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Old Testament Literature

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God's plan for Abraham

Abraham told his wife Sarah, "Tell me that you are a sister, not a wife." Abraham ordered Sarah to lie to protect herself from Gerar's king Abimelech. And Sarah kept her promise. Abimelech tried to call beautiful Sarah, but God told Abimelech, "She is Abraham's wife, so she should not touch it," she told the truth through his dreams. And God said to him that Abimelech was the right man and did not want him to sin and that Abraham was a prophet and would pray for Abimelech.

In the story of Gen 12: 10-13 and Gen 20: 1-18, Sarah and Abraham claimed to be brothers and sisters to each other. They did not change it in both incidents.

However, in Chapter 20, king Abimelech was informed by God that Abraham and Sarah are a couple, not brothers and sisters.

I can not tell if Abraham's actions were right or wrong. Indeed, Abraham was at risk of entering a country he did not know. Abraham does not know what kind of person Abimelech, and I think he needed to see if he was the right person or not. If King killed Abraham, Sarah would be alone.

He had to survive for Sarah. I believe Abraham's actions were unavoidable in that respect. If I were Abraham, I think I would have done the same thing as Abraham.

However, by another view, Abraham was traveling according to the word of God. God had sent Abraham to travel for some reason, so God must have protected Abraham in whatever situation. If Abraham and Sarah had 100% trust in God, they did not need to lie to King. The case in which humans could not trust 100% God is like Adam and Eve, lacked trust in God.

What I learned from both of these Bible accounts is that "God will always protect the human beings needed for his plans." God protected Sarah, who lied, from Abimelech. God also saved Abraham, who lied to defend himself. God has completely protected them from the powers of the human so that they can fulfill their vocation.

God protected Abimelech, too, from committing adultery. Not only that, God tried to maintain a good relationship between Abraham and Abimelech. Because God introduces Abraham as a prophet, Abimelech could trust Abraham. And Abraham lived safely wherever he likes, rather than in danger. God wanted to protect this couple until Abraham and Sarah gave birth to the promised son Isaac. This couple of Abraham and Sarah had to overcome many challenges, but God knew they could make it. That is why God kept everything for Abraham and Sarah.

The Christian population of my home country, Japan, is less than 1%. I became the only Christian in my family in my early twenties. I thought I believed in God 100%. However, I was in trouble with domestic violence 16 years ago when I moved to New York. I became depressed,

lost home and job, and considered suicide. I left from God. However, God never left me and used various people to rescue me from depression. God still needs me for his purpose. 100% of human's idea is very vague. Because humans are weak, I think that having a time when even a person like Abraham could not trust God would encourage many Christians.