



Lesson 4

Lessons from one Called "Princess" (Sarah)

Scripture References: Genesis 11-12; 16-18; 20-21; 23; 24:36; 25:10; 49:31; Rom. 9:9; Galatians 4:21-31; Hebrews 11:11-12; 1 Peter 3:5-6

Do you remember in the last lesson we talked about God using circumstances to accomplish His will? In Romans 9:3-13, Paul makes this very point. He is telling the Roman Christians that God has adopted the Gentiles along with Jews. There were teachers who were saying that only Jews could be Christians because they were descended from Abraham. Read verses 7-9. What was made that decided who the descendants of Abraham and Sarah were?

1 Cor.1:18-31 teaches about the wisdom of the world versus the wisdom of God. Over and over men think that God's way is foolishness, when it really is wise. It didn't make sense to the Jews that Gentiles could be included, because their "wisdom" wasn't spiritual – it was physical. Sarah is an example for us of God using circumstances to accomplish His will in ways that men just don't understand at first.

1. Briefly, tell the story of Sarah as read in the references listed above. What is the beginning, the middle, and the end of her story?
2. How are Abram and Sarai related? (Gen.20:12)
3. What does Abram mean?

What does Abraham mean?

4. What does Sarai mean?

What does Sarah mean? (Gen. 17:16)

Let's look at Genesis 12:10-20 and Genesis 20:1-18 together.

5. Why did Abraham deceive Pharaoh and Abimelech about Sarah?
6. Did hiding this information protect them both, the way Abraham intended?
7. In Gen. 12:15-20 and Gen. 20:2-7, what was God's attitude toward Pharaoh and Abimelech for marrying another man's wife?
8. Did Abraham's lie ONLY affect him? Yes or No If No, list everyone affected by his choice to deceive these two kings.

NOTE:

- a. Each of these men took Sarah with the intent of her being his wife! Notice that GOD said that she was ABRAHAM'S wife.
- b. Sarah's reputation as a "one man woman" was important! God protected her reputation, and both kings made sure there was no question she "belonged" to Abraham. (Gen. 12:20 and Gen. 20:16)

God made promises to Abram in Genesis 12 and 15. The only way these promises would come true is if Abram had a son of his own. We know from Genesis 16:1, that Sarai had not given him any children.

9. Did Sarai solve her problems by creating the circumstances for the birth of Ishmael?
10. Was she the ONLY one affected by her impatience and discontent?

11. According to Hebrews 11:11, Sarah learned her lesson and received what blessing?

12. Did God keep His promise to Abraham and Sarah? (Gen. 21:2)

13. What did God tell them to name the baby? (Gen. 21:1-7)

What does his name mean?

For fun, let's do some MATH!

14. In Gen. 12:4, it says that Abram was 75 years old when God told him to leave his home. In Gen. 16:16, it says that Abram was 86 years old when Ishmael was born. How many years had Abram and Sarai been waiting for a baby since being told their family would be a large one?

15. In Genesis 17:1, it says that Abraham is 99 years old. Using the information from the last question - How old is Ishmael?

16. Add Ishmael's age to the answer from #14 and give how many years Sarah and Abraham have been waiting to have a child of their own.

17. If Sarah will be 90 years old when the baby is born, a year from now, how old is Sarah now? (Gen. 17:17, 21)

18. How old was Sarah when God made the promises in Genesis 12 to Abraham? (hint, answer to #17 minus the answer to # 16 or Gen. 12:4 minus 10 years)

19. How long did Sarah wait before baby Isaac was born?

20. Did waiting for a baby lessen Sarah's joy in having Isaac?

21. Write Psalm 27:14 here.

22. Did God provide for Hagar and Ishmael? (Gen. 21)

We've seen Sarah in some "questionable" moments. These are the stories God chose to share with us about her. Take a look at how God summed up her life (Heb.11:11). We are told to follow her in the things she did right.

Read 1 Peter 3:1-6.

23. In 1 Peter 3:5-6, what should we do "just as Sarah"?

24. Read 1 Peter 3:4, 5. Describe the adornment that "holy women" put on.

25. Look up "gentle" (some translations say "meek") and "quiet". Be prepared to discuss HOW we CAN be these things.

Note: Remember this description – we will study it more when we study on modesty and purity in other lessons.

Conclusion:

Sarah is an example to us of many things but one of the most important is God keeping His promises. This is yet another thread that runs from Genesis through Revelation. It is brought to fruition in Christ's death and resurrection. We need to understand and KNOW this concept. GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. We see in Galatians 4:21-31 how God uses Sarah and Hagar to make this point, and to drive home the FREEDOM found in His promise of salvation through Jesus. In verse 23, Ishmael is said to be a son "according to the flesh" and Isaac is the son "through the promise". Hagar's children go on to remain in slavery, while Sarah's children are free. Freedom is found in doing things God's way, in His time, not our own. Bondage is the only thing found in holding to something other than God's will for us in Christ. So CHOOSE to be a child of Sarah – the FREE woman – be dressed in subjection with a gentle and quiet spirit, and in this way begin to put on the beauty that God finds "precious"!

In Your Bible:

Psalms 4:5; Psalm 9:10; Proverbs 3:5; Proverbs 30:5; Isaiah 51:2

Study Builders

Use this page to note all the verses from the lesson into one or more of the categories.

<p><i>In Manner of Life</i> <i>In Purity</i></p>	<p><i>In Word</i></p>
<p><i>In Love</i></p>	<p><i>In Faith</i></p>

Additional Notes: