

FAITH AND DISBELIEF

Genesis chapter 20 is an account of Abraham responding to a very real threat with fear and worry despite all that God had promised and already done. Abraham is truly our father for I often act in disbelief when my difficulties seem bigger than my God. The good news for Abraham and us is that God is a promise keeper despite us. Remember, all this drama is a record of how God brought us Jesus Christ (our only hope) in the fulness of time. *Galatians 4:4*

What happened?

- Abraham lied calling Sarah his sister.
- Abimelech took her from Abraham.
- God intervened by threatening Abimelech in a dream.
- Abimelech returned Sarah to Abraham
- God protected the mother of Israel from whom the Messiah came. *Psalm 105:6-15*

Old habits die hard. Lord help my unbelief!

- Abraham lied about Sarah again! We know Abraham to be a man of faith yet here we see him stumble again. *Hebrews 11:8-19*
- Abraham forgot that he was the father of many nations. I forget that I am a child of the King and have an inheritance that I cannot even comprehend. *I Peter 1:3-9*
- So much of the Christian life is about being mindful of who we are in Christ. If Abraham was focused on his role in God's plan to make a people he would have had more courage as he entered Gerar. *Genesis 20:11-13 , II Timothy 1:1-12*

God's left a clear impression on King Abimelech.

- God threatened death to Abimelech for taking Sarah.
- He said to Abimelech "...I have kept you from sinning against me", not Sarah.
- Abimelech's words to Abraham show that he fears God and has little respect for Abraham.
- After this event there was fear of God in Gerar for years to come. *Genesis 26:26-31*
- Abimelech's household was restored after he obeyed God's instruction.

Abimelech likely had little respect for Abraham but he treated him well out of fear of God.

- We should treat all people with the same care, respecting their Creator. *Philippians 2:1-7*
- In God's economy there are only two kinds of people, the righteous and the wicked. If I classify individuals by any other measure, I will fail to love biblically. *Romans 1:14-17*