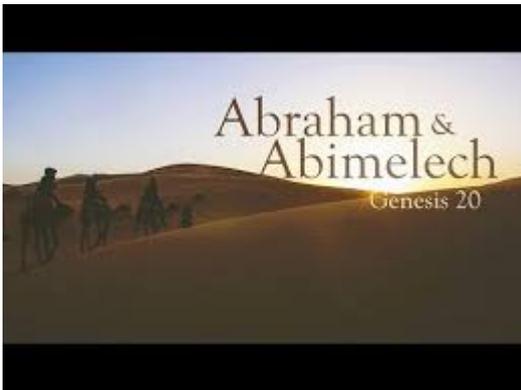


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Abraham and Abimelech 20: 1-18



On the surface, it would seem that this chapter is one of the most difficult chapters in the Bible to understand. The narrative is simple enough to understand. But how could **Abraham** and **Sarah**, at this time in **their** lives, repeat the exact sin **they** committed before in Egypt? This was not the fall of a young and inexperienced disciple. It might have been understandable in those days before **their** faith had been fully tested and **the LORD's** faithfulness confirmed. *But how could they do it now?* Over and over again, they had seen many wonderful answers to their prayers, many miraculous proofs of **ADONAI's** care and protection. **Their** faith had stood many tests, and **God** had never failed **them**. And now, finally, **they** were about to have **their** long-promised son! *How could they?* ³³⁰

But when we look deeper, we learn that this same distasteful story is put here for a very important reason. **Avraham** and **Sarah** are going to have to deal with this sin before **they** can have Isaac, before **they** can have the blessing. And it is the same for you and me. Until we are willing to deal with the sin in our lives, there will be no blessing for us either. After reading this section, you will be convinced more than ever that **Abraham** really **is the father of us all (Romans 4:16b)**.

This is the last of the tests where **Abraham** fell flat on **his** face. First, **he** stayed in **Hebron** when **he** should have gone to the Promised Land (**11:31b**). Secondly, **he** left Palestine and went to **Egypt**. Thirdly, **he** listened to **his wife** instead of

waiting on **ADONAI**, which resulted in the birth of **Ishmael** and untold problems (**16:1-16**). And fourthly, here, **his** lapse of faith continued as **he** refused to trust **the LORD** for **his** and **his wife's** safe keeping when **he** lied to **Abimelech** (**20:1-18**). But these failures were to prepare **him** for the greatest test in **his** life, one that **he** would pass with flying colors.