

Covenant at Beersheba (Genesis 21:22-34)

Grace Chapel September 16, 2009 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

NEW EXPOSITION

(21:22) Abimelech and Phichol [recognize that] God prospered Abraham in all that he did and told him so

(21:23) [In light of God prospering Abraham] Abimelech sought a covenant in which Abraham pledged not to deal falsely with Abimelech or his seed, but to reciprocate the covenantal loyalty that Abimelech has shown to Abraham

(21:24) Abraham agreed to swear a covenant with Abimelech

(21:25) Abraham made a formal complaint that Abimelech's servants had used violence to steal a well from him

Illustrating the price tag of wells

Deuteronomy

Genesis

(21:26) Abimelech said that the incident was news to him

(21:27) They made a covenant with animals provided by Abraham

In Genesis 20:14, Abimelech gave animals to Abraham

(21:28–29) Abraham set out seven ewe lambs by themselves, prompting Abimelech to ask why he did so

The number 7 and the word for *swear* or *oath* are closely related

(21:30) Abraham said that accepting the ewe lambs witness to Abraham owning the well**(21:31) Abraham named the place Beersheba, because they swore an oath there**

Note Genesis 21:14 and 19 (*Beer* = well of, *sheba* = an oath)

(21:32) After making a covenant w/ Abraham, Abimelech & Phichol returned to Gerar**(21:33–34) Abraham then planted a tamarisk tree and called on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God, as he sojourned for a long time in the land of the Philistines****CONCLUSION**

Deuteronomy 20