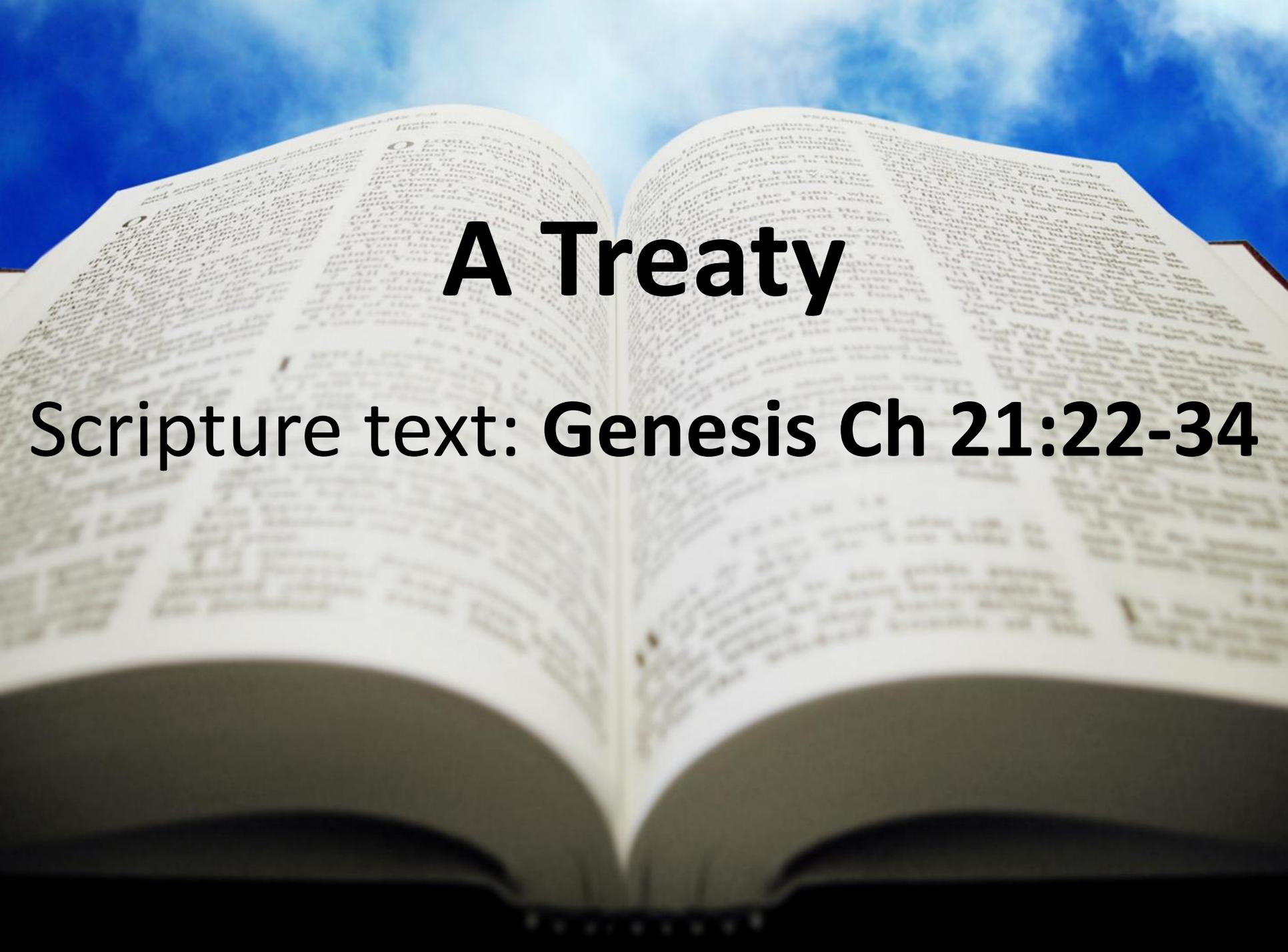


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the center of the Bible.

# **A Treaty**

**Scripture text: Genesis Ch 21:22-34**

**Genesis 21:22-24** At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to Abraham, "**God is with you in all that you do. Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my descendants or with my posterity, but as I have dealt kindly with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned.**" And Abraham said, "**I will swear.**"

What was notice by Abimelech about Abraham?

Believers must be careful in the relationship to **“those who are outside”**.

Those outside the Body of Christ, un-believers, non-followers of Jesus Christ.

**Colossians 4:5-6** Walk in wisdom **toward outsiders**, making the best use of the time. **Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt**, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

**1 Thessalonians 4:9-12** Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for **that indeed is what you are doing** to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and **to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs,** and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, **so that you may walk properly before outsiders** and be dependent on no one.

