

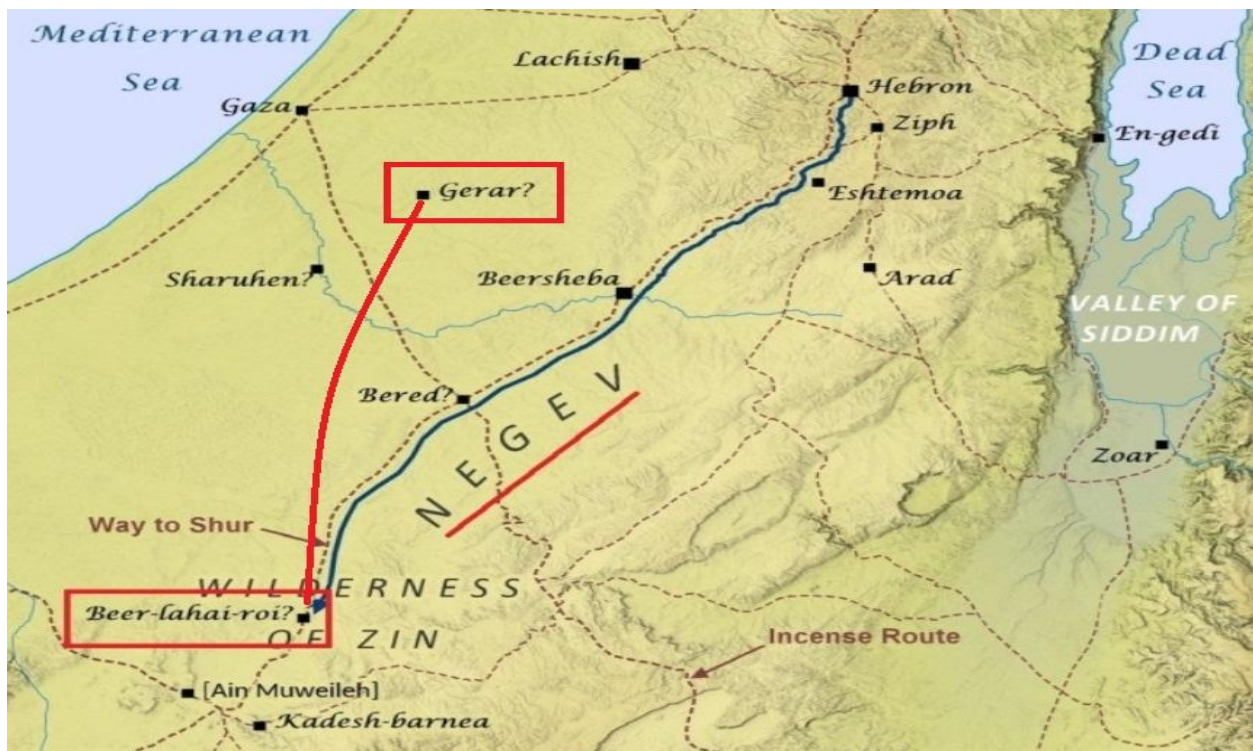
Genesis 26

Verses 1- 5

Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines. ² And the Lord appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. ³ Live for a time in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. ⁴ I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, ⁵ because Abraham obeyed Me and fulfilled *his* duty to Me, and kept My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines.

See Map 2605



Abraham was 75 when he left Haran in chapter 12. When he got to the Negev, there was a famine in the land, so he went to Egypt. This current famine takes place after Abraham had died at the age of 175. So it came a hundred years after the famine in Abraham's day.

² And the Lord appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you.

This is the first time that God appears to Isaac as the patriarch of Israel. Isaac did encounter God on Mount Moriah when he was 20 years old but that appearance was directed toward Abraham.

God told Isaac he was not to go to Egypt but to stay in Gerar.

³ Live for a time in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. ⁴ I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,

God repeats to Isaac the promise that he had made to Abraham. This promise contained the following three parts.

1. I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven.
2. I will give to your seed all these lands.
3. In your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

⁵ because Abraham obeyed Me and fulfilled *his* duty to Me, and kept My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

God says he will fulfill these three promises because Abraham obeyed Him. This included His commandments, His statutes, and His laws. However, this took place 400 years before the giving of the law in 1446 BC so what commands, statutes and laws is God referring to.

