

Genesis 21

Verses 1-7

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." ⁷ And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

And the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised

At the very time God had promised him

God keeps and fulfills His promises

And Abraham called the name of his son, Isaac

Isaac - means laughter

This time it was laughter of joy not unbelief

Abraham was a hundred years old

The birth of Isaac was a miracle

Because Abraham was as good as dead concerning this matter

See Hebrews 11:12

And Sarah was past her childbearing years

See Genesis 18:11

Verses 8-10

⁸ And the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking *Isaac*. ¹⁰ Therefore she said to Abraham, “Drive out this slave woman and her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be an heir with my son Isaac!”

The child grew, and was weaned

This occurred in his second or third year

Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar mocking Isaac

It was clear that Ishmael saw Isaac as a threat to his status

And his attitude toward Ishmael was a red light to Sarah

Paul confirms this when he says the behavior of Ishmael was persecution

See Galatians 4:28-30

Cast out this handmaid and her son

Sarah told Abraham they must go

Ishmael was 13 years older than Isaac

So if Isaac is 2 or 3 now, then Ismael is 15 or 16

Isaac might have suffered personal injury if things continued

Verses 11-13

¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son *Ishmael*. ¹² But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and your slave woman; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named. ¹³ And of the son of the slave woman I will make a nation also, because he is your descendant.”

And the matter distressed Abraham

Any father would be distressed by a young son being sent away

Whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her

God had to intervene because Abraham didn't want to send them away

For in Isaac shall your seed be called

This is a reference to the spiritual line of Abraham

See Galatians 3:29

Also of the son of the handmaid will I make a nation, because he is your seed

In Genesis 25:25 it says, "They settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt going toward Assyria; he settled in defiance of all his relatives."

See map 2105 Saudi Arabia



Originally they settled in Saudi Arabia

But later they expanded throughout Northern Africa

See map 2110 Arab nations

Map 2110



Verses 14-16

14 So Abraham got up early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water, and gave *them* to Hagar, putting *them* on her shoulder, and gave *her* the boy, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba.

15 When the water in the skin was used up, she left the boy under one of the bushes. **16** Then she went and sat down opposite him, about a bowshot away, for she said, "May I not see the boy die!" And she sat opposite him, and raised her voice and wept.

Bread and a skin of water, putting them on her shoulder

Did Abraham send her away with some bread and one container of water?

Is that any way for a man, especially a rich man, to treat his “ex-wife” and son

When people say: Well, this was common practice for people during that time

If that is so, was Cain justified when he asked God, am I my brother’s keeper

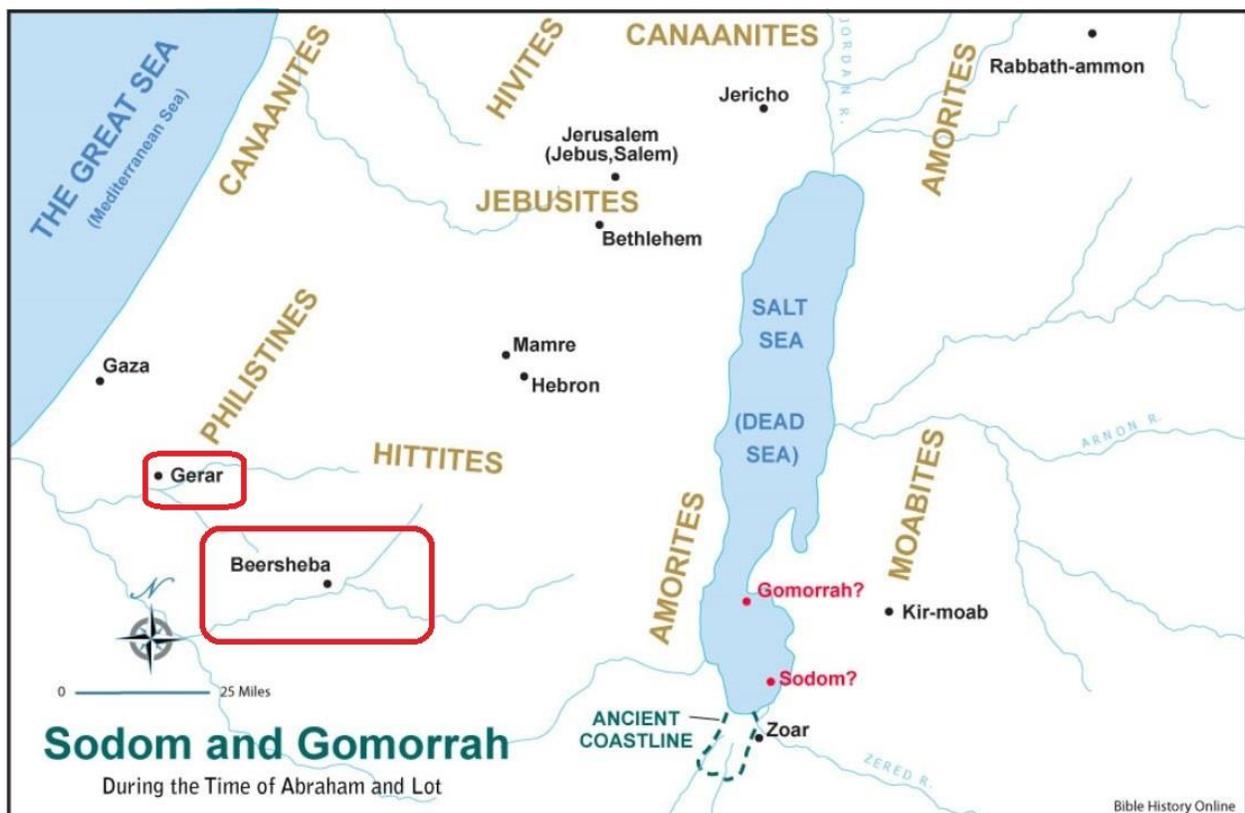
And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba.

