



FOUNDATIONS UNDER SURVEILLANCE

PASTOR RON WITMER

GENESIS 21:22—34

“WE ARE BEING WATCHED... BY THEM.”

- **THE WORLD WATCHES US.**
- **THE CHURCH WATCHES US.**
- **GOD WATCHES US.**
- **OUR LIVES AND RELATIONSHIPS ARE BEING OBSERVED.**

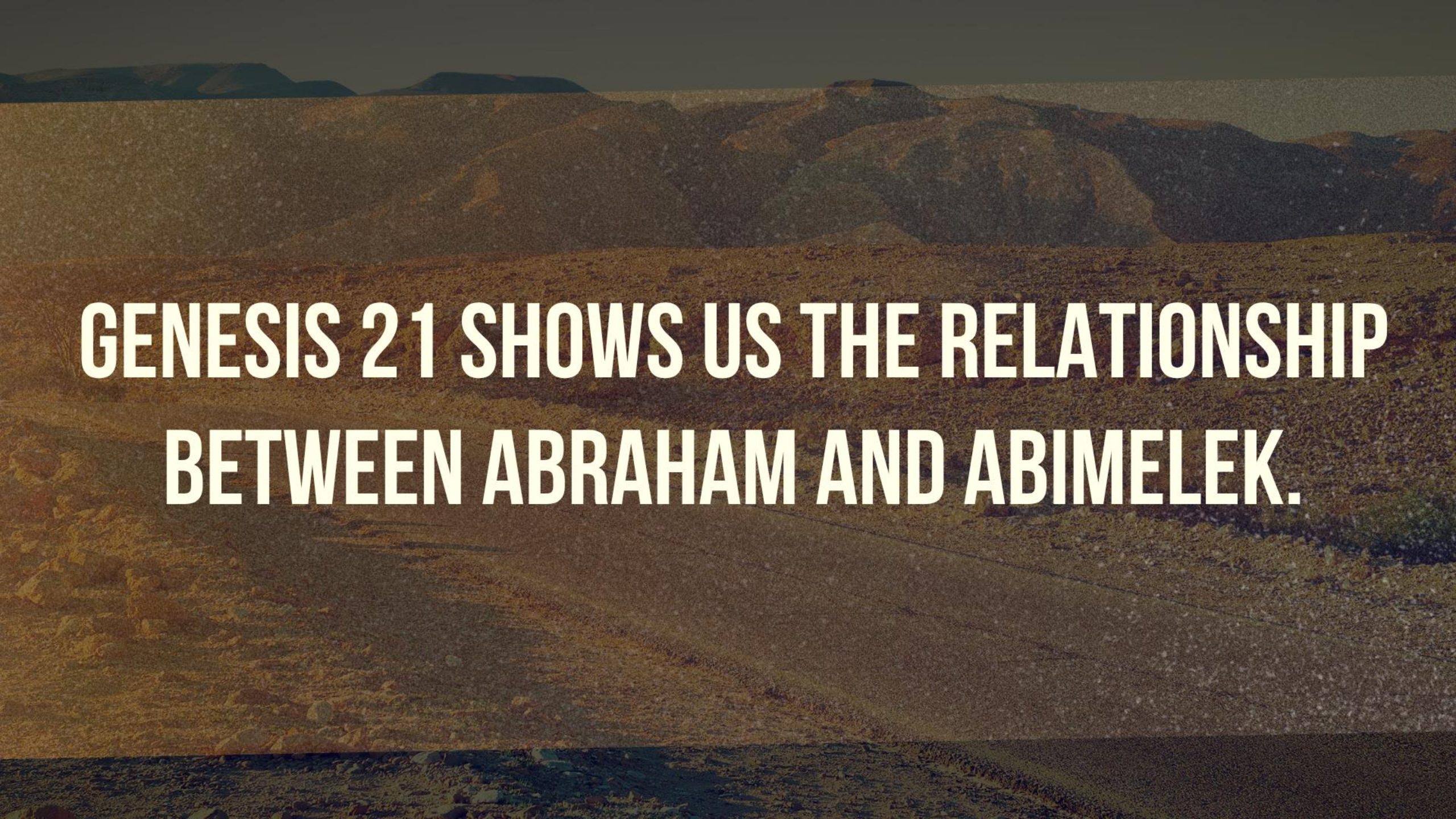
The background of the image is a dark, rocky landscape, possibly a desert or a dry riverbed, with some sparse, dry vegetation. A semi-transparent dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, serving as a background for the text.