There were some precepts and laws prior to the Law of Moses in 1446 BC.

See chart 2610

Precepts & Laws that came before the Law of Moses

1. Cain & Abel bring an offering to the Lord

Genesis 4:3-4

2. Not eating flesh with its blood.

Genesis 9:4

3. The death penalty for shedding human blood.

Genesis 9:6

4. Paying Tithes

Genesis 14

5. The burnt offering

Genesis 22:7-8

All of these preceded the Law of Moses and later became part of the Law.

This is not a complete list but it does show that there were rules before the Law of Moses.

Verses 6 -11

⁶ So Isaac lived in Gerar. ⁷ When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he was afraid to say, "my wife," *thinking*, "the men of the place might kill me on account of Rebekah, since she is beautiful." ⁸ Now it came about, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down through a window, and saw *them*, and behold, Isaac was caressing his wife Rebekah. ⁹ Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, she certainly is your wife! So how *is it that* you said, 'She is my sister'?" And Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, 'otherwise I might be killed on account of her.'" ¹⁰ And Abimelech said, "What is this *that* you have done to us? One of the people might easily have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." ¹¹ So Abimelech commanded all the people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife will certainly be put to death."

⁷ When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” for he was afraid to say, “my wife,” *thinking*, “the men of the place might kill me on account of Rebekah, since she is beautiful.”

Like father like son. Abraham passed Sarah off as his sister 2 times. Once in chapter 12 when he was 75 and she was 65 and then a 2nd time in chapter 20 when he was 99 and she was 89.

Isaac was born shortly after the second time Abraham had done this so Isaac did not learn this from watching his father. However, it is likely that Isaac heard about those events when he was older.

⁸ Now it came about, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down through a window, and saw *them*, and behold, Isaac was caressing his wife Rebekah.

This Abimelech is a different king then when Abraham was there because this took place about 80 to 100 years after Abraham was in Gerar.

See pic 2615

| Ch. | Person | Event | Age | Year |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|-----|------|
| 17 | Abraham | Circumcision | 99 | 1897 |
| 18-19 | Lot | Sodom and Gomorrah | 99 | 1897 |
| 20 | Abraham | She is my sister (2nd time) | 99 | 1897 |
| 21 | Abraham | Isaac born | 100 | 1896 |
| 22 | Abraham | Abraham Tested | 120 | 1876 |
| 23 | Sarah | Sarah dies | 127 | 1859 |
| 24 | Isaac | Marries Rebekah | 40 | 1856 |
| 25 | Isaac | Esau and Jacob born | 60 | 1836 |
| 25 | Abraham | Abraham dies | 175 | 1821 |
| 26 | Esau | Marries two Hittites | 40 | 1796 |
| 25 | Ishmael | Ishmael dies | 137 | 1773 |
| 27 - 28 | Isaac | blessing | 137 | 1759 |

Abimelech was a title not a name just as the kings of Egypt were called Pharaoh.

¹⁰ And Abimelech said, “What is this *that* you have done to us? One of the people might easily have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.”

Verse 10 is interesting because it shows that the Philistines had a code of ethics concerning marriage and they believed in guilt and consequences. Isaac was worried about these “pagan” people but as it turned out the Philistines were more righteous than Isaac. This was also true during the time of Abraham.

¹¹ So Abimelech commanded all the people, saying, “He who touches this man or his wife will certainly be put to death.”

Isaac was afraid that someone might kill him to get Rebekah but the king did not seek her nor did anybody else as far as we know. Isaac got the security he desired when the King made his decree but he should have put his trust in God rather than the king of Philistia.

Verses 12 -17

¹² Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundred times as *much*. And the Lord blessed him, ¹³ and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy; ¹⁴ for he had possessions of flocks and herds, and a great household, so that the Philistines envied him. ¹⁵ Now all the wells which his father’s servants had dug in the days of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up by filling them with dirt. ¹⁶ Then Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are too powerful for us.” ¹⁷ So Isaac departed from there and camped in the Valley of Gerar, and settled there.

¹² Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundred times as *much*. And the Lord blessed him, ¹³ and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy; ¹⁴ for he had possessions of flocks and herds, and a great household, so that the Philistines envied him.

This is the first time that we know of that Abrahams family had grown crops.

We don’t know for sure how many years Isaac was in Gerar, but he prospered so much that the king and his people became envious of him.

¹⁵ Now all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up by filling them with dirt.

The wells were in the area of Beersheba

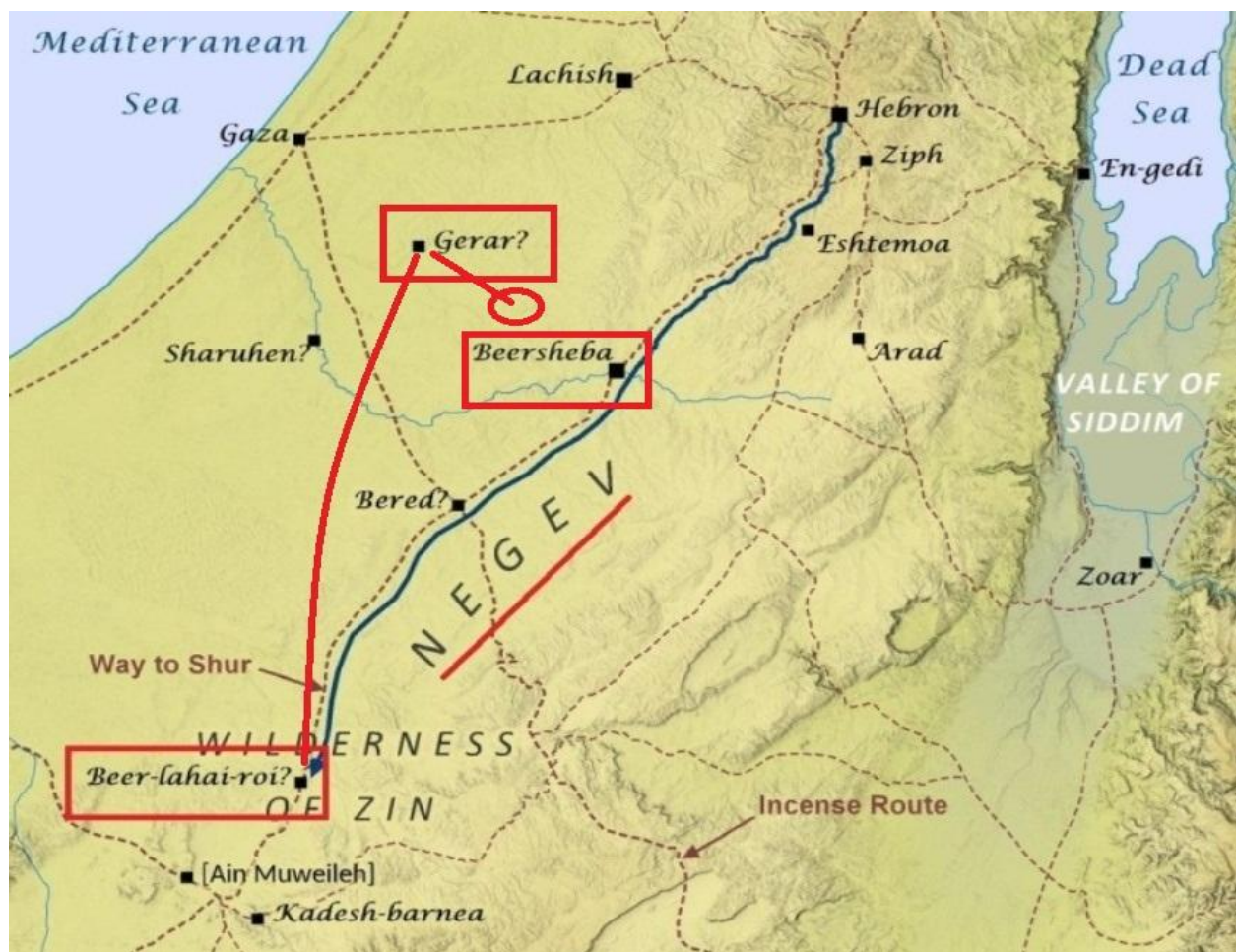
See Genesis 21:30-31

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.

¹⁶ Then Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are too powerful for us.” ¹⁷ So Isaac departed from there and camped in the Valley of Gerar, and settled there.

This valley is east of Gerar near Beersheba.

See Map 2615



Verses 18 - 22

¹⁸ Then Isaac dug again the wells of water which had been dug in the days of his father Abraham, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the same names which his father had given them.

¹⁹ But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of flowing water, ²⁰ the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with the herdsmen of Isaac, saying, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they argued with him.

²¹ Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over it too, so he named it Sitnah. ²² Then he moved away from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it; so he named it Rehoboth, for he said, "At last the Lord has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land."

¹⁸ Then Isaac dug again the wells of water which had been dug in the days of his father Abraham, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the same names which his father had given them.

Isaac reopened these wells, but more were needed.

¹⁹ But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of flowing water, ²⁰ the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with the herdsmen of Isaac, saying, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they argued with him.

Isaac could have fought the Philistines over this water supply but it seems he was a man of peace and decided to move a little farther away.

²¹ Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over it too, so he named it Sitnah.

It seems the Philistines were pressing their luck but Isaac was not willing to start a war over a well and he moved on.

²² Then he moved away from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it; so he named it Rehoboth, for he said, "At last the Lord has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land."

When the servants of Isaac dug this third well, there was no dispute so Isaac knew that he had finally moved far enough away.

Verses 23 - 25

²³ And he went up from there to Beersheba. ²⁴ And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said,

**“I am the God of your father Abraham;
Do not fear, for I am with you.
I will bless you and multiply your descendants,
For the sake of My servant Abraham.”**

²⁵ So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug a well.

²³ And he went up from there to Beersheba.

Isaac had left the Valley of Gerar and moved on to 3 other locations trying to avoid a battle or war with the philistines. So when it says he went up from “there” we don’t know exactly where he was staying but he was probably close to Beersheba.

²⁴ And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said,

**“I am the God of your father Abraham;
Do not fear, for I am with you.
I will bless you and multiply your descendants,
For the sake of My servant Abraham.”**

His move to Beersheba caused Isaac some concern but God appeared to him that night and told him not to be afraid.

²⁵ So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug a well.

Abraham had lived in this area and called upon the name of the Lord built about 100 years ago and now his son Isaac was following in his footsteps.

See Genesis 21:33

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

Verses 26 - 33

²⁶ Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with his adviser Ahuzzath, and Phicol the commander of his army. ²⁷ Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?” ²⁸ They said, “We have seen plainly that the Lord has been with you; so we said, ‘An oath must now be *taken by us,*’ *that is*, by you and us. So let us make a covenant with you, ²⁹ 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.” ³⁰ Then he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. ³¹ In the morning they got up early and exchanged oaths; then Isaac sent them away, and they left him in peace. ³² Now it came about on the same day, that Isaac’s servants came in and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, “We have found water.” ³³ So he called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

²⁶ Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with his adviser Ahuzzath, and Phicol the commander of his army. ²⁷ Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?”

The Philistines had treated him poorly.

²⁸ They said, “We have seen plainly that the Lord has been with you; so we said, ‘An oath must now be *taken by us,*’ *that is*, by you and us. So let us make a covenant with you, ²⁹ 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.”

It seems the Philistines had a short term memory problem. They must have forgotten about the dirt filled wells and the confiscation of the new wells. However, Isaac had lied about his wife and created some hard feelings. Seeing both parties had done some wrong, Isaac decided to let bygones be bygones.

³⁰ Then he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. ³¹ In the morning they got up early and exchanged oaths; then Isaac sent them away, and they left him in peace.

Isaac accepted the peace agreement and the Philistines left in peace.

³² Now it came about on the same day, that Isaac's servants came in and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water." ³³ So he called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

Abraham also named it Beersheba in his day.

See Genesis 21:31

³¹ Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because there the two of them took an oath.

Just for the record there are a number of other similarities between these two accounts.

Verses 34 - 35

³⁴ When Esau was forty years old he married Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite; ³⁵ and they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

Isaac was 40 years old when he got married. However, Isaac was not a polygamist nor did he marry a pagan wife.

We can assume these were pagan women and thus the reason for his parent's disappointment. The Hittites lived in the northern and southern parts of Canaan but the main empire of the Hittites was just to the North of Canaan.

See maps 2620 and 2625

