

Genesis: God and Man

## Indeed You Are A Dead Man

Genesis 20, 22:20-24

**We're ahead of our last study but still not caught up to the testing of Abraham with the sacrifice of Isaac.**

**There's still one more event and a quick genealogy to look at, which are both important,** even though, at first, you might think they're not.

**Previously Sodom was destroyed,**  
Abraham had pleaded with God to spare it  
The root of which was to save Lot and his family

**But there weren't 10 righteous in the city.**  
Again, you have to wonder how America and the world haven't faced God's judgment yet:  
Grace, and believers are still here (the rapture)

**Lot flees. We know what happens to him afterward and the nations that will spring up from his lineage - the Moabites and Ammonites - future enemies of Israel**

**Abraham and Sarah have received the promise of God. Isaac is to be born soon.**

## Genesis 20:1-2

**If you remember, when Abram and Lot's servants clashed, they looked at the valley and Abraham said to Lot to take whatever seemed pleasant and he would go to the other part.**

**Now that Sodom is destroyed, Lot is out (maybe Abram doesn't know?) I'd think he would try to find his nephew. He moves on.**

### **People move for a lot of reasons**

Job changes, warmer weather, cheaper living, more access to the things they want  
They also move to not face hard memories any more. Can't be in a house after a spouse dies or after a tragedy. Run away from problems or things.

Perhaps the memories were too hard for Abraham, and he couldn't bear to look at the valley anymore. He went back to his nomadic roots.

Sometimes tragedy or personal failures will lead us to go back to the ways we used to know. Like Peter returning to fishing. Perhaps Abraham felt burdened that his prayers for Sodom weren't answered. But just because his prayers weren't answered in the way he thought, and this is all conjecture, it doesn't mean that he failed.

Our prayers, no matter how right or righteous they are, and our efforts in life and ministry, no matter how on-point with the call of God, sometimes there is apparent defeat - those who we desire to minister to are never reached by us - sometimes even destroyed, lost, or die - but that doesn't mean it's our fault. It was S&G's fault for not repenting. For continuing on the path.

We want to be free of the blood of all men, like Paul, but even Jesus' ministry doesn't mean everyone is going to heaven - it just means everyone has a chance to - but it's up to them, and us, to choose it.

**Kadesh** = "holy"

a city in the extreme south of Judah  
same as 'Kedesh' and 'Kadesh-barnea'

**Shur** "wall"

a place southwest of Palestine on the eastern border or within the border of Egypt; the Israelites passed through the wilderness of Shur after crossing the Red Sea  
also 'wilderness of Etham'

**Gerar** = "a lodging place"

a Philistine town south of Gaza, modern 'Umm'

**Abraham sojourns here**

to sojourn, abide, dwell in, dwell with, remain, inhabit, be a stranger, be continuing, surely  
to sojourn, dwell for a time  
to abide, stay, temporarily dwell  
to seek hospitality with

**Abraham is a powerful guy. A lot of possessions. He's done battle in the region, he's had influence with kings and other rulers**

Remember that the land was more tribal and with local rulers than large kingdoms and countries we think of today. So Abraham, although he didn't have a land of his own permanently, he had similar clout to those kings of the region - in at least he would be of the same upper echelon of society with them.

**Abraham is going back south again...and so are his decision making skills**

He's backsliding a bit. Why is he going south? Why is he getting closer and closer to Egypt?

**The commentary even mentions that at his old age, he still reverts to the sins of his youth**

**old age, seniority, and experience do not equal righteousness**

**We can sin at any age and play the fool no matter how much experience we have**

**[Ecc 10:1 NKJV] 1 Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment, And cause it to give off a foul odor; [So does] a little folly to one respected for wisdom [and] honor.**

**He pulls the old "She's my sister" rouse ... even though she's 90**

Perhaps she still is quite beautiful and attractive for her age...but it's also that Abraham is powerful, she is in his house, and it's a sign of peace between the rulers

It's even in a sense why Saul offers his daughter Michal to David and the practice of kings and kingdoms through history. The intermarrying of households to provide peace

**What is he afraid of? Does he think God is not with him? Was he knowingly going somewhere he knows he shouldn't be?**

**Do we run from hard situations? Things we don't want to think about, deal with, or face anymore?** Are there ruins in front of us, our fault or not, that we can't bear to look at or think about anymore, and perhaps we need to? Have we turned from those relationships or providences in our lives to head south? Do we find ourselves backsliding and making the same foolish mistakes we thought we learned not to again?