**1 Timothy 3:2-7** Therefore an overseer **must be above reproach**, the husband of one wife, **sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable**, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, **he must be well thought of by outsiders**, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Abraham **had a good testimony** before his unsaved neighbors, and the **conflict over the well could have ruined it for good.**

Note that Abraham agreed to settle the problem in a businesslike way—“Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40).

Yet this good testimony wasn't always there, remember what happened in Genesis 20?

**Genesis 20:13-16** And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, He is my brother.'" **Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him.** And Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you." To Sarah he said, "Behold, **I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated.**"

**Romans 12:16-19** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to **do what is honorable in the sight of all.** If possible, **so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "**Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.**"

**Matthew 5:8-12** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. "**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.** "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "**Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Genesis 21:25-26** When Abraham reproved Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized, Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today."

Wells of water were of great consequence in those hot countries, **especially where the flocks were numerous**; because **water was scarce**, and digging to find it was attended with the expense of much time and labor.

**Proverb 17:10** A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.

**Proverb 25:9-10** Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

**Proverb 27:4-6** Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy? **Better is open rebuke than hidden love.** Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

**Matthew 18:15-18** "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

**To make a covenant / agreement with your neighbor.** Even those who do not serve the Lord.

**Genesis 31:44-46** Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me." So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. And Jacob said to his kinsmen, "**Gather stones.**" And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap.

**Genesis 26:28-31** They said, "**We see plainly that the LORD has been with you.** So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. **You are now the blessed of the LORD.**" So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. **In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths.** And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace.

**1 Samuel 18:1-5** As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. Then **Jonathan made a covenant with David**, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. **And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.**

**Ezekiel 17:12-15** "Say now to the rebellious house, Do you not know what these things mean? Tell them, behold, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, and took her king and her princes and brought them to him to Babylon. And he took one of the royal offspring and **made a covenant with him**, putting him **under oath** (the chief men of the land he had taken away), that the kingdom might be humble and not lift itself up, and keep his covenant that it might stand. But he rebelled against him by sending his ambassadors to Egypt, that they might give him horses and a large army. **Will he thrive? Can one escape who does such things? Can he break the covenant and yet escape?**

**Genesis 21:28-29** Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock apart. And Abimelech said to Abraham, **"What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?"**

**Genesis 33:8** Esau said, **"What do you mean by all this company that I met?"** Jacob answered, **"To find favor in the sight of my lord."**

**Did not Abraham set apart these ewe lambs to find favor with Abimelech?**

**Genesis 21:30-34** He said, "These seven ewe lambs you will take from my hand, that this may be a witness for me that I dug this well."

Therefore that place was called **Beersheba**, because there both of them **swore an oath**. So they made a **covenant at Beersheba**. Then Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the Philistines. Abraham **planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God**. And Abraham sojourned many days in the land of the Philistines.

**Joshua 22:26-28** Therefore we said, 'Let us now build an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice, **but to be a witness between us and you, and between our generations after us, that we do perform the service of the LORD in his presence** with our burnt offerings and sacrifices and peace offerings, so your children will not say to our children in time to come, "You have no portion in the LORD.'" And we thought, If this should be said to us or to our descendants in time to come, we should say, 'Behold, the copy of the altar of the LORD, which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifice, **but to be a witness between us and you.'**

**Joshua 22:29** Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD and turn away this day from following the LORD by building an altar for burnt offering, grain offering, or sacrifice, other than the altar of the LORD our God that stands before his tabernacle!"

**Why do we need a witness?**

**Are we a forgetful people?**

**Joshua 24:25-27** So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem. And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. And Joshua said to all the people, "**Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us**, for it has heard all the words of the LORD that he spoke to us. **Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God.**"

***Beer-sheba.*** i.e. **the well of the oath**, or the well of the seven: alluding to the seven ewe lambs. The verb rendered **‘to swear’** is derived from **the word translated seven.**

The striking feature about this passage is the explanation of the name of Beersheba, the home of Abraham. **This name will always reflect the covenant the patriarch made with the residents of the land,** which enabled him to dwell there in peace and prosperity.

Significant is the fact that Abraham planted a ... tree there and sojourned there many days (vv. 33–34), indicating **his faith and security**.

To plant a tree in Beersheba presupposed a constant supply of water, and indicated a **determination to stay in the region**. God would bless with well water, and Abraham would stay settled in the land. **Dwelling under one's tree was a sign of peaceful security** (Zech. 3:10).

**Exodus 15:25-26** And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and **there he tested them**, saying, "**If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.**"

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