**WHAT DO PEOPLE SEE WHEN THEY
WATCH OUR LIVES?**

RELATIONSHIPS IN A FALLEN WORLD

EVERY RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN ALTERED BY SIN:

- **VERTICAL: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**
- **HORIZONTAL: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CREATION**
- **PARALLEL: OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE
ANOTHER**

The background is a dark, textured image of a landscape. It features rolling hills and a path that leads into the distance. The colors are muted, with shades of brown, grey, and dark blue. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

**GENESIS 21 SHOWS US THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN ABRAHAM AND ABIMELEK.**

The background image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. The foreground is filled with numerous small, light-colored rocks and some sparse, dry vegetation. The middle ground and background are a dark, textured expanse, possibly a body of water or a distant shore, with a dark, overcast sky above. The overall tone is somber and mysterious.

1. THE FIRST/WORST ENCOUNTER

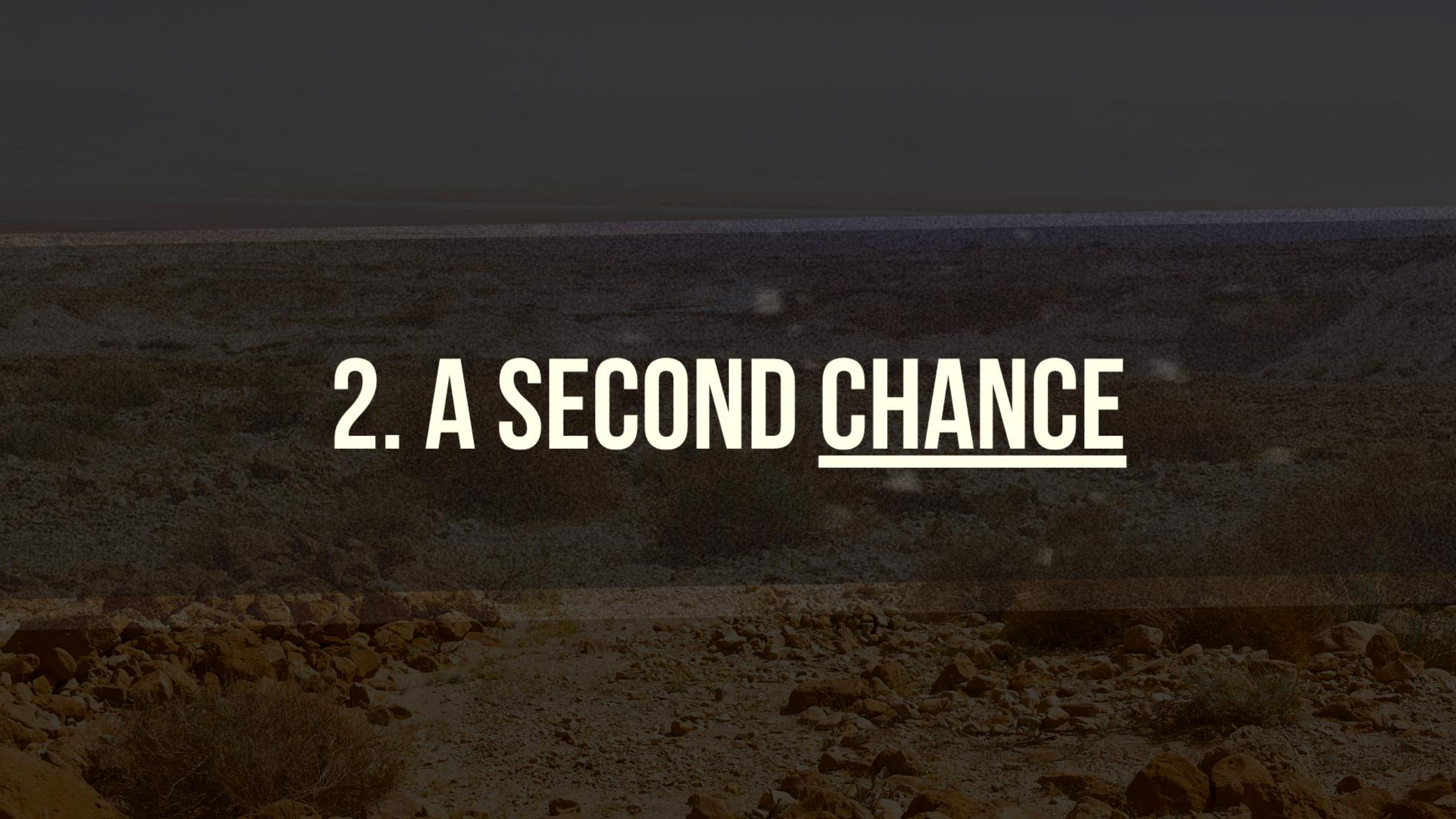
GENESIS 20

**ABRAHAM AND ABIMELEK COULD NOT HAVE
GOTTEN OFF TO A ROCKIER START.**

“SHE IS MY SISTER.”

- **ABRAHAM LIED BY OMISSION.**
- **HIS INTENTION WAS TO DECEIVE.**
- **ABIMELEK SUFFERED BECAUSE OF ABRAHAM'S LIE.**
- **THE RELATIONSHIP BEGAN WITH BROKEN TRUST.**

**HOW DO YOU TRUST SOMEONE WHO STARTED
EVERYTHING WITH A LIE?**



2. A SECOND CHANCE

GENESIS 21:22

**“AT THAT TIME ABIMELEK AND PHICOL THE
COMMANDER OF HIS FORCES SAID TO
ABRAHAM, ‘GOD IS WITH YOU IN EVERYTHING
YOU DO.’”**

NOTICE THEIR FIRST WORDS:

IT IS NOT ABOUT WHAT ABRAHAM HAS DONE.

IT IS ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR ABRAHAM.

WHEN THE WORLD WATCHES US, THEY SHOULD SEE

WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.

WHAT DO PEOPLE SEE?
PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR WHAT GOD
PRODUCES IN OUR LIVES:

- **PEACE = PHILIPPIANS 4:7**
- **REST = MATTHEW 11:28—30**

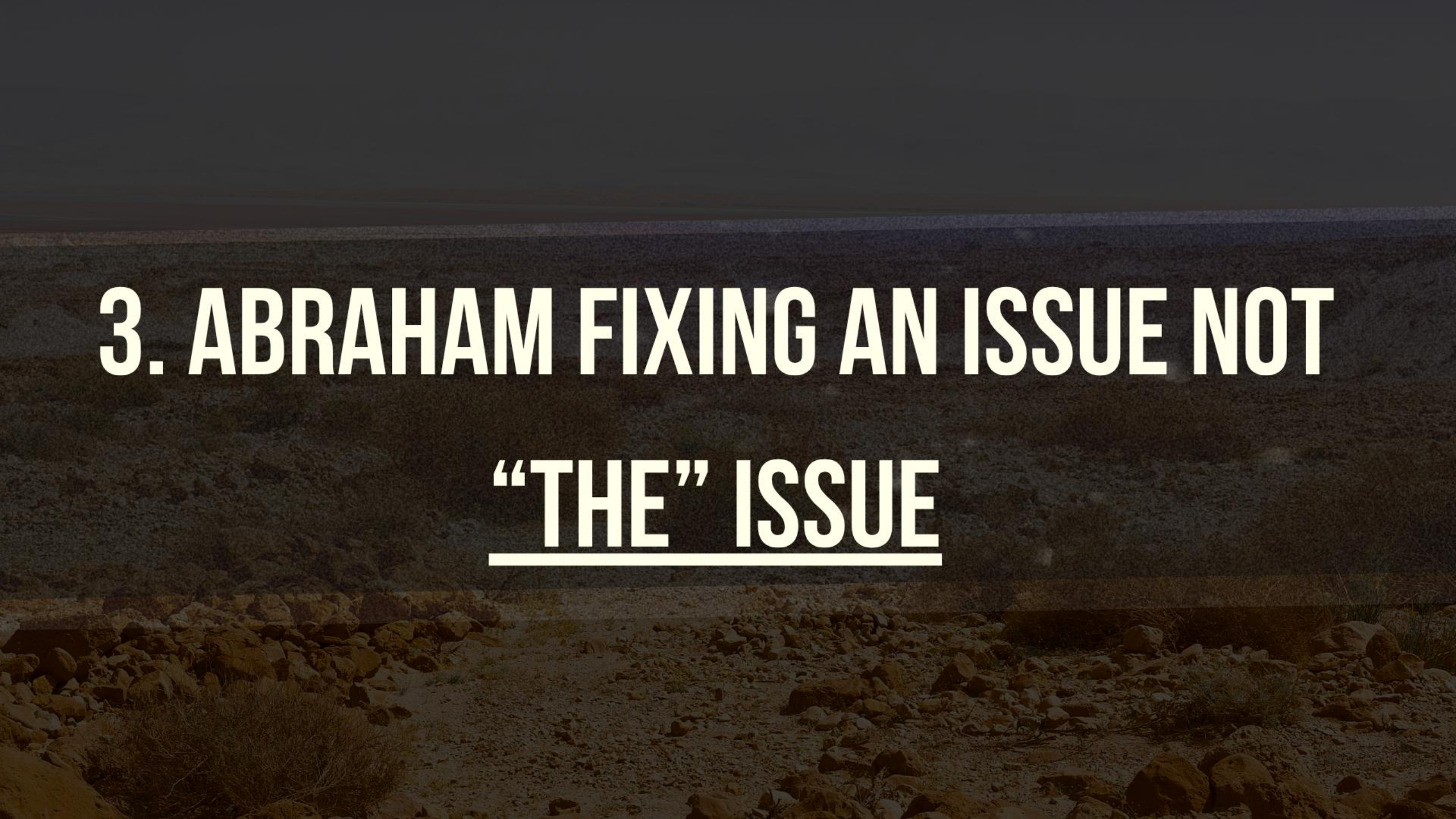
- **CONFIDENCE=HEBREWS 10:19**
- **FAITH = HEBREWS 11:1**

