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Old testament

Genesis is the first book of the bible, more specifically the first book of the old testament. Genesis focuses on the beginning of time also known as the creation story. Throughout the book of Genesis Abraham was a key figure who was frequently mentioned.

In Genesis 12:10-13:2 it demonstrates Abraham's personality. This chapter shows a graceful and humble side to Abraham which is what God perceived him as. This chapter focuses on the fact that Abraham travelled to Egypt due to the famine. This doesn't mean that Abraham travelled to Egypt because of the lack of hunger but in the fact the lack of compassion in God. In this scenario famine is more of a spiritual hunger which people lacked, therefore Abraham wanted to make a change and spread the word of God. It wasn't as easy as it seemed for Abraham to do so, this was because of Abraham's wife Sarah. Abraham's wife Sarah was very beautiful as a result it could lead to Abraham being killed. Therefore Abraham told Sarah to lie and tell the Egyptians they were brother and sister rather than Husband and Wife for his safety.

Genesis 20:1-18 focuses on Abraham's interaction with Abimelech King of Gerar. As previously stated before, Abraham insisted to others including Abimelech that Sarah was his sister and not his wife. However Sarah was taken and sent away by Abimelech. However God appeared in Abimelech's dream stating how he was in the wrong for taking Sarah away as Sarah was married. In Abimelech's defense he was told they were brother and sister from Abraham. Confused about the sin he caused Abimelech went on to confront Abraham about his deceit. Abraham strongly defended himself against Abimelech. Abimelech was given an ultimatum by God if Sarah returned he would be fine but if he chooses not to there would be consequences. Abimelech strongly obeyed God and returned Sarah and gifted her and Abraham which represented a sign of innocence. Abraham prayed to God and eventually Abimelech and Sarah were healed.

Although both stories differed from one another, they shared significant similarities. The first story focused on Abraham wanting to go to Egypt due to the famine. The second story focused on Abraham actually carrying out that task. By praying for Abimelech and making him realise how omnipotent God actually is it gave Abimelech more compassion and faith in God. Another similarity between the two stories is Abraham was true to his word about protecting himself and trying to not get killed. He stated that in the first story and he demonstrated that in the second story.

Although Abraham had the intention of being deceitful by lying about Sarah's identity I still find him more graceful and humble in the first story rather than the second one. In the first story Abraham expresses the importance of famine and shows eagerness to make a change. Whereas in the second story Abraham's deceit got King Abimelech in trouble and to me Abraham didn't seem that remorseful. He just was interested in saving his own back. Abraham lied about who Sarah was which just started a lot of problems and allowed people to fear that they have been sinful to God therefore I don't think he was as helpful as he was in the first story.

In my opinion I don't think Abraham was right in his actions. I don't think his deceit about Sarah was ethical. As a prophet he is supposed to lead by example and the only thing Abraham is teaching us here is to lie your way out to get out of a bad situation. This is wrong because this is sinful to God and therefore has consequences. Also Abraham's actions didn't just have consequences for himself but for those around him. This was shown by Abimelech being seen as sinful to God because of deceit caused by Abraham.

These stories teach me that God is omnipotent therefore he is more powerful than anything. I learnt that God sees everything and has a plan for everyone. The second story demonstrates that God tries his best to look out for everyone. God didn't allow Abimelech to touch Sarah to risk further sin.