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BIB 102
25 March 2023

Abraham's Travels

In the stories of Gen 12:10-13:2, and Gen 20:1-18, Abram attempts to identify his wife, Sarai as his sister to avoid conflict with the power establishment of the regions Egypt and Negev. God commanded Abram, who was later known as Abraham to go on a journey where he would later be instructed on the assignments he needed to fulfill. God promised Abraham a great nation and blessings amongst his entire family if he obeyed the Lord's commands. Abraham faced many trials and tribulations in his quests to do God's work, nevertheless he and many others were blessed by God's divine promises. In this essay, I will be talking about the incidents that took place within Abraham's travel and how the blessings of Abraham inspired nations to seek God's blessings through their own experience with faith and obedience to God.

Gen 12:10-13:2 compares to Gen 20:1-18 because Abraham claimed his wife, Sarai, who is later known as Sarah to be his sister so she can spare his life. During their visit to Egypt, Abraham knew the Egyptians would be fond of his wife's beauty and he was right. Due to her charisma, the officials of Pharaoh praised Sarah unto him, and she was later taken into his palace. As intended, Abraham was treated with comfort and he then acquired sheep and cattle, male and female servants, donkeys, and camels. God then intervened, inflicting a crucial disease on Pharaoh and his household because of his relation to Sarah despite him unknowingly not being aware that Abram and Sarah are married. Pharaoh asked his men to promptly escort Abraham and his wife out of his court and Egypt with everything they obtained, including silver and gold. This relates to Gen 20:1-18 because while Abraham stayed in Gerar, he introduced the king of Gerar, Abimelek to his wife Sarah as his sister again. God visited Abimelek in his dream and warned him that he will be a dead man if he upholds this sin after being told by God himself, Sarah is a married woman. Abraham was later granted sheep and cattle along with female and male slaves by Abimelek. In addition, Abraham was given a thousand shekels of silver.

The difference between both incidents is that Pharaoh and his men were infected with a disease. Meanwhile, the Lord spared Abimelek and his household from death because he kept from sinning against God and returned Sarah back to her husband, Abraham. In addition, in Gen 20:1-18, Sarah was fertile because she was promised that she would bare a son very soon. If she was touched by

Abimelek, she could have potentially been pregnant for Abimelek. However, prior to this, Sarah was not in her childbearing years. Another significant difference in the power of prayer. Abraham being the prophet that he was, was able to pray for Abimelek and his family so the curse of death would be lifted. This was allowed to happen because of the practice of obedience. Pharaoh and his household remained ill.

These stories resonate to a similar incident that happened in Gen 26:1-11. Isaac, son of Abraham had the same concept his father had. Isaac was married to his beautiful wife, Rebekah. He referred to her as his sister instead of his wife just like Abraham for the sake of his safety in the land of Philistine. The difference in all three accounts was the decrease of danger. Sarah was taken on both accounts by Pharaoh and Abimelek. Although Sarah did not have relations with Abimelek, as a result, he sent Abraham away with gifts and freedom in the land. On the other hand, it is possible that she could have relations with Pharaoh which justifies his illness amongst his household. Pharaoh made Abraham and Sarah leave the land with everything they acquired. After noticing the intimate relationship between Isaac and Rebekah, Abimelek also granted Isaac and his wife safety in the land, ordering death on anyone who harms Isaac and Rebekah. Later, Isaac planted crops on the land and God blessed him where he then became rich, and his wealth grew.

These three incidents taught me that God is merciful, and he truly blesses those who obey his commands. I was conflicted on whether Abraham referring to his wife as his sister was a good idea or what the consequences would be for fooling Pharaoh and Abimelek, but I was reminded that God frequently visited Abraham and his life was in his hands because not only did he fear God, but he obeyed Him always and was fruitful at the end. Abraham's travels has allowed me to believe that this can be applied to my daily life just by following the instructions God will call me to do even if I obtain something gracious at the end or not.