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ABRAHAM PART 8

Abram made a “flesh decision” based upon his own “wisdom” to mitigate the circumstances of famine in the Negev, the dry place. He began his journey to Egypt where there was ample food.

As he approached near to Egypt, he realized a potential danger to his life. It had to do with his wife Sarai. Even at the approximate age of 70, she was a very beautiful woman, so much so that Pharaoh may wish to take her as a wife. Abram thought that if Pharaoh knew that Sarai was his wife, he would probably have killed him and take her. Pharaoh could not take a married woman, but he could take a widow.

Be aware that people of that day lived much longer than we do now, and they age more slowly. Even at her age, she was still a gorgeous woman, even if she might be past normal child-bearing time.

Sarai was Abram’s wife, but she was also his half-sister. Abram concocted a story designed to save his life should Pharaoh show interest in her. If Pharaoh inquired about her, Abram would say, “She is my sister”, with no indication that she was married. If Pharaoh then took her to be a wife, Abram would let her go but he would still be alive.

It was a half-truth that she was his sister, but the other half (wife) left out was a deliberate plan to deceive. Abram was more worried about his own skin than anyone else. A half truth with a deliberate intention to give a wrong impression is still a lie.

Sure enough, upon arriving in Egypt, the princes saw her to be an outstanding beauty and presented her to Pharaoh, supposedly to gain favor with him. Pharaoh did indeed like what he saw and took Sarai into his house with the intention of taking her as a wife.

Let us think on this a minute. Abram, later re-named Abraham, was chosen by God for favor. Jews two thousand years later still so highly revere “Father Abraham,” that they placed their “eternal hope” upon him, and the covenant God had made with him (a future subject). Yet, here was a flawed man, who left God’s promised land, went to Egypt outside of God’s plan, and lied to Pharaoh to save his own skin. Does this look like the “Hall of Fame” pillar of “Faith” that we see in Hebrews chapter eleven? Not even close! But wait, God is not finished with Abram yet. He is still a work in progress.

Aren’t we all still a work in progress? Just as Abram was not perfect, neither are you or me. God is still working on us to make us what He wants us to be. As we continue this study, we will see God’s “perfecting” work in Abram, just as we are still being perfected to His plan. Stay close to Jesus and His plan for you will one day be completed. You shall have a “glorified body” in heaven. Don’t give up the “race” of life.