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Abraham "Wife-Sister" Narratives

At this time Abram went to Egypt since there was a famine in the land. He warned his wife Sarai that the Egyptians would consider her a beautiful woman. He knew in his heart they would kill him and take her up as their wife. He preplanned to call her his sister, which she was his half-sister. Truthfully, he was her half brother by their shared father. When they arrived in Egypt, the Egyptians saw Sarai was beautiful as Abram said. They soon went to the Pharaoh and bragged about her beauty. Sarai was taken to the Pharaoh, and Abram was treated with kindness and gifts.

God brought plagues upon the Pharaoh's house to get his attention and warn him about taking another man's wife. There was a discussion between Pharaoh and Abram about the misinformation. The Pharaoh could not understand why Abram would lie and allow him to take his wife. He then demanded Abram take Sarai and leave immediately. They were led to the land and headed toward Negev. When they arrived in Gerar, the Abimelech king took Sarai for his wife.

Abram also stated Sarai was his sister and avoided the information of her being his wife. God then appeared in Abimelech's dream and warned him of his wrongdoing in taking Sarai. Abimelech pleaded with God and begged for grace. God knew his heart and avoided him from sinning with her. He then demanded Abimelech restore her back to her rightful husband Abram. God identified Abram as a prophet and called him to pray over the king.

Abimelech desired to follow Gods orders and quickly called to Abram. He asked him why he would lie, also how he caused their nation to be under threat and judgment from God. Abram's reasoning was his knowledge of their disbelief in God, and his fear of being slain. He also explained it was also not a lie, but the truth of them being siblings through their shared father. This was her commitment to Abram as they traveled to identify as siblings. Abimelech then gathered sheep, servants and offered them to Abram, as well Sarai. He also shared any place on his land for them to settle. They also received silver and were protected on the land anywhere they chose to settle. Abraham then prayed over the Kings family and healed all in their household, also to be fertile.

One of the main reasons Abram was led to call Sarai his sister and not wife was fear of their lives. He knew they would take his life to have her. Sarai was described as a beautiful woman. Not only was God protecting Abram in this way, but He also was protecting Sarai. It seems they had to become more fearless throughout the travels.

However, God is not a man that He should lie, and though Abram called her his sister, they did speak the truth. It was as though they were omitting another half of the truth. God was also speaking to the Pharaoh's and kings through this situation. The Lord was testing the hearts of men and using Abram to heal and pray over these households.

Cited Work:

https://defendinginerrancy.com/bible-solutions/Genesis_20.12.php