

Genesis 20 New American Standard Bible

Abraham's Treachery

Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he lived for a time in Gerar. ²And Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent *men* and took Sarah.

³But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married." ⁴Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You kill a nation, even *though* blameless?"

⁵Did he himself not say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." ⁶Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return *her*, know that you will certainly die, you and all who are yours."

⁸So Abimelech got up early in the morning and called all his servants, and told all these things in their presence; and the people were greatly frightened. ⁹Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done." ¹⁰And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What have you encountered, that you have done this thing?"

¹¹Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. ¹²Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife; ¹³and it came about, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This is the kindness which you will show to me: everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'"

¹⁴Abimelech then took sheep and oxen and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned his wife Sarah to him. ¹⁵Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; settle wherever you please." ¹⁶To Sarah he said, "Look, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is your vindication before all who are with you, and before everyone you are cleared."

¹⁷Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his female slaves, so that they gave birth *to children*. ¹⁸For the Lord had completely closed all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls observations and insights

1. Why does Abraham move?
2. What does it mean to sojourn in Gerar

3. Abraham is up to his old ways, saying Sarah is his sister!
4. Why does he keep on doing this?
5. Inevitably King Abimelech took Sarah to be his wife, Sarah must have been quite a woman, she is over 90 and she draws the attention of the King!
6. God came to the King in a dream of the night. What does that mean?
7. Scriptures read 'God said to him', so how did God speak to him?
8. The message of conviction that King Abimelech received was - 'you are a dead man walking because you have taken Abraham's wife Sarah to be your wife'.
9. The truth was Abimelech, as far as he was concerned, had taken Abraham's sister, not his wife.
10. God declares to Abimelech that he had kept them separate and thus, had protected them both from sinning.
11. Abimelech defends his position and the future of his nation to God as an intercessor.
12. He redirects the blame to Abraham. Was this right?
13. Why did Sarah agree to go along with Abraham and tell the King that she was his sister?
14. The King pleads his innocence. Was that fair?
15. God thinks so and agrees with the King and reveals it was Him who had protected him.
16. God instructs the King to restore Sarah to Abraham or he will die. What would you do?
17. Not only the King would die but the whole nation, including all the ones the King loves.
18. How would you respond to a declaration from the King, telling you God is going to destroy the land.
19. The King is perplexed by Abraham's actions. Are you?
20. Was that a fair position for the King to hold?
21. Do you agree Abraham behaved quite wrongly?
22. The King asks for an explanation from Abraham. Is that fair?
23. Why did Abraham think that the land he was now living in was a godless land and if so, why did he go there?
24. We finally get the truth about Abraham's default position regarding Sarah – it turns out she is his half-sister! How do you feel about a half-sister becoming a wife?
25. God calls Abraham to wander from his father's house, another way of saying 'when God called me'.
26. Early on in the relationship with Sarah, Abraham made a pact to protect themselves by declaring this lie. Was that a right thing to do?
27. Why did the King give gifts to Abraham and Sarah having been treated so poorly?
28. The King returned Sarah to Abraham. Do you think this is a wise move?
29. The King consents for Abraham to live anywhere in his land. Why?
30. Sarah is vindicated with a thousand pieces of silver.
31. Abraham the prophet prayed for the King.
32. The King's barren curse is broken.
33. What disease did he have that made him and the rest of the land unfruitful?
34. When you step outside of God's ways you make yourself very vulnerable.