

Genesis 20

Oh no !

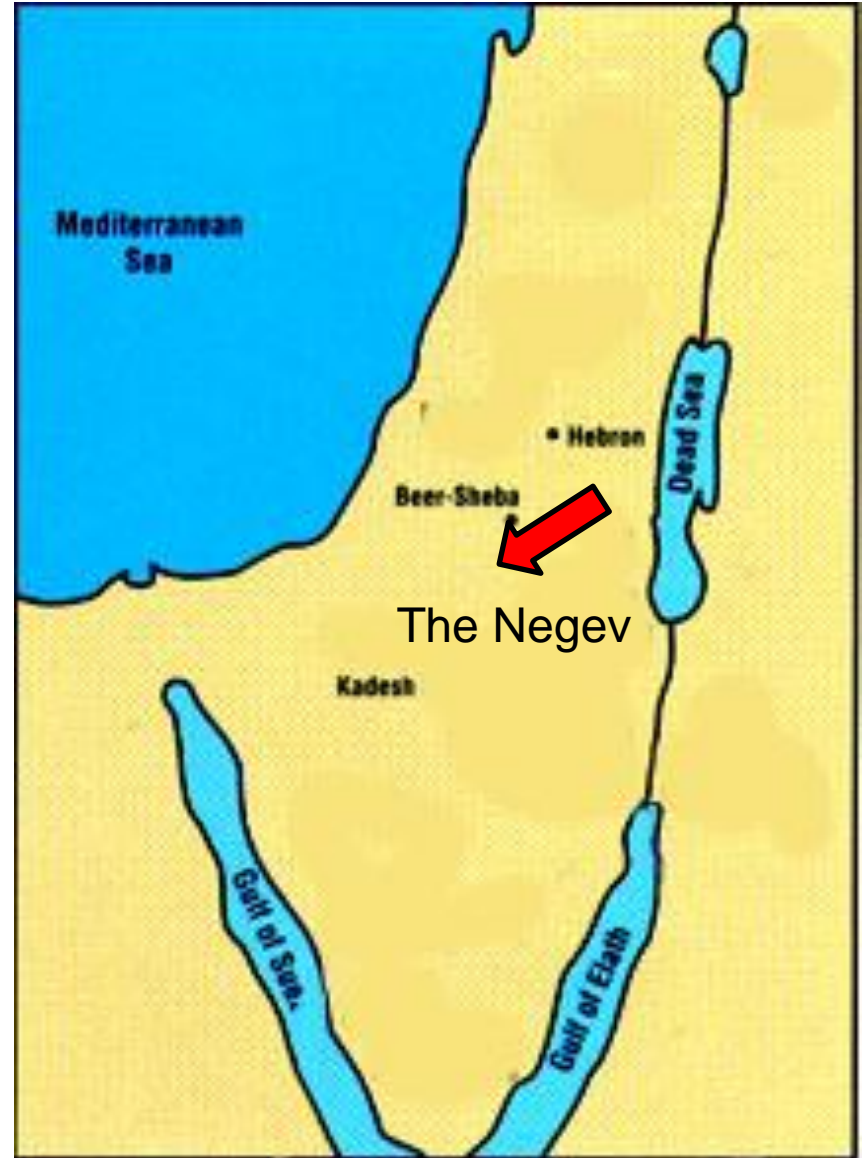
Not again !

Do you ever make the same mistake twice ?

Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. Genesis 20: 1



Why did he move away ?



For a while he stayed in Gerar, and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister."

Genesis 20: 2



Oh no!

Not again!

and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah,
"She is my sister."



After all the 20+ years of blessing



He hadn't learned from his past failure



His weak spot exposed— fear of man



He failed her as her husband



Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

Genesis 20: 2



Why did he take her ?



