

Abraham and Abimelech

Genesis 20

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Abraham and Sarah moved to a region ruled by King Abimelech. Abraham thought, "These are a Godless people. They will want my wife and will kill me to get her." So he told everyone that Sarah was his sister, which was true... sort of. She was his half-sister; they had the same father, but different mothers.

King Abimelech took Sarah into his home. But that night God spoke to Abimelech in a dream, "You are a dead man. You have taken a married woman."

Abimelech pleaded, "Lord, Abraham told me she was his sister. And she herself said, 'Yes, he is my brother.' I am innocent."

God replied, "I know that you are innocent. That is why I have kept you from sleeping with her and doing anything wrong. This woman's husband is a prophet. If you return her, his prayers will save you. But if you insist on keeping her, you and all your people will die."

Early the next morning Abimelech summoned Abraham and said, "Why have you done this to us? What crime have I committed against you that you have brought such guilt upon me and my kingdom? I don't deserve to be treated like this; no one does!"

Abimelech returned Sarah to Abraham along with many valuable gifts including a substantial amount of silver as proof that Sarah had done nothing wrong.

Abraham prayed and King Abimelech was spared.