

Genesis chapter 20 (Abraham's second lack of faith)

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Genesis 20:1 Abraham travels south; not all the way down to Egypt but far enough so that he once again comes upon people who take what they want (much like the Egyptians).

Genesis 20:2-3: Abraham is once again back in the chapter 12 scenario where he claims (now) Sarah to be his sister. She must have once again been taken in to a harem but this time it is in King Abimelech's harem. And God now confronts Abimelech and tells him that he is a dead man walking because Sarah is the wife of another.

What put Abraham in this mess again? Last time he went down to Egypt because the "famine was great in the land" and he told (then) Sarai to say she was his sister. Remember just a short while ago the LORD told him that this time next year

that He would return to them (chapter 18:10): "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold Sarah your wife shall have a son". Why leave the area? If it was because of a lack of something why wouldn't he ask what they should do from the Great Provider Himself. He assuredly kept God out of any decision making.

Genesis 20:4 (Again God's hand is protecting Sarah); Abimelech did not come near her.

Genesis 20:5 Abimelech was not nominated for King of the year but still he thought she truly was unwed. Because Abraham lied and told him so.

Genesis 20:6-10 Abimelech **CALLS OUT ABRAHAM FOR THE SINNER THAT HE IS!!**

Abraham's, and our, actions as a man of God acting ungodly and like every other sinner ruin God's reputation. What if Abimelech was never told the truth about the situation by God?

What if he would have found out some other way? (51)

Would he have wanted to more about the God who this man serves? We are absolutely no different! If we don't take our Sunday in to Monday then no one who knows us will want to know Jesus, or even care about our testimony! Now this does not mean that if you slip, once in a great great great while, that you have blown it with that person. No, that is when we/I have to say, "I am so sorry", "That was wrong of me", "... "That was a lie that I told you", "... "It was me who gossiped", "... "You were right and I was wrong" or any other thing that says that was the old sin nature and that through Christ I am increasingly further away from that. Of course staying away from places that might take us back is the first defense. "Lead me not in to temptation, but deliver me from evil."

Genesis 20:11-14 Sarah is returned and Abraham is given gifts and told he could use the land for grazing. Oddly enough Abimelech should the hospitality and grace that Abraham should have.

Genesis 20:17-18 Even when God's people stray God is still at work. Sometimes working overtime so that we don't mess things up past the point of no return. He kept Sarah pure because she was promised a son from Abraham by Him. Abimelech's household would be blessed because he did the right thing.

Genesis 21:1-8 As promised Sarah bears a son and Abraham names him Isaac. Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born and the Scripture makes it very clear that both were extremely far past child bearing years. (The odds probably close to that of a virgin bearing a son.) All who were around knew without a doubt that it was God's doing. Rabbit trail: →

As we go through Genesis, and continue the flow through (52) Exodus we will see God doing supernatural signs and wonders.

He will open up the ground to swallow up evil, part ocean like bodies of water, (he has rained down hail stones and fire), caused water to flow from a rock, delivered walled cities with a marching band, have His angel (one) slay 185,000 warriors and on and on. These superworkings were put on pause during the Age of Grace that we currently live in. On pause till the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and we are raptured. But once He authorizes the onset of the Time of Jacob's Trouble, or the Tribulation period as we know it, all of these superworkings along with the 10 plagues 2.0 will once again come to be present and even exponentially more worse such as "never has been before nor ever will be again".

I say this so that when we come accross things like the destruction of Sodom and Gommorrah of last week that we understand that they will be semi-common place during the 7 years of God's wrath.

Genesis 21: 9-11 Sometimes the consequences of sin don't come to fruition until years later. In Genesis 16: 16 we were told that Abram was 86 years old when Ishmael was born so this makes him 14-16 years old. So here, Sarah now having a son of her own now hates Hagar even more than she did in chapter 16 when Hagar ran away the first time. Hagar is just a pawn and was only doing as instructed by Sarah and Abram never the less Sarah^{gets} possessive and tells Abraham to get rid of her and her boy, who is also Abraham's son. Ugly, Ugly, Ugly situation with no winners! Abraham is heartbroken.

Genesis 21: 12-18 God tells Abraham not to be sorrowful

But that he does have to send Hagar and Ismael away. (53)
And that Ismael was not to be a joint heir to Abraham's

household. He also tells Abraham not to be sad because He would also make of Ismael a great (large in number) nation. God does this because Ismael is the son of Abraham (a man that God considers righteous).*

Hagar and Ismael are given some supplies but run out. So Hagar leaves Ismael under a shrub (probably for shade). She travels far enough away from him so that she will not have to witness him suffering. The LORD hears Hagar's words and the cry of Ismael and supplies them with a well to drink from. He promises Hagar and Ismael the same thing He promised Abraham, that Ismael will be the Father of a great nation.

Genesis 21:19-21 God blesses Hagar with hope for her son's future and the Scripture says (vs 20) "So God was with the lad;" so that would lead me to believe that at least that first generation was blessed. The Ismaelites would be the Arab nations.

Genesis 21:22-24 Abraham swears to deal with Abimelech's descendants with the same hospitality and grace awarded him.

* God deals kindly and prosperously with Hagar & Ismael because of Abraham. This once again proves that our righteousness is based on our faith. And just like Abraham documenting his failures so that they can be transcribed by Moses for us to learn from as he too learned from them are what God considers Faith that is counted as righteousness. It's not the failures but rather the repentance after them and allowing the correction by God in our ways to avoid future mishaps what matter. We are not sinners because

we sin but rather sin because we are sinners. A born again believer will sin less and less as he/she/we grow. God counts only our righteous deeds of course not a licence to sin! (see printout Romans)