**:3-7**

**God shows in up a dream to Abimelech! A Philistine king!**

We'll see God do this in Pharaoh's life, Nebuchadnezzar, his son with the writing on the wall, and several other places in scripture.

God is interested in all people! He desires to reach even pagan kings. The unbelievers at work, on the plane or in your closest circles.

**Even though Abraham is afraid, acting foolishly at the expense of his wife...yet again God is still on his side. Still working to carry out his promise. In fact, despite of Abraham's lack of faith.**

**"Indeed you are a dead man"**

to die, kill, have one executed

**to die**

**to die (as penalty), be put to death**

**to die, perish (of a nation)**

**to die prematurely (by neglect of wise moral conduct)**

to kill, put to death, dispatch

to kill, put to death

**to be killed, be put to death**

**to die prematurely**

*“What am I doing? I’m talking to an empty telephone...I don’t understand...because there is a dead man on the other end of this line.”*

**God could have killed him and not shown up in a dream...God warned him of the judgment on his life.**

**Why would God pronounce judgment on a guy who didn’t know him?**

Well, I have to think that if Abimelech didn’t know God, he surely recognized who he was in the dream and calls him Adonai...Lord.

Perhaps he had some hearing of God in his life, like Abraham did before leaving Ur.

Or perhaps that dream got his attention.

But it’s interesting because of what he says.

**He had taken her as a wife, but he hadn’t had a relationship with her. She was just in his house.**

**“Lord, will you slay a righteous nation also?”**

I think Abimelech understood that his actions affected the entire nation. That a judgment on a king was also a judgment on a nation.

*just, lawful, righteous*

*just, righteous (in government)*

*just, right (in one’s cause)*

*just, righteous (in conduct and character)*

*righteous (as justified and vindicated by God)*

*right, correct, lawful*

**Look, Abraham told me she was his sister! I didn’t do it knowingly, I did it thinking everything was OK. I wouldn’t have done it if I had known.**

There was some knowledge of righteousness in him and his nation. They weren’t God’s chosen people, but perhaps there was a measure of faith in the living God there. I don’t know for sure, but this scene is a glimpse into the interesting.

**God says I know you did this because you thought it was right in your heart!  
God saw his motives and actually prevented him from doing anything even worse.**

**Having the right motives and trying to do the right thing, even when you don't know everything or don't have complete faith, is a good thing.**

***It won't save you, he was still a dead man, but it will prevent further tragedy in your life.***

*So many good, kind, nice, and dare I say righteous people, who don't know God.  
It won't save them, but it's a shame to the church that oftentimes, there are more good people outside of the house of God! We tend to think that just because we're Christians we have an out on doing the right thing...ask for forgiveness later, or that we don't have a higher standard to live up to anymore.*

**Also, following God's rules, even if you don't believe in him, will at least bring blessing in this life. But again, it cannot save you.**

**Abimelech didn't touch Sarah because he was extra good, but because God intervened in his life, for his sake, his nations, but most importantly, for the promise He made...that Sarah would bear Isaac and a nation and the Messiah.**

**Abimelech had to do the right thing now...give Sarah back and get the man of God, Abraham, to pray for him...a symbol of the need for the the messiah, of the coming priesthood which would be a shadow of the Great High Priest.**

**:8-13**

**Like Abraham does when he's going the right way...Abimelech gets up early to get done what needs to be done.**

**He doesn't keep this thing hidden. He tells everyone in the house!  
It puts the fear of God in them.**

**[Pro 9:10 NKJV] 10 "The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One [is] understanding.**

**Abimelech rebukes Abraham...how could you do this?  
Did you do it on purpose? Were you trying to destroy us? Did you want my kingdom?  
What did you have in view?**

**V11 Abraham had judged them! “Because the fear of God is not in this place”**

Oh, but it was Abraham! You were lying, Abimelech was doing what he thought was right!  
Trying to have peace with you! Perhaps Abimelech was afraid of YOU Abraham!

