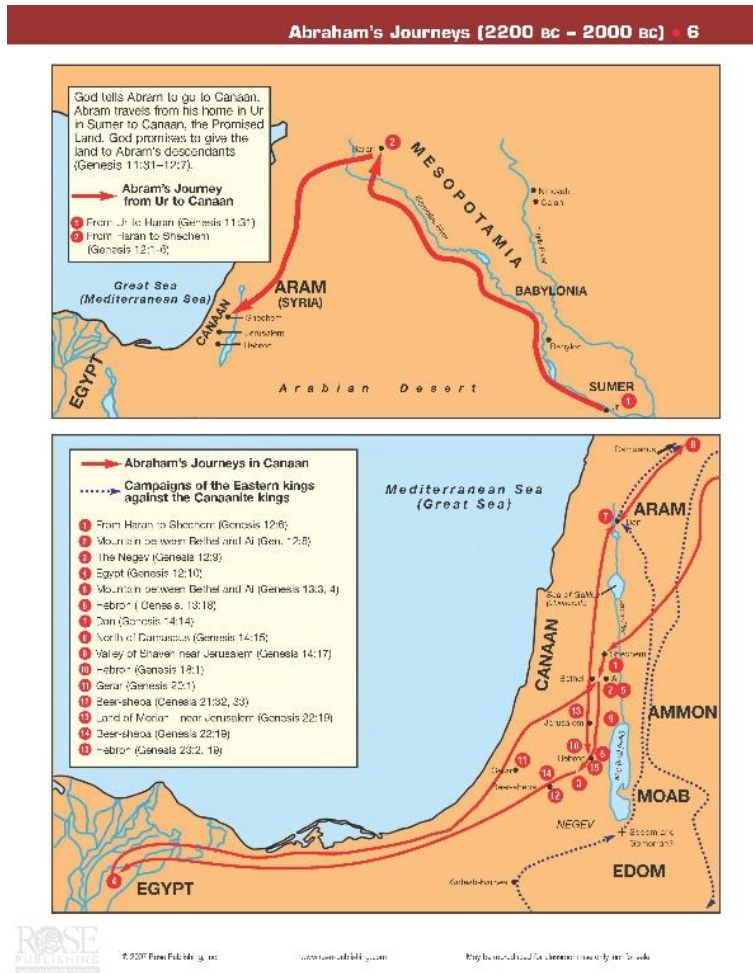


Cultivate Genesis Study Chapter 20

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 20 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.



Chapter 20 finds Abraham travelling again. Perhaps he moved because of the lingering sulphur smell from God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Or, he continued doing what God had commanded him in Genesis 13:17 to walk the land that He promised him.

Genesis 20:1-2 **"1**Now Abraham journeyed from there to the region of the Negev and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he was staying in Gerar, **2**Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar had Sarah brought to him."

Abraham and Sarah commit the same sin as they did in Egypt. They lied to the king and put Sarah in danger, once again, of entering a marriage to a foreign ruler. Only this time, they had both received God's word that their son would arrive *"at this time next year"*. Genesis 18:10-14.

Even though Abraham was a believer, he still had his old sin nature. Twenty-five years later he is repeating the same sin. As believers in Jesus, we also continue to struggle against our sin nature.

Read Galatians 5:16,17

From Thomas Constable's Notes on the Bible

"Walking "by the Spirit" means living moment by moment, submissively trusting in the Holy Spirit rather than in self. "'Walk by the Spirit' means 'let your conduct be directed by the Spirit.'" To 'walk by the Spirit' means to be under the constant, moment-by-moment direction, control, and guidance of the Spirit."

Is your walk constant a moment-by-moment direction under the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

No matter what you may be struggling with remember Romans 3:23-24, *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are **justified** freely by his **grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. "*

Justified means to be declared NOT Guilty.

Abraham, the "friend of God" had a lapse of faith, and made a flesh influenced decision. We read that there could have been very costly consequences of his sin, had not God intervened.

