

Jordan

Duran #1

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Old testament

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The similarities in Genesis 12 and 20 are that in each of these chapters when Abraham leaves the land to reside as an alien in a foreign land. His wife Sarah is introduced in both of these chapters as his sister and as a result the reigning foreign ruler takes Sarah to be one of his wives. As a result endangering God's promise of progeny to Abraham at this critical point God intervenes giving judgement upon the foreign ruler. Afterward, the ruler summons Abraham scolding him for his deception before restoring his wife to him. Each story concludes with the threat to the Matriarch being turned away.

The differences between these two passages are on Sarah's sexual impurity in Genesis 12, the Author is not concerned with whether or not Sarah's chastity being established as it appears in this passage but that Sarah was taken in by Pharaoh's harem and considered to be his wife. This prompted a divine intervention and judgement on Abraham. The Author of Genesis 20 is in contrast making sure the reader knows that Sarah remained chaste during her stay with the foreign ruler rather than suddenly inflicting judgement on the foreign ruler. God speaks to him in a dream which the Author explained, in verse 4 occurred before he had

approached her in the dream. This is important because it establishes Abimelech's innocence through his own testimony and God himself when In verse 6 he says, "It was I who kept you from sinning against me therefore I did not let you touch her".

Abraham admitted here that Sarah his wife was really his sister yet incest is denounced. "indeed, the Lord declared cursed is the one who lays with his sister the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother". Abraham was not beyond sin. His lie about Sarah to Abimelech reveals in genesis 20 was Abraham admitting that Sarah was of her father but not the daughter of my mother and she became my wife. But even stating this there is no real proof Abraham violated any laws because the incest laws were not given by Moses until 500 years after Abraham so he could not be held responsible for laws that had not been yet promoted.

In Genesis 12 and 20 it shows us that God intervenes several times in human affairs and that God blesses Abraham even though Abraham was fearful and filled with faithlessness. Gods actions demonstrates both his faithfulness and his mercy.

We can apply this to our lives because it shows us that even though at times, we are fearful or doubt God like Abraham did God is always with us. He is filled with mercy and is faithful so we need to learn how to trust God even when things go wrong.