**Abraham comes clean, she’s my sister yes, but only half-sister**

**Abraham gives the testimony of God in his life...but man, is it soiled.**

If God called you out, why did you have to get your wife to do this?

When God calls us, we need to trust him completely, and not make excuses. It might save us, but it will spoil the message that God is trying to give through us.

**:14-16**

**Abimelech, the guy seeking righteous living, a good guy...**

Not only restores Sarah to Abraham, but he blesses Abraham with even further peace offerings  
Like you wronged ME Abraham, but I’m paying up for my sin. I did not intend to sin against you or God.

Does Abraham apologize? I don’t see it. I see him making excuses with a poor testimony.

Almost, I trust God less than you do...Abimelech trusted God when God told him of the judgment coming because of his sin. He repented quickly. He knew God was for real and that sin truly deserved destruction.

**Even though his sin was sin - a missing of the mark**

It wasn’t on purpose, a transgression - even though he did it not knowing it was wrong...he still owned up to it, took full responsibility for his own actions and the consequences on his people for it.

**That’s being a righteous person in the sense of wanting to know the truth, and live in light of it.**

**And I don’t seem Abraham, the prophet, doing that here.**

**Vs. Sarah, I’ve given your *brother*... you can hear the irony in his voice here...**

She was rebuked for her actions...she knew full well what she was doing too...but also restored  
Abimelech talked to her now, drew near to her to make her right with her husband  
To cut the awkwardness out.

And we see Abimelech here, doing the right thing again...and telling Abraham, like Abraham told Lot, to go wherever he wanted in the land...

## **:17-18**

**Abraham prays, they are forgiven and healed and can bare children**

**God closed up their wombs because he was not going to allow anything to prevent the coming of Isaac, Israel and the Messiah**

**The judgment on our lives because of sin usually reflects the blessing we're preventing by our sin...**

How often I think of the natural gifts and talents and blessings people have in their lives, yet they use it for themselves, and find judgment come upon them.

**When judgment is evident and pronounced, when the conviction comes, when the spark of reality and God's light shines in our lives...let it have it's immediate effect...repentance unto life. Get up early. Make things right before God and man. Do not wait.**

**[2Co 6:2 NKJV] 2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.**

People in the world are seeking righteousness. They are seeking truth and God. They may not have gotten to that point yet. They may not have gotten all the way yet. But it our duty to not prejudice and say "there is no fear of God in this place" and instead of being a bad example to them, be the good one, and lead them to the Lord and not give them place for further sin and judgment.

## **22:20-24**

**After everything with Isaac, Abraham's brother Nahor has children.**

**WHat we can take away from this is...Rebekah is born as well. Isaac's wife. God is already preparing her for him and him for her that they would together, bear the nation.**

**I believe there is one person for everyone. That God has a perfect plan for each of us.**

It's hard to comprehend from our angle, perhaps people we thought were the one fell by the wayside before we married. Perhaps you never married and want to...perhaps that person is still out there...or perhaps you think you married the wrong person...well, God knew, and somehow, in his provision, they've become the right person for you through grace.

Because in reality, we're all awful, and to think that someone else would pledge their lives to us...who is worthy of that? None of us deserves it. To be married, to have friends, to have children, employment, anything...anyone devoted to us...is a blessing from God.

Do not take it for granted. But hold out for the one God has for you. Even if you don't know them yet. He does and he's doing a great job preparing them...and you...for each other.