



WHY THE STORY OF ABIMELECH?

Volume 16 Issue 1

A BIBLICAL STUDY of Genesis 20

"Every Place Whither We Shall Come, Say of Me, He is My Brother"

The account of Abimelech appears in a unique position, after the account of Sodom and Gomorrah and before the birth of Isaac. What is its message?

STRONG'S HEBREW/GREEK DEFINITIONS



- 1 ABIMELECH (H40) – *father of (the) king; there are four different "Abimelech"s mentioned in the Old Testament*
- 2 COVERING (H3682) "Kesooth" – *a cover (a veiling); covering, raiment, vesture*
- 3 GERAR – *found on the southern end of Philistia, not far from the coast*
- 4 REPROVED (H3198) "Yakach" – *to be right or correct*

THE TIME OF TESTING

From Genesis 17–21 we read that one year takes place in Abraham's life, from 99–100 years of age. The number of trying events before the covenant unfolds is staggering. "By faith Abraham" walks with God through it all. How great is God's mercy to keep His elect in the palm of His hand throughout a lifetime.

TEXT OF THE WEEK

"The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe." -Prov. 29:25

1. Compare Genesis 12:14-20 to Genesis 20. What "mistake" does it appear Abraham makes for a second time?
 - What is the spiritual significance for a child of God? Ps. 39:12ff; I Pet. 1:16-21, 24-25
2. Why did Abraham leave the place of the plains of Mamre? Gen. 20:1; Heb. 11:9
 - When confronted by Abimelech, Abraham claimed that Sarah was his sister. Was this true? Gen. 20:2, 12
 - Why did Abraham use this misleading information? Gen. 20:11
 - Abraham's action doesn't appear to be condoned or reprimanded by God. Do any of the following verses offer an explanation to this situation? Ex. 23:7; Eph. 4:25; Zech. 8:16-17; Prov. 29:25
3. How did the Lord avenge Abraham? Gen. 20:3-7
 - Whom does the Lord avenge? Luke 18:7; Romans 12:19-21
 - Read further information concerning this matter: I Thess. 4:6-8
 - Using Biblical evidence, estimate the amount of time that Sarah might have been abducted from Abraham. What would be Abraham's comfort during this time? Ps. 18:47-50
4. Compare the similarities between Abimelech and Pharaoh. (Gen. 12:17 and 20:18; 12:16,20 and 20:14-15). What is the spiritual significance? Ro. 9:17, 21-22
 - Do they represent the "vessels of dishonor"? II Tim 2:19-20
5. In Genesis 20:16 we read what Abimelech tells Sarah concerning Abraham: "Behold, he is to thee a covering of the eyes unto all that are with thee and with all other." Thus Sarah was reproved.
 - What is the "covering of the eyes"? Does it compare to a physical covering as in Genesis 24:65 (a cloth) or does it also compare to a spiritual atonement (Ps. 32:1)? DISCUSS the significance, if any.