

## **The Treaty of Beersheba**

Genesis 21:22-34

by Don Falkos

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King Abimelech and the commander of his military forces came to Abraham and said, "God blesses you in everything you do. So promise me right here before God that for as long as you live in this land you will always deal fairly with me and my family. You are a foreigner living in my land. Show me the same kindness that I have shown you."

"Certainly," replied Abraham, "I can promise that. But tell me, what do you intend to do about those men of yours who have taken over one of my wells."

"What? They did what? I had no idea. This is the first I've heard of it. Why didn't you say something before?"

Abimelech took care of that little misunderstanding. Then Abraham gave King Abimelech some sheep and cattle and they made a peace treaty. Abraham separated seven of the lambs from the rest and said, "Accept these lambs as proof that I dug this well, that it belongs to me."

So they called the place Beersheba, Well of the Oath, because the two of them had sworn an oath there. When the treaty was completed, King Abimelech and his commander went back home.

Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and there under the tree he worshiped the Lord, the eternal God.