Previously Abraham had been living in Gerar which was in Philistine territory

But he had moved to Beersheba about 13 miles to the South East

Hagar and Ishmael were wandering somewhere in that area

See Map 2115 Gerar and Beersheba



Then she went and sat down opposite him, about a bowshot away, for she said, “May I not see the boy die!” And she sat opposite him, and raised her voice and wept.

Hagar and Ismael were accustomed to a good life style

Now they were homeless and without any means of support

Ismael was only 16 or 17 years old at this time

Without God this was a disaster waiting to happen

If anyone cannot be moved by this tragic scene, something is wrong

Verses 17-21

¹⁷ God heard the boy crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Get up, lift up the boy, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ And God was with the boy, and he grew; and he lived in the wilderness and became an archer. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

For I will make a great nation of him

Ismael had 12 sons that became much more numerous than Jacobs 12 sons

The Arab world has a combined population of around 464 million in 2022

The Jewish population is around 15 million

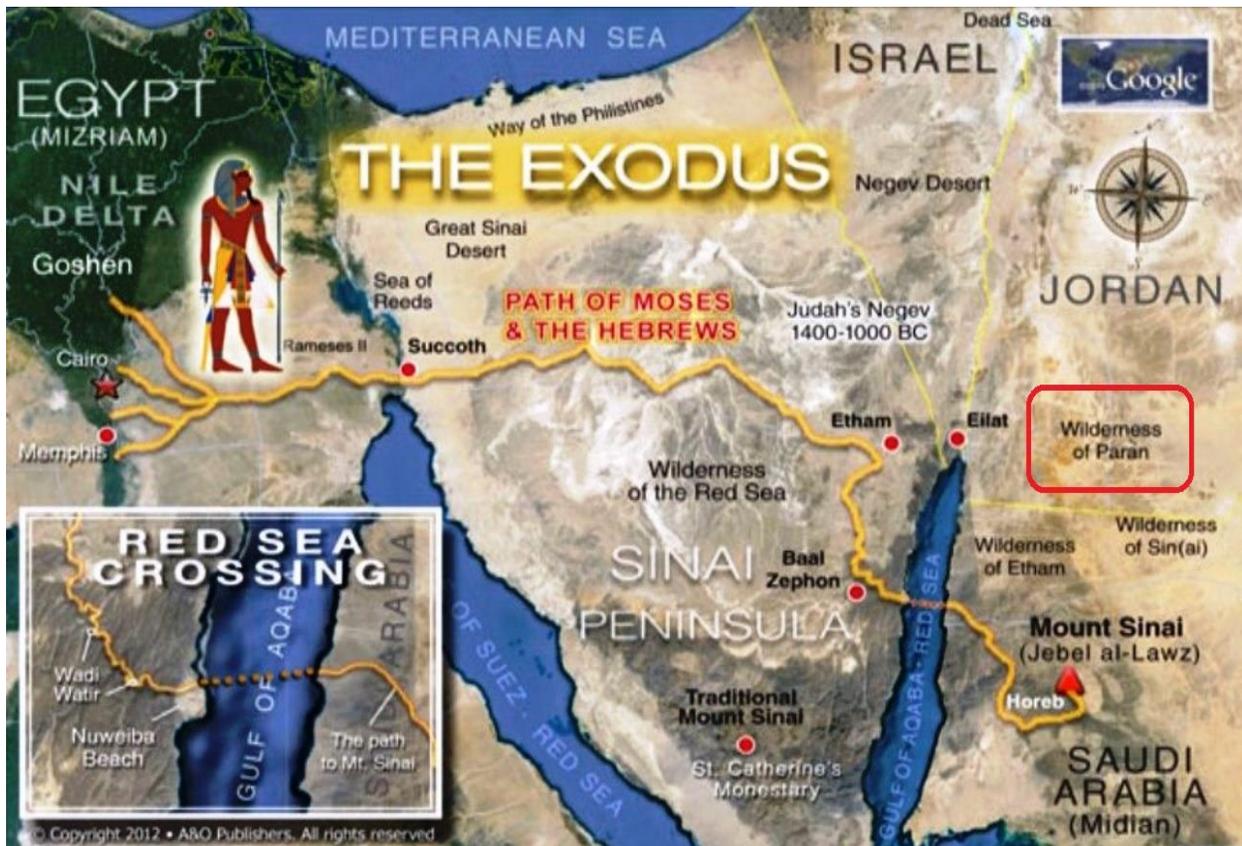
And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water

God cares for all people and nations

This is true in both a physical and spiritual sense

And he dwelt in the Wilderness of Paran

See Maps 2120 Wilderness of Paran



His mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt

She choose a wife from Egypt because she was an Egyptian

Verses 22-24

²² Now it came about at that time that Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, “God is with you in all that you do; ²³ so now, swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my offspring or with my descendants, but according to the kindness that I have shown to you, you shall show to me and to the land in which you have resided.”

²⁴ Abraham said, “I swear it.”

