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BIB 102: Old Testament

Writing Assignment 1

In Genesis 12:10-13:2, Abram (later known as Abraham) and his wife Sarai (later known as Sarah) journeyed to Egypt to escape a famine in the land of Canaan. When they arrived, Abram became fearful that the Egyptians would kill him and take his wife because she was very beautiful. So, he asked Sarai to tell everyone that she was his sister instead of his wife. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, then took Sarai into his palace as his wife, which caused God to send plagues upon Pharaoh and his household. After discovering that Sarai was actually Abram's wife, Pharaoh expelled them both from Egypt.

In Genesis 20:1-18, Abraham and Sarah were traveling to Gerar, and once again, Abraham told the people there that Sarah was his sister. King Abimelech of Gerar then took Sarah into his harem to be his wife, but God intervened and warned Abimelech in a dream that Sarah was actually Abraham's wife. Abimelech returned Sarah to Abraham and gave him gifts, including sheep, cattle, and servants.

The two stories have several similarities. In both accounts, Abraham and Sarah find themselves in a foreign land, and Abraham tells people that Sarah is his sister. In both stories, the foreign kings take Sarah into their households as their wife, and God intervenes to protect her.

Additionally, in both stories, Abraham receives wealth and gifts from the foreign kings before leaving.

However, there are also differences between the two stories. In the first story, Pharaoh takes Sarah into his palace, and God sends plagues to punish Pharaoh. In the second story, Abimelech takes Sarah into his harem, but God warns him in a dream, and Abimelech returns Sarah to Abraham. Furthermore, the first story occurs before the birth of Isaac, while the second story occurs after Isaac is born.

Regarding whether Abraham was right in his actions, it is difficult to say. While lying is generally considered wrong, Abraham may have believed that it was necessary to protect himself and Sarah. However, God ultimately protected Sarah, and both Abraham and Sarah had to suffer the consequences of their actions.

The stories in Genesis 12:10-13:2 and 20:1-18 resonate with other incidents in Genesis, such as the story of Cain and Abel, where God protects Cain after he kills Abel. The stories also demonstrate that God is a protector of His people and will intervene to ensure their safety.

Overall, the stories in Genesis 12:10-13:2 and 20:1-18 teach us about the consequences of lying and the importance of trusting in God's protection. Despite Abraham's deceit, God intervened to protect Sarah and ultimately blessed Abraham. These stories also demonstrate that God is faithful to His promises and will protect His people, even when they make mistakes.