

Study Guide for Oct. 18th, 2009. Life of Abraham – PEACE. Genesis 21:22-34.

Introduction: Prov. 16:7 states, “When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.” When have you experienced this truth?

I. Seeking Peace: (Gen. 21:22-24)

- A. Who takes the initiative to establish this agreement? What motivates them?
- B. What do Abimelech and Phicol ask of Abraham? For how long?
- C. What kindness had Abimelech shown to Abraham? (Recall Chapter 20)
- D. How does Abraham reply?
- E. What does Zech 8:23 predict? How is that principle seen here?

II. Resolving Conflict: (Gen. 21:25-31)

- A. What does Abraham complain to Abimelech about? What is Abimelech’s reply?
- B. Recall the conflict in Gen. 13:5-13. How was the conflict resolved there?
- C. How does Abraham take the initiative here to resolve the conflict?
- D. What is the meaning of the seven ewe lambs given to and accepted by Abimelech?
- E. The words *swear* and *seven* are formed from the same root. This paragraph turns on the interplay of these words. Abimelech desires Abraham to *swear* to deal uprightly, while Abraham requires Abimelech to *swear* that the well is his. He seals the deal with *seven* lambs and names the place *Beersheba* (well of seven).

III. Commemorating Relationship: (Gen. 21:32-34)

- A. What happens after the treaty is made? How does Abraham commemorate it?
- B. Recall the repetition of the phrase *called on the name of the Lord*. (See Gen. 4:26, 12:8, 13:4, 16:13, and 26:25) How would you define it?
- C. What aspect of God’s character does Abraham highlight here? Why?
- D. While Abraham is still an alien, he is granted a settled place to live. Comment on how we can maintain our pilgrim status (Heb. 11:13-16) and yet live in this world.