**ABIMELEK GIVES ABRAHAM ANOTHER
OPPORTUNITY.**

GENESIS 21:23

The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a rocky, arid landscape. A path of light-colored stones and sand leads from the bottom center towards the horizon. The sky is a deep, dark blue-grey, and the overall scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and contemplative mood. The text is overlaid in a bright, bold, white sans-serif font, centered horizontally and arranged in four lines.

**ABIMELEK REMEMBERS ABRAHAM'S FAILURE.
BUT HE IS WILLING TO MOVE FORWARD.
GOD GIVES US OPPORTUNITIES TO RESTORE WHAT
HAS BEEN BROKEN.**



3. ABRAHAM FIXING AN ISSUE NOT “THE” ISSUE

GENESIS 21:25—26

“THEN ABRAHAM COMPLAINED TO ABIMELEK ABOUT A WELL OF WATER THAT ABIMELEK’S SERVANTS HAD SEIZED. BUT ABIMELEK SAID, ‘I DON’T KNOW WHO HAS DONE THIS. YOU DID NOT TELL ME, AND I HEARD ABOUT IT ONLY TODAY.’”

THERE WAS A CONFLICT OVER THE WELL.

BUT THERE WAS ALSO A DEEPER ISSUE:

TRUTH. TRUST. RELATIONSHIP.

**ABRAHAM HAD AN ISSUE TO RESOLVE, BUT WAS HE
DEALING WITH THE ISSUE?**

THERE WAS NO PLAN B.

GENESIS 21:27—34

**ABRAHAM AND ABIMELEK COULD DWELL IN
PEACE.**

**BUT ABRAHAM REMAINED IN A PLACE WHERE
WORLDS COLLIDE.**

The background image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. The foreground is filled with numerous small, light-colored rocks and patches of dry, brownish vegetation. The middle ground is a dark, textured expanse, possibly a body of water or a dense forest, with some lighter patches visible. The sky is a solid, dark grey. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

4. ONE FOOT IN, ONE FOOT OUT

BEERSHEBA WAS A BORDER TOWN:

- **PROMISED LAND TO THE NORTH**
- **PHILISTINE TERRITORY TO THE SOUTH**

ABRAHAM WAS LIVING BETWEEN TWO WORLDS.

AND SO ARE WE.