God is with you in all that you do

This wasn't something that required some special insight to understand

Even when Abraham gave his wife to another man, it worked out for his good

Swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me

Abraham had done this before and the king was concerned it might happen again

Any conflict between the two of them could be detrimental

And the king and his commander wanted to nip this problem in the bud

But according to the kindness that I have done to you

Abraham had greatly prospered from Abimelech

Verses 25-27

²⁵ But Abraham complained to Abimelech because of the well of water which the servants of Abimelech had seized. ²⁶ And Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor did I hear of it until today." ²⁷ So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant.

But Abraham complained to Abimelech because of the well of water which the servants of Abimelech had seized

Abraham had been given permission to live in the land from the king

He had dug the well (Not him personally but his servants)

So that area and the well was his

The servants of Abimelech had no right to take it by force

And Abimelech said, “I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor did I hear of it until today

Abimelech was again innocent because he knew nothing about it

So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant.

This time Abraham had done no wrong, but neither had Abimelech

So Abraham gave him a good will offering of sheep and oxen

They also made a covenant to guarantee a peaceful coexistence

Verses 28-31

²⁸ But Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves. ²⁹ Then Abimelech said to Abraham, “What do these seven ewe lambs mean, which you have set by themselves?” ³⁰ He said, “You shall take these seven ewe lambs from my hand so that it may be a witness for me, that I dug this well.” ³¹ Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because there the two of them took an oath.

What do these seven female lambs mean?

