

## BEERSHEBA

Beersheba, first named by our father, Abraham, "well of the oath," (Genesis 21:31-33) located in the South Country, the Negev, the southernmost city in the inheritance of the Tribes, first to Judah (Joshua 15:20, 28), and then to Simeon (Joshua 19:2, 9). You were a home to the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in their sojourn in the Land (Genesis 22:19; 26:23; 28:10).

### **The Sevenfold Sacrifice**

Beersheba, there is beauty in your name, for you encompass the completion of an oath that one may swear seven times as a secure witness to the covenant betwixt, even as sheba also means seven. For this reason Abraham gave the ewe lambs in his covenant with Abimelech, saying "these seven ewe lambs shall you take of my hand, that they may be a witness unto me, that I have digged this well" (Genesis 21:30). "For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife" (Hebrews 6:16).

### **A Perpetual Memorial**

Beersheba, Abraham has planted a grove of tamarisk trees in your domain after the settlement of all disputes with Abimelech and the Philistines who dwelt in the Land, to show forth his claim to and possession by faith of the Land in accordance with the promises of God (Genesis 21:33). Indeed, the tamarisk was a tree well chosen by our father for this graceful, yet hardy evergreen will be a perpetual memorial to Abraham and his Seed. Then Abraham "called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God" (Genesis 21:33).

Yes, Beersheba, the faith of our father, Abraham, is strong, and it has been counted unto him for righteousness (cp. Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3,9,22). He "staggers not at the promises of God through unbelief; but being strong in faith, he gives glory to God" (Romans 4:20). Yes, Beersheba you are witness to these things in your day.

### **A Dry and Thirsty Land**

Beersheba, you are an oasis with your wells, and evergreen trees, but beyond in your surroundings is a wilderness, the wilderness that bears your name, Wilderness of Beersheba, where the conditions are a "dry and thirsty land" (Psalms 63:1). See now, Hagar, handmaid of

Sarah, and mother to Ishmael from Abraham's seed has been cast out, "for the bondwoman shall not be heir with the free woman" (Galatians 4:30; Genesis 21:10). She is wandering now in your surrounds with Ishmael, her son (Genesis 21:14). Now, in her desperation, baking in the heat and sun, with no water to sustain her, nor the lad; she "lifts up her voice, and weeps. And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, 'What aileth thee, Hagar? Fear not; for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation'" (Genesis 21:16b-18). Then the eyes of Hagar were opened by the LORD "and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the bottle with water, and gave Ishmael to drink" (Genesis 21:19). The water from a well that Abraham did dig has saved the lives of Hagar and her son in the wilderness of Beersheba by the mighty hand of the Almighty who is merciful to all who call upon Him. Praise be to His holy name!

### **I Am the God of Abraham**

Oh Beersheba, the LORD has now appeared in thee, even unto Isaac, son of the freewoman and child of the promises made to his father; and the LORD is saying to him, "I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake" (Genesis 26:4). See now, how Isaac has built an altar to the LORD, thereby staking his claim and showing forth his faith in the promises of God, as his father did before him; he has called upon the Name of the LORD, and has pitched his tent in you Beersheba, and has digged another well (cp. Genesis 26:25). Yes, Beersheba you, indeed, belong to the Seed for He has claimed you for His own.

### **A Mystical Revelation of Christ**

Beersheba, you speak to us of wells and water, trees and tents; so mystical and rich with euphemistic splendor and spiritual revelations of Him Who spoke to us of these things: "But the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into eternal life" (John 4:14b). The prophet, Isaiah, spoke the word of the LORD thus: "they shall be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified" (cp. Isaiah 61:3). Oh, Beersheba we want to pitch our tent with you even as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in their day.

We want to live with you in faith as Abraham did in his sojourn "in the Land of Promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:9-10).

### **The Prince Who Prevailed with God**

See now, Beersheba, Jacob has gone out from you to Haran to take a wife of the daughters of Laban, Rebekah's brother (Genesis 28:10). He will not return to you for twenty years; but he shall return with twelve sons who shall make up the Tribes of Israel, Jacob's new name. Yes, your "Prince who has prevailed with God" shall return unto you with the blessings of the Almighty.

### **Descent to Egypt with a Promise to Return**

Then, Beersheba, one last time shall Jacob be with you as he departs the Land to go into Egypt with all his household in the day of famine to receive succor from his son, Joseph who has risen to the height of power there.

