

Isabella Ribeiro

Dr. David Emanuel

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Abraham Forgiven and Protected by God

Comparing texts from Genesis, I realized God forgave Abraham and granted him a good life after he repented of his sins. Genesis 12:10-13:2 tells the story of Abraham being forced out of Canaan and going to the land of Egypt due to a famine in the country. He fears that the Egyptians will kill him and take Sarah because of her great beauty there. He asks Sarah to lie and presents her as his sister, not his wife. When they arrived in Egypt, the Egyptians saw Sarah's beauty and took her into Pharaoh's palace. As a result, Pharaoh treated Abram well, giving him gifts of sheep, cattle, donkeys, servants, and camels. However, the Lord sent plagues and diseases to Pharaoh and his household because of the sin they had committed by taking Sarah. Pharaoh eventually discovered that Sarah was Abram's wife, not his sister, and he angrily sent Abram and Sarah away, along with all their possessions. Abram and Sarah then returned to the land of Canaan.

Genesis 20:1-18 tells the story of Abraham in Gerar, where he again introduces Sarah as his sister before King Abimelech. Abimelech took Sarah to be his wife, but God warned him in a dream that she was already married, and he promptly returned her to Abraham. Abraham and Sarah were rebuked for their deception, but Abimelech gave them gifts and allowed them to live in peace in Gerar. After God healed Abimelech and his household from the disease inflicted upon them by taking Sarah, Sarah gave birth to their son Isaac.

The two incidents involving Abraham presenting Sarah as his sister are similar in some respects but also have significant differences. In the two passages, Abraham fears for their safety and introduces Sarah as his sister to avoid trouble. Consequently, the local king is deceived and takes Sarah as his wife. However, in Genesis 12:10-13:2, in Egypt, the truth is discovered, and Abraham and Sarah are sent back to Canaan. In the second narrative, in Gerar, divine interference prevents the consummation of marriage. In Genesis 12:10-13:2, Abraham was sent back to Canaan without the gifts Pharaoh had given him. In Genesis 20:1-18 incident, Abimelech rewards Abraham with gifts and lands. In the first prose, Abraham was seen as a foreigner and not welcome in Egypt. In the second prose incident, Abimelech treats Abraham with respect and appreciation.

Abraham's attitude in presenting Sarah as his sister can be seen as dishonesty and lack of faith, and he made the same mistake twice. On the other hand, he may have acted this way because of concern for her safety and that of Sarah in a strange and potentially dangerous situation. Faith is an essential part of the biblical narrative, and as a result, Abraham's action in doubting divine protection can be seen as a sin.

Genesis 26:1-25 tells the story of Isaac, Abraham's son. In the first verses, there was a famine in the land, and Isaac went to Gerar, where Abimelech was king. God appeared to Isaac and instructed him not to go to Egypt but to go to the land he would show him. God promised to be with him and bless him and his descendants. Isaac told the people of Gerar that his wife, Rebekah was his sister, not his wife. Because he was afraid they would kill him to take her. However, Abimelech discovers the truth and warns his people not to harm Isaac or Rebekah. Isaac reopens the wells that his father Abraham had dug, which the Philistines had filled with earth, and digs new wells. Isaac's servants eventually drill a well that no one quarrels over, and

Isaac builds an altar to the Lord in Beersheba. Abimelech and his adviser visit Isaac and make a covenant of peace. Isaac's servants find water in the well they dug in Beersheba, and Isaac names it Shibah.

The stories of Abraham presenting Sarah as his sister teach several things about God in the Bible: God is faithful: Although Abraham acted with a lack of faith on some occasions, God continues to protect and bless him. Is evident in the stories in which the kings in Gerar and Abimelech reward Abraham. God is protective: God protects Abraham and Sarah from any damage or danger in both incidents. This reinforces the idea that God is protective and cares for his people, even when they fail. God is sovereign: God controls circumstances regardless of human actions. Although Abraham tried to control the situation by presenting Sarah as his sister, God acted in a way that protected and accomplished his plans.

The stories of Abraham and Sarah are old, but they continue to reflect reality. Lying is often considered easier than having faith in God. Lying may solve the problem temporarily, but it creates a bigger problem in the long run. While having faith in God requires that we wait on God's timing and not man's timing, even during challenging circumstances. The stories of Abraham introducing Sarah as his sister teach us to trust God, act with honesty and integrity, learn from our mistakes, and count on God's protection and blessing in our lives.