Genesis 20:3-8

God appeared to this Gentile king in a dream. God had previously appeared to Abraham, in person, in Genesis 18:1.

God is more than able to communicate to those that do not have a personal relationship with Him. The Bible has many instances where God appears in dreams.

1. Search the Bible for "the Lord appeared in a dream" or the Lord "spoke in a vision". Who did God reveal Himself to in this manner? Has God ever spoken to you in a dream?

God revealed the truth to Abimelech (a Philistine) about the woman he was about to commit adultery with. KJV, verse 5 uses the word *integrity*. In verse 6 **God kept Abimelech from sinning against HIM**. I wonder how many times God has held me back from sinning against Him. Life Application Study Bible says “What mercy on God’s part! How many times has God done the same for us, holding us back from sin in ways we can’t even detect? We have no way of knowing—we just know from this story that He can. God works just as often in ways we can’t see as in ways we can.”

Take some time to sit before the Lord and thank Him for keeping you from sins you may not even be aware of.

Abimelech addresses God, as Lord in Genesis 20:4.

Strong’s Concordance *Lord*- my Lord- emphatic form of ['adown](#); the Lord (used as a proper name of God only) -- (my) Lord.

Abimelech pleaded to Adonai that he was innocent because he was unaware of Abraham and Sarah’s deceit.

But all sin is still sin in the eyes of the Lord. The king was adding Sarah to his harem, which was not within God’s design for marriage from the beginning. So, the king was not without guilt. Genesis 2:24

Read Exodus 34:7

2. Three words are used here for offences against God. What words does your translation use? What are the differences between iniquity, transgression and sin?

Genesis 20:9-18

Abimelech confronts Abraham about his actions. He put Abimelech *and his kingdom* in a dangerous position before the Lord.

Charles Spurgeon said, “God will not allow His children to sin successfully. (We will never get away with it!) It is shameful when the world must rebuke a Christian, a servant of God.”

In vs 11 : Abraham said, “*Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.*”

Notice he says, “Because I thought (to myself).” Not, “I prayed and the Lord told me...”

How often our own thoughts are not the truths of God.

Read Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 16:2, Proverbs 21:2

3. Read Psalm 36:1-4 and write down the actions of a man (or woman) who has no fear of God.

4. Does this sound like the actions of Abimelech, in this instance, or of Abraham and Sarah? Explain.

Even for those of us who are redeemed by Jesus; because of our sin nature, we can fall into the attitude where we do not fear God.

Abraham was promised blessings, promised the land, he was promised numerous descendants (Genesis 17:1-8) Surely, he was in good favor with the Lord. Right?

Write out 1Corinthians 10:12

Read Leviticus 25:17, Deuteronomy 10:12, Ecclesiastes 8:12, Deuteronomy 28:58,59.

5. What do you take away from these verses?

Genesis 20:12 Sarah is Abraham's half sister

From Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges

"Abraham's excuse is based upon a half truth. Sarah may have been truly his sister; but this statement was no moral justification for his suppression of the fact that she was his wife. The further excuse in *Genesis 20:13*, that as he travelled about he always practised this mental reservation concerning Sarah, scarcely adds dignity to his line of defence."

Read Genesis 20:14-16

What's amazing is that even after Abimelech rebuked Abraham and Sarah he still gave them gifts. God's mercy and grace are beyond comprehension. Grace is when God gives us good things we don't deserve, and mercy is when he spares us from bad things we deserve. This should make us praise the Lord for all His goodness towards us!

6. Look up Scripture that speaks of God's worthiness of Praise.

Abraham prayed and Abimelech's household was restored. We know from Genesis 20:7 that it was God's will to heal Abimelech *if he obeyed* what God told him to do.

Did Abraham confess his sin to God in that prayer? The verses do not tell us this. In any case, his prayer for Abimelech was answered.

7. Could unconfessed sin have hindered Abraham's prayer?

Read 2Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 59:2 What do these verses show us?

Do you have unconfessed sin that is hindering your prayers? If so, stop and take care of that right now.