

**Abraham, Sarah, and Abimelech**

Gen 20.1 And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar. 2 Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." 4 But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also? 5 Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister'?" And she, even she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this." 6 And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. 7 Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours." 8 So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid. 9 And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done." 10 Then Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?" 11 And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife. 12 But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. 13 And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This is your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, "He is my brother." ' ' " 14 Then Abimelech took sheep, oxen, and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham; and he restored Sarah his wife to him. 15 And Abimelech said, "See, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you." 16 Then to Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; indeed this vindicates you before all who are with you and before everybody." Thus she was rebuked. 17 So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children; 18 for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

► Abraham & Sarah are in the Hall of Fame of Faith, but that doesn't mean they never \_\_\_\_\_ in their faith, and when they did, Scripture shows it. The only perfect example we have is \_\_\_\_\_. All other examples show that their faith was sustained by \_\_\_\_\_.

Hb 11.8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise ... 11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised ... 12.1 Therefore ... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross

1Pet 1.3 [T]he God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope ..., 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ... 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while ... you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold ... though ... tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ

– What we see in Gn 12-24 is God causing Abraham & Sarah to be born again to a living hope, then \_\_\_\_\_ them by his power thru faith, using \_\_\_\_\_ to train & strengthen their faith, while causing their sins & weaknesses to come to the surface so they could be skimmed off thru sanctification over time.

► In ch20, the first thing that should strike us is that we have seen this scenario before in ch \_\_\_\_\_. In both, \_\_\_\_\_ gets the better of Abraham, and he imitates \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden by failing to shield his wife from danger — instead getting \_\_\_\_\_ to act as his shield. What should he have done instead?

► Once again, God must \_\_\_\_\_ to protect Sarah, the marriage, & God's \_\_\_\_\_ of redemption.

► What is striking about God's conversation with Abimelech in the dream?

– A. pleads blamelessness of heart, and God \_\_\_\_\_ (5-6).

– God indicates that the malady upon A.'s house was sent in \_\_\_\_\_ (6).

– But Abimelech must follow thru by restoring \_\_\_\_\_ or else God will send judgment (7).

► What is striking about A. and his men's response? (8)

► What is striking about A.'s conversation with Abraham?

– A. \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham in righteousness (9-10).

– In comparison, Abraham seems \_\_\_\_\_ (11-13).

► What is striking about A's actions after the conversation?

– A. not only restores Sarah, he gives Abraham \_\_\_\_\_, he asks Abraham to \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ of his land, and he gives an enormous sum of \_\_\_\_\_ to make publicly clear Sarah's purity (14-16).

► Between the two, A. & Abraham, who do we like more here?

► Abraham is the Lord's prophet, and God upholds his office, but in terms of behavior, who is the Israelite in this passage and who is the Gentile? (See, e.g., Gn16; 2Sam11; Jn8.44).

► How does God show his faithfulness & mercy to both A. and Abraham?