*And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac.*

*And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, 'Jacob, Jacob.' And he said, 'Here am I.'*

*And He said, 'I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation.*

*I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.'*

*And Jacob rose up from Beersheba and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.*

*And they took their cattle, and their goods which they had gotten in the Land of Canaan, and came into Egypt. Jacob and all his seed with him.*

*(Genesis 46:1-6)*

Oh, Beersheba over 400 years shall pass before you see the Tribes again. But God is faithful. Did not He make promise to Israel in that day, "I will also surely bring thee up again"? Yes, the

body of Jacob did return to be buried in the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron (Genesis 50:13); but God is not the God of the dead, but of the living! Hallelujah! "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living" (cp. Matthew 22:32); and the living, resurrected Tribes shall return to the Land of Promise and to you, Beersheba in that glorious day.

Yes, Beersheba, Joshua has crossed the Jordan, the waters of death, with the Tribes to take possession of the Land, "from Dan to Beersheba" the Land belongs to the Seed; the inheritance is secure. Oh, Beersheba, rejoice in the LORD your God! You do not belong to the Amalekites, the Philistines and Canaanites, you belong to the LORD! Yes, you "well of the oath," your water, your graceful and hardy evergreen trees and your tents shall be occupied again with the Children of Israel, the seed of our father, Abraham. Your wells shall flow again with living water springing up to eternal life.

### **Elijah, the Tishbite**

Now see, Beersheba, the prophet, Elijah, the Tishbite, from Gilead, has come to you from Jezreel, in his flight from Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, King of Israel; for she has threatened his life after hearing of the slaughter of the Priests of Baal at the brook Kishon at Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:40). Exhausted and afraid, Elijah has left his servant with you, Beersheba, and has gone a days journey into the Wilderness that bears your name (1 Kings 19:3-4). "It is enough!" he cries. "Now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers." And now, like Hagar before him, in that place, the angel has come to care for him. "Arise and eat," the angel speaks. "And when Elijah looked, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink and laid him down again" under the juniper tree which gave him shade. Then the angel came the second time and touched him and bade him to eat because his journey would be long (1 Kings 19:7). Go, now Elijah. Go to Mount Horeb and commune there with the LORD. Receive your assignments and prepare to depart in a whirlwind, a chariot of fire with the horsemen thereof and Elisha, son of Shaphat, by your side (II Kings 2:12).

### **Filthy Lucre, Taking Bribes and Perverting Judgment**

Beware, Beersheba, the sons of another prophet, Samuel, will come to you also; but not to do you good, for they are corrupt (1 Samuel 8:1-3). Joel and Abiah by name will sit in your courts to judge, but there will be no justice, for they walk not in the ways of their father, but have "turned aside after lucre, and take bribes and pervert judgment." It is as the Apostle Peter warned the elders: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind" (1 Peter 5:2; see also Titus 1:7,11; 1 Timothy 3:3,8). Beersheba, the people have become discouraged. Samuel, their father, has grown old; therefore, your leaders, along with all Israel will gather themselves together and go to Samuel in Ramah and ask for a king to reign over them (1 Samuel 8:4-5).

Then, Beersheba, the people will be led into idolatry and forsake the right ways of the LORD. Even the prophet, Amos, shall warn you and pronounce righteous judgment against such evil things. "For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye Me, and ye shall live. Seek not Beth-el, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Beth-el shall come to nought. Seek the LORD and ye shall live: lest He break out like fire in the House of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Beth-el" (Amos 5:4-6).

### **The Living Word, Messiah, Shall Come**

Beersheba, there shall come a famine in the Land, "not a famine of bread, not a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD" (Amos 8:11). Beersheba, your natural, earthly waters shall fail (cp. Amos 8:14); but the true Word and Water of Life shall be revealed in His day: He was with the people from the first, for: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God" (John 1:1). Yes, Beersheba, Messiah, the living Word of God, shall come and He shall cry out in that day, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink. He that believes in Me as the Scripture said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38). Beersheba, "Your father, Abraham, rejoiced to see Messiah's day: he saw it, and was glad" (John 8:56).

Oh, Beersheba, well of the oath, do not be discouraged, Rejoice! For the LORD has sworn and has given His Sevenfold Lamb as a testimony and true witness that the day of all conflict and strife will end and all that has been promised will be fulfilled. Amen.