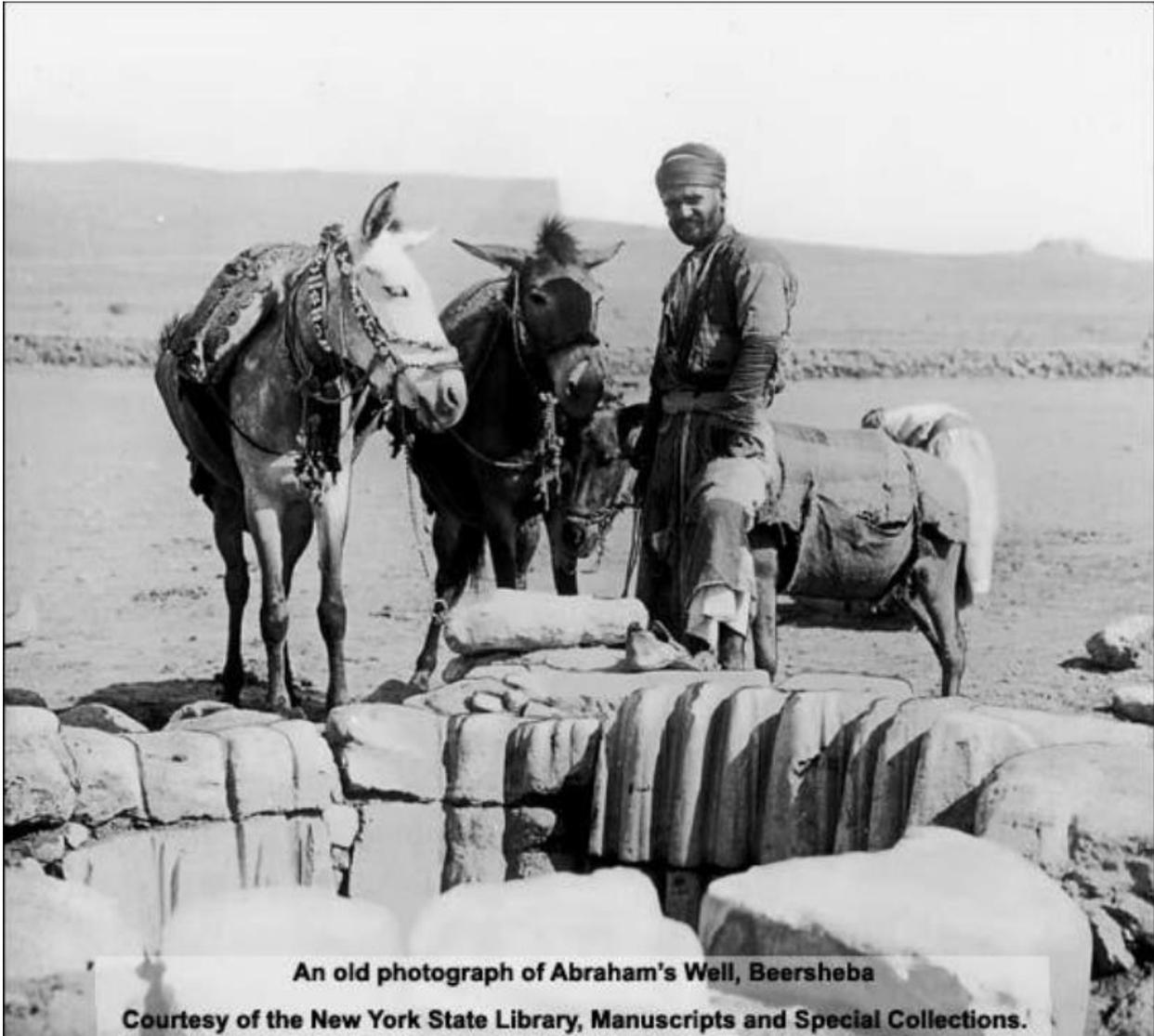
This was proof that Abraham had dug the well

Therefore he called that place Beersheba

Beersheba means well of the oath

See pics 2125 and 2130

Pic 2125



The well is 121/2 feet in diameter

It is 44 feet from the top of the well to the surface of the water

The bottom 16 feet was excavated thru solid rock

Pic 2130



This is still the same well, but a few enhancements have been added to meet the needs of today's tourists and to protect their safety.

Approximately 25,000 people a year visit this site.

Verses 32-34

³² **So they made a covenant at Beersheba; and Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, got up and returned to the land of the Philistines.**

³³ **Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God.**

In verse 32 it says,

Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, got up and returned to the land of the Philistines.

It sounds like Beersheba was outside of their territory

Since it says they returned to the land of the Philistines

But in the very next verse it says,

³⁴ **And Abraham resided in the land of the Philistines for many days.**

For that to be the case, Abraham had to leave Beersheba for Philistia

But a specific place or city is not mentioned.