A desert landscape with a winding road and mountains in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

KINGDOM OF GOD + KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD

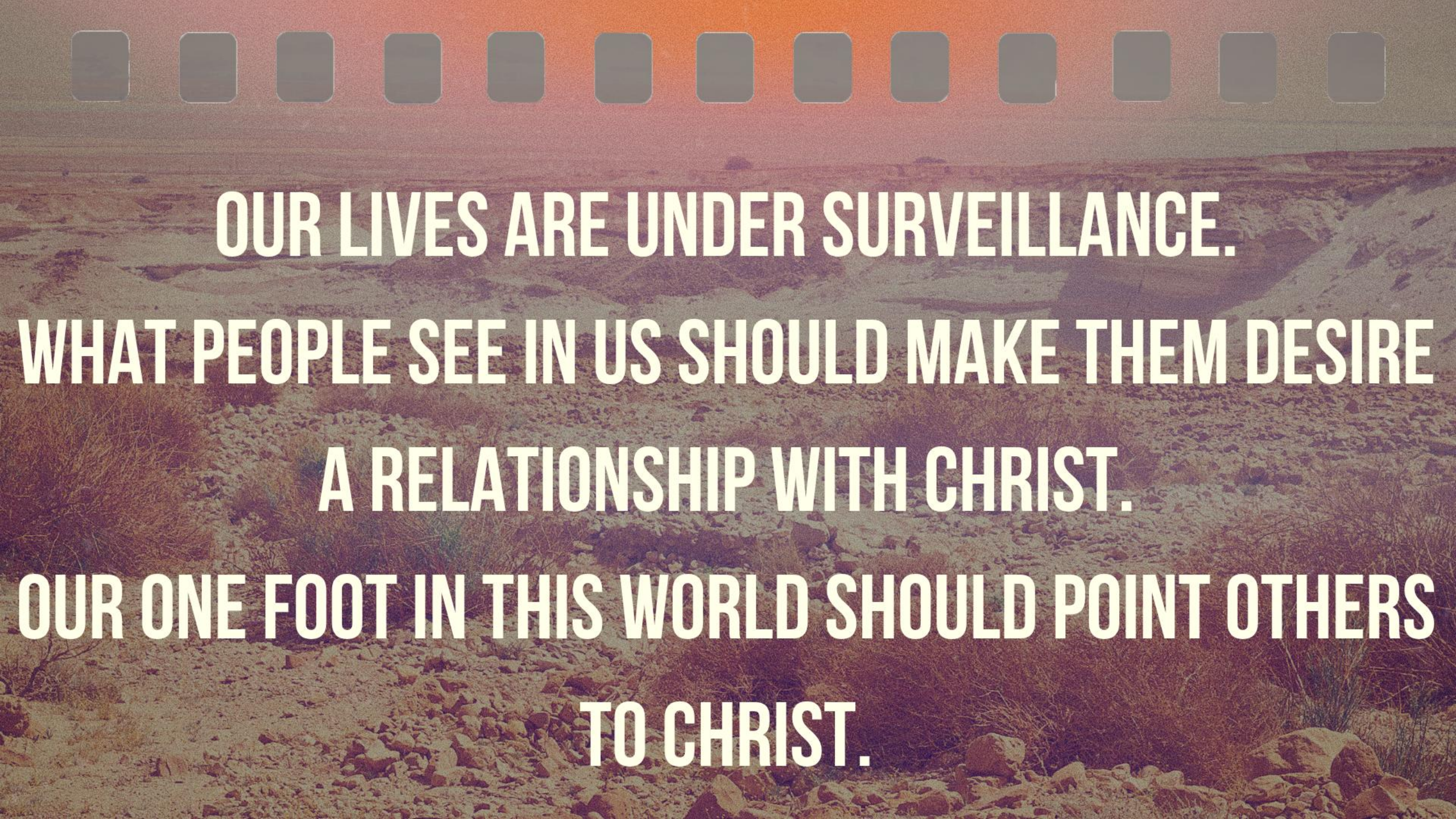
LUKE 17:20—21

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS A PRESENT REALITY.

WE ARE CALLED OUT

**BORN INTO SIN, BUT CALLED BY GOD'S GRACE TO
BE REBORN THROUGH THE SPIRIT, TURNING FROM
SIN AND TRUSTING JESUS AS SAVIOR AND LORD.**

WE ARE CALLED TOGETHER

The background is a photograph of a desert landscape with rocky terrain and sparse, dry vegetation. At the top of the image, there is a horizontal row of 12 dark, rounded rectangular shapes, resembling sprocket holes on a film strip. The text is overlaid in a bold, white, sans-serif font, arranged in four lines. The first line is centered, while the subsequent three lines are left-aligned.

OUR LIVES ARE UNDER SURVEILLANCE.
WHAT PEOPLE SEE IN US SHOULD MAKE THEM DESIRE
A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST.
OUR ONE FOOT IN THIS WORLD SHOULD POINT OTHERS
TO CHRIST.