

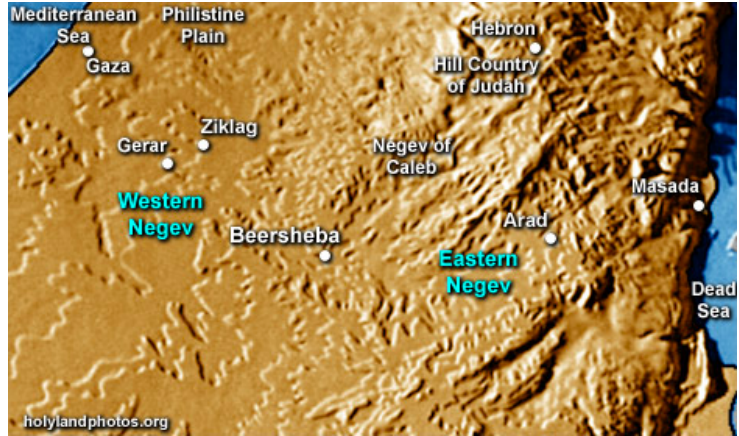
# Genesis: God and the Originals

## FULFILLING BLESSINGS AND CURSES

### Abimelek, Sarah and a Dream (20:1-7)

#### Vv. 1-2

1. Why do you think Abraham moved from the Negev to Gerar?
  - a. He's a nomadic herdsman
  - b. He's getting away from Lot
  - c. He's getting away from Sodom and Gomorrah
  - d. He's fulfilling the promise of inheriting all the land of Canaan
  - e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_



2. Sarah has been given/taken to someone other than Abraham before. When and where did the previous account take place?

Abimelek means “\_\_\_\_\_” and is the common designation of all \_\_\_\_\_ kings (just like all kings of Egypt have the title Pharaoh).

#### Vv. 3-7

3. How does God reach out to Abimelek? How does Abimelek respond? How does God respond to Abimelek and what “terms” does he make with him?

BONUS: In v. 4 Abimelek describes his nation as innocent (God will agree to an extent). Compare and contrast the story of Gerar with Sodom and Gomorrah; what are the differences and similarities between:

- What crimes/faults the people commit.
- How God deals with the city-states.
- How the people respond to God’s warnings/instructions.
- What role Abraham plays.

BONUS: God describes Abraham as a prophet in v. 7. What do prophets do?

### Abimelek, Abraham, and Faithfulness (20:8-18)

4. How does Abimelek confront Abraham? What is Abraham’s response? What do we learn about Sarah and Abraham’s relationship? How does Abimelek respond? How does Abraham respond?

**BONUS:** By now you're probably wondering why Sarah keeps on being handed over to other men - hasn't Abraham learned to trust the Lord?! Which brings up a question about faithfulness: what does faithfulness look like back then and today? Who is ultimately faithful always?

### **Isaac is Finally Born! (21:1-7)**

5. Who is "gracious" to Sarah in these passages and of what is the text trying to remind us?
6. Isaac means "laughter." Who is going to laugh according to v. 6 and how does it fulfill multiple promises of God?

### **Ishmael and Hagar Finally Go! (21:8-16)**

7. Why would you throw a party for a weaned three year old?
8. What causes Sarah to want to get rid of Hagar and Ishmael according to the text? What might her other reasoning be?
9. Who confirms Sarah's decision to Abraham according to vv. 12-13? What promises does God make to Abraham?
10. To what kind of death does Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael in vv. 14-16?

*According to Jewish rabbinical sources, a "bowshot" is approximately a distance of \_\_\_\_\_. And Hagar's tears are the \_\_\_\_\_ tears of scripture.*

### **Ishmael and Hagar are Finally Saved! (21:17-21)**

11. Ishmael means "God hears." Who hears Ishmael, how is he saved, and what happens to him?

**BONUS:** This text should disturb us to no end. Abraham basically sends Hagar and his son Ishmael to imminent starvation or worse in the desert. How does this make you feel about Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, God or God's plan to fulfill God's promise to Abraham?

**BONUS:** The apostle Paul uses the story of Sarah and Hagar as an allegory for faith in Galatians 4:21-31. What does this say about faith and works, and who are the true heirs of the promise?

**BONUS:** Muslims trace their Abrahamic promise to Ishmael and Jews to Isaac. Who's right?