

Scenes in Genesis 20-22: story collection or integrated narrative?

20:1-18	<p><u>ABRAHAM AND SARAH IN GERAR (WIFE-SISTER STORY NUMBER 2)</u></p> <p>v. 1-2: Abraham and Sarah land in Gerar v. 3-7: God and Abimelech dialogue in a dream v. 8: Abimelech tells his servants v. 9-13: Abimelech confronts Abraham and Abraham defends himself v. 14-16: Abimelech gives animals, silver and slaves to Abraham and returns and exonerates Sarah v. 17-18: Abraham prays and God heals Abimelech and his house</p>
21:1-7	<p><u>BIRTH OF ISAAC</u></p> <p>v. 1-2: birth of Isaac v. 3-5: Abraham names and circumcises Isaac v. 6-7: Sarah expresses her thoughts</p>
21:8-21	<p><u>CASTING OUT OF HAGAR AND ISHMAEL</u></p> <p>v. 8: the weaning feast v. 9: Sarah sees “the son of Hagar the Egyptian” “yitschaking” [Heb, <i>metsacheq</i>] with Isaac v. 10: Sarah orders Abraham to “Cast out this slave woman with her son” v. 11-13: God reassures Abraham v. 14: Abraham sends Hagar and the child away v. 15-19: Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness, rescued by God v. 20-21: Ishmael grows up and his mother gets him a wife from Egypt</p>
21:22-34	<p><u>ABRAHAM AND ABIMELECH MAKE A COVENANT AT BEER-SHEBA REGARDING A WELL</u></p> <p>v. 22-24: Abimelech gets Abraham to swear to practice <i>chesed</i> (covenant loyalty) with him v. 25-30: the ritual of covenant making (offer of sheep and oxen) v. 31: etiological conclusion v. 32: Abimelech and Phicol return to Philistia v. 33: Abraham plants a tamarisk tree and calls on the name of YHWH v. 34: Abraham sojourns many days in land of Philistines</p>
22:1-19	<p><u>BINDING OF ISAAC</u></p> <p>v. 1-2: God speaks to Abraham v. 3-4: the journey v. 5: Abraham and Isaac leave the others behind v. 6-8: Abraham and Isaac walk together v. 9-10: Abraham prepares to kill his son v. 11-12: the angel of YHWH stops Abraham v. 13-14: Abraham offers a ram instead of his son v. 15-18: angel of YHWH speaks to Abraham a second time, renewing the promise v. 19: Abraham (without Isaac?) returns to the young men and back to Beer-sheba</p>
22:20-24	<p>Announcement (from whom?) to Abraham of birth of children to Nahor his brother and Milcah (note of Rebekah’s birth)</p>

“When a reading of individual stories is passed over in favour of a reading which concentrates on the saga as a whole, a rich narrative is revealed featuring sustained development of theme, character and plot.” (Megan Warner, “Genesis 20.1-22:19: Abraham’s Test of Allegiance,” *ABR* 53 (2005) 13-30, p. 15)