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Old Testament
Abraham Essay

Genesis 12:10-13:2, Genesis 20:1-18

The two stories out of the book of Genesis share many similarities but also contrast each other in the way God feels. The first story is a simple story about Abraham and his wife Sarai traveling to a new land due to there being a famine in the land. Abraham tells his wife that when they get to the king she has to call him her brother because if she tells them that he is their wife they will kill him. When they get to Egypt she tells the Pharaoh that Abraham is her brother and the Pharaoh treats Abraham nicely. Abraham became extremely wealthy while the Pharaoh took Sarai as his wife. God then inflicts serious diseases to the Pharaoh and his family because of Sarai. The Pharaoh, scared for his life, returns Sarai to Abraham and questions him why he did not tell him that she was his wife. He kicked them out of Egypt so Abraham left with all the wealth he was given. The second story is very familiar but has some significant differences. The second story starts by Abraham meeting a king in Gerar where he tells him the same thing as the Pharaoh. He says that Sarai is his sister so the king takes Sarai as his wife. Then God comes into his dream and tells him he is doomed because he took a prophet's wife as his own and that he understands the king did not know she was a prophet's wife so he has to return her to Abraham so he can pray for him which will save his life. He tells all his servants this and they are all scared so the king calls upon Abraham. He asks the same questions to Abraham that the Pharaoh did but Abraham responded this time. He says he saw a place with no fear of God and since she is technically his half sister so he told her that because he was scared they would have killed him for his wife. The king lets them leave and gives them plenty of riches so Abraham prays for him and God heals him and his family.

There were many obvious similarities and differences in both stories. Some of the obvious similarities are Abraham telling these men in power that his wife Sarai is his sister and them taking her as their wife and giving Abraham riches and wealth. It also shares the fact that the Kings let Abraham leave due to God's warning and also allows him to keep all their riches. Both kings are also healed by God after this interaction with Abraham. Some of the differences are Abraham actually responding to the questions he was asked in the second story as well as actually being able to read what God told the king in his dream. God tells the king that he will die as a punishment for taking Abraham's life unless he returns her to Abraham and allows Abraham to pray for her.

I believe Abraham was wrong in what he was doing to these kings. He was openly telling them not whole truths and kind of using them for the riches they will give him. He only told them that his sister was his sister and not that she was their wife knowing that they would want to make her theirs. He knew the benefits this would bring to him. It felt like he was lying to them for his benefits. I am not too knowledgeable on the old testament but while I was reading the scripture provided for this assignment a word stuck out to me. That word was called prophet. Abraham was considered god's prophet and that instantly jogged what little memory I have of a different bible story in the old testament. I remember that Noah was also a prophet of god.

The stories teach me that God can be very stern at certain moments. God will do everything he can to prevent his beautiful kids from getting hurt although he still poisoned and sickened the kings, he did heal them after Sarai was returned to Abraham. This shows me he is very strict in what he wants but he is understanding, caring, forgiving, and merciful. He is open to understanding the situation as he did in the second passage with the king in his dream. He told the king that he understands he did not know she was his wife and that's why he allowed him the

alternative of returning her to Abraham. I believe a major lesson I learned from this is that God will always have his servants back. He will always be prepared to help me and have my back in situations where I have to lose my wife or I will die. He will get us out of the situation as well as bless us like how Abraham got blessed.