

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

<p>¹ And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar.</p>	<p>1. Abraham <u>Travels</u> to Gerar</p>
<p>² Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She <i>is</i> my sister."</p>	<p>2. Abraham <u>Misrepresents</u> His Relationship to Sarah (cp 12:11-15)</p>
<p>And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.</p>	<p>3. Abimelech Takes Abraham at His Word</p>
<p>³ 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>4. God <u>Confronts</u> Abimelech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Penalty?: <u>Death</u></i> • <i>The Reason?: <u>She's married</u></i>
<p>⁴ But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also?" ⁵ "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>5. Abimelech <u>Pleads</u> with God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Will you treat us all this way?</i> • <i>Abraham told me she was his sister.</i> • <i>I have done this in innocence.</i>
<p>⁶ 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>6. God <u>Responds</u> to Abimelech's Plea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I know you did this in innocence.</i> • <i>I prevented you from sinning against me.</i>
<p>⁷ "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>7. God <u>Commands</u> Abimelech to Restore Sarah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Restore her to Abraham</i> • <i>As a prophet, he will pray for you.</i> • <i>Refuse, and you and all yours will die.</i>
<p>⁸ 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>8. Abimelech <u>Tells</u> His Servants</p>
<p>⁹ 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." ¹⁰ Then Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?"</p>	<p>9. Abimelech <u>Scolds</u> Abraham</p>
<p>¹¹ 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." ¹² "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." ¹³ "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>10. Abraham <u>Answers</u> Abimelech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I thought the fear of God wasn't here</i> • <i>I thought you will kill me because of Sarah</i> • <i>She IS my sister (my half-sister)</i> • <i>This was our pre-arranged plan (was he sharing the blame with Sarah?)</i>
<p>¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ And Abimelech said, "See, my land <i>is</i> before you; dwell where it pleases you."</p>	<p>11. Abimelech Responds in <u>Three</u> Ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gifts Abraham Wealth</i> • <i>Restores Sarah to Abraham</i> • <i>Gives Abraham an Open Welcome</i>
<p>¹⁶ 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>12. Abimelech <u>Rebukes</u> Sarah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I have made restoration to your BROTHER</i> • <i>You are vindicated before all.</i>
<p>¹⁷ So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore <i>children</i>; ¹⁸ for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.</p>	<p>13. Abraham Prays for Abimelech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>God healed Abimelech</i> • <i>God healed Abimelech's wife & female servants so they could bear children</i> • <i>(Because God had closed up all the wombs of Abimelech's entire household!)</i>