (Gen 20:1-18)

<p><sup>1</sup> And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar.</p>	<p><b>1. Abraham <u>Travels</u> to Gerar</b></p>
<p><sup>2</sup> Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She <i>is</i> my sister."</p>	<p><b>2. Abraham <u>Misrepresents</u> His Relationship to Sarah</b> (cp 12:11-15)</p>
<p>And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.</p>	<p><b>3. Abimelech Takes Abraham at His Word</b></p>
<p><sup>3</sup> But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you <i>are</i> a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she <i>is</i> a man's wife."</p>	<p><b>4. God <u>Confronts</u> Abimelech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Penalty?: <u>Death</u></i></li> <li>• <i>The Reason?: <u>She's married</u></i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>4</sup> But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also?"  <sup>5</sup> "Did he not say to me, 'She <i>is</i> my sister'? And she, even she herself said, 'He <i>is</i> my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this."</p>	<p><b>5. Abimelech <u>Pleads</u> with God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Will you treat us all this way?</i></li> <li>• <i>Abraham told me she was his sister.</i></li> <li>• <i>I have done this in innocence.</i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>6</sup> And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her."</p>	<p><b>6. God <u>Responds</u> to Abimelech’s Plea</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I know you did this in innocence.</i></li> <li>• <i>I prevented you from sinning against me.</i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>7</sup> "Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he <i>is</i> a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore <i>her</i>, know that you shall surely die, you and all who <i>are</i> yours."</p>	<p><b>7. God <u>Commands</u> Abimelech to Restore Sarah</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Restore her to Abraham</i></li> <li>• <i>As a prophet, he will pray for you.</i></li> <li>• <i>Refuse, and you and all yours will die.</i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>8</sup> So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid.</p>	<p><b>8. Abimelech <u>Tells</u> His Servants</b></p>
<p><sup>9</sup> And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done."  <sup>10</sup> Then Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?"</p>	<p><b>9. Abimelech <u>Scolds</u> Abraham</b></p>
<p><sup>11</sup> And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God <i>is</i> not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife."  <sup>12</sup> "But indeed <i>she is</i> truly my sister. She <i>is</i> the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife."  <sup>13</sup> "And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This <i>is</i> your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, "He <i>is</i> my brother.'""</p>	<p><b>10. Abraham <u>Answers</u> Abimelech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I thought the fear of God wasn't here</i></li> <li>• <i>I thought you will kill me because of Sarah</i></li> <li>• <i>She IS my sister (my half-sister)</i></li> <li>• <i>This was our pre-arranged plan (was he sharing the blame with Sarah?)</i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>14</sup> Then Abimelech took sheep, oxen, and male and female servants, and gave <i>them</i> to Abraham; and he restored Sarah his wife to him.  <sup>15</sup> And Abimelech said, "See, my land <i>is</i> before you; dwell where it pleases you."</p>	<p><b>11. Abimelech Responds in <u>Three</u> Ways:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gifts Abraham Wealth</i></li> <li>• <i>Restores Sarah to Abraham</i></li> <li>• <i>Gives Abraham an Open Welcome</i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>16</sup> Then to Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand <i>pieces</i> of silver; indeed this vindicates you before all who <i>are</i> with you and before everybody." Thus she was rebuked.</p>	<p><b>12. Abimelech <u>Rebukes</u> Sarah</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I have made restoration to your BROTHER</i></li> <li>• <i>You are vindicated before all.</i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>17</sup> So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore <i>children</i>;  <sup>18</sup> for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.</p>	<p><b>13. Abraham Prays for Abimelech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>God healed Abimelech</i></li> <li>• <i>God healed Abimelech’s wife &amp; female servants so they could bear children</i></li> <li>• <i>(Because God had closed up all the wombs of Abimelech’s entire household!)</i></li> </ul>