

**First Southern Baptist Church - September 18, 2019**  
**Father Abraham II - Genesis 12:1-20**

**I. Blessing (verses 1-3)**

-here's how the blessing works it's way out  
Blessing... but, there's a problem!

**II. Circumstances**

1. Famine - 12:10
  - did not pray for water... food, went to Egypt
  - famine in the very land of promise?
2. Initiates a series of events
3. Comparisons -
  - Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem
  - Joseph goes down to Egypt, involuntarily, during famine as well
4. To "live there for a while" - "sojourn"
  - I am a poor wayfaring stranger... -in Egypt

**III. Issues**

1. Wife-Sister Issue

Three times:

- 1) 12:1-13
  - Pharaoh/ Egypt
  - Abram/ Sarai
- 2) 20:1-18
  - Abimelech/ Gerar
  - Abram/ Sarai
- 3) 26:1-13
  - Abimelech/ Gerar
  - Isaac/ Rebekah

Men marrying sisters

- a common practice
- Cain's wives?

Solutions:

- 1) The Hurrian practice of men who married wives adopted them as "sisters"
- 2) Diplomatic marriage - by deception, the patriarchs substituted wives as "sisters" to make a covenant
- 3) Extensions of a gimmick
  - chapter 20 presupposes 12, and in 26 is Isaac following in his dad's footsteps
- 4) Let the story stand... in a simple and straightforward manner
  - \*The story rests on Abraham admitting that he lied... and the wonder is that God worked with him, and overrode his plot, cursing Pharaoh at the same time

-the twists and turns of the story show God at work, in miraculous ways

2. Aging Issue

She is beautiful at 65 - so beautiful...

65 years old - 12:4

90 years old - 17:17 - gives birth

His virility/ her attractiveness

Explanation:

-cultural gap

3. Abram's deception issue

-is it fair for God to curse Pharaoh, even though he didn't know?

**IV. Abraham's Plan**

1. The plan - 20:11-13

-reminded of Sarai's plan with Hagar

2. Rationale

-Fears, he is totally unprepared for such a test

1) Beauty will draw attention

2) They will murder me

No record that Abraham prayed... sought God's guidance

3. Cultural habits:

-like David took Uriah's wife (Bathsheba)

-common to take wives in war, to add to one's harem

-may have desired a beautiful older woman to add to harem

4. The truth of the lie

-half-truth

-she is a half-sister

-really, this is my sister

5. Problems with the plan:

1) Saved his own life... put her life in jeopardy

2) God blesses deception?

-no, God blesses regardless

He is a desperate man who endangers his wife to save himself... -where is his character?

Abram has not yet learned to trust the blessing, the Lord's help

**V. "But the Lord" (17)**

1. Gives "diseases" or "plagues"

2. "But"

-contrasts the welfare of Pharaoh and the welfare of Abram

-God steps in... and extends the blessing

3. Pharaoh rebukes Abram and expels him from Egypt (18-20) -with bounty

4. Abram leaves a rich man

**VI. God's hand:**

1. Profession is tested - as the famines come

-friendship with the world, is to be an enemy with God  
Obedience leads to blessing, blessing leads to testing

-tested for three reasons:

- 1) proves our faith is real
- 2) help our faith grow
- 3) bring glory to God

2. Sarai is saved

3. Abram gets a payoff

4. Deception is overridden, blessing extended

-bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you

5. Obstacles overcome:

-Pharaoh and his evil nation

-Sarai's risk

-famine in the land of promise

6. Will God keep His massive promise? Will Abram and Sarai be able to trust the promise?