

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE HALF TRUTH – PART 2

We continue in Genesis 12:14-20 with the story of Abram's half truth in Egypt where he deliberately concealed that Sarai was not only his sister, but his wife. Because of this "half-truth" she was taken to become a wife to Pharaoh.

Pharaoh is seen in verse 16 showering Abram with herds of sheep, oxen, and donkeys. He also gave him male and female servants as favor for giving him Sarai to wed. This made Abram wealthier than he had been.

However, Pharaoh and his household were tormented with great plagues because of this. Pharaoh somehow learned of Abram's deception and confronted him. When the truth was revealed, Abram was then banished from Egypt along with Sarai, his household, and all that he had. (vs. 20.)

Abraham did not learn from this situation, because a few years later he repeated the same half truth about Sarah with King Abimelech who also took Sarah to be his wife. The truth was revealed to the king in a dream.

The same half truth occurred again with Abraham's son Isaac (chapter 26) where Isaac claimed his wife Rebekah was his sister to King Abimelech. The sin of the father was repeated by his son Isaac.

The problem with Abraham and Isaac's half truth was that their intention was to deceive. This clearly placed it in the category of a lie.

It has been stated by some that "all half truths are lies." We shall examine that statement further in the next issue.