**God steps in again !
Why ?**

THE **BIG** PLAN

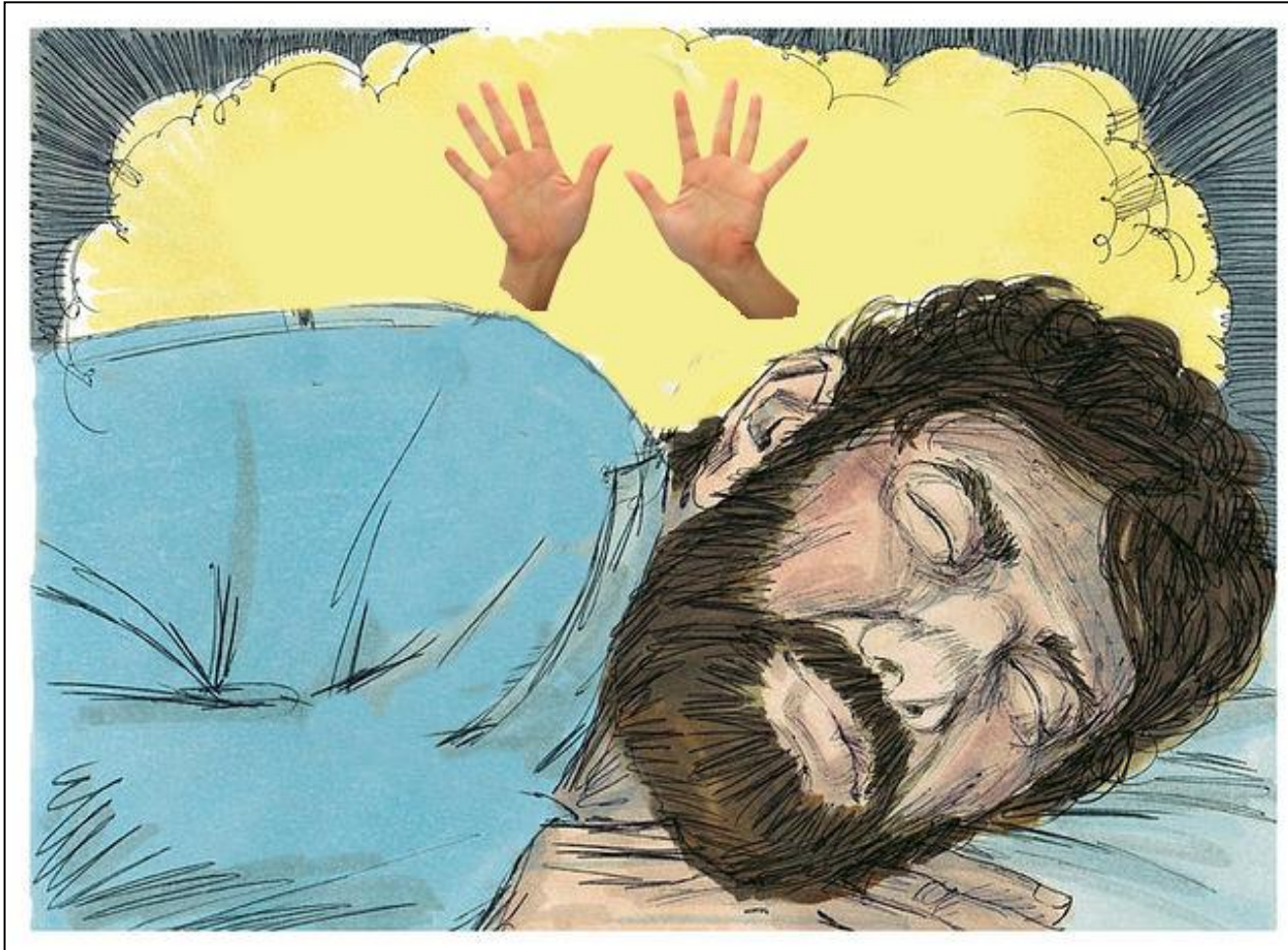
But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman."
Genesis 20: 3



It's a sin and he knows it is !

Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands."

Genesis 20: 4-5



Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from **sinning against me**. That is why I did not let you touch her. Genesis 20: 6



Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all who belong to you will die." Genesis 20: 7

**RETURN
TO SENDER**

or else !

**he is a prophet
he will pray for you
you will live**

Early the next morning Abimelech summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid.

Genesis 20: 8



Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said, "What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should never be done." Genesis 20: 9



And Abimelech asked Abraham,
"What was your reason for doing this?"

Genesis 20: 10



**THERE
MUST BE
A REASON**

Abraham's chance to come clean !

Abraham replied, "I said to myself, 'There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.'

Genesis 20: 11



Was he right about the people ?

Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. Genesis 20: 12

He said,
“She’s my sister.”



He didn't say,
“She’s my wife.”

And when God had me wander from my father's household, I said to her, 'This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'" Genesis 20: 13

When did his problem start ?



Then Abimelech brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him.

Genesis 20: 14



And Abimelech said, "My land is before you; live wherever you like." To Sarah he said, "I am giving **your brother** a thousand shekels of silver. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated." Genesis 20: 15-16



Welcome guests – a blessing in store

Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again, for the LORD had kept all the women in Abimelech's household from conceiving because of Abraham's wife Sarah. Genesis 20:17-18



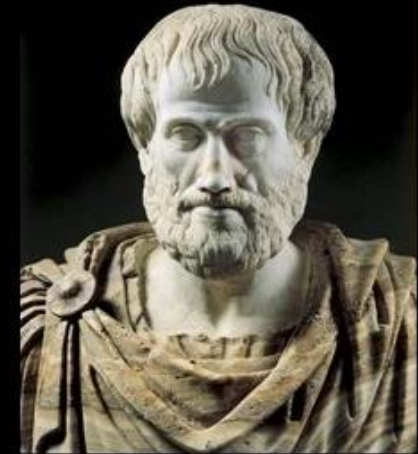
An answer to his prayer

The best of men are only men at best

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1Corinthians 10:11-13

Every man is fallible



~ Aristotle ~

The unsaved can show something of grace too



Ready for God's blessing ?

God uses our trials to refine us



These (trials) have come so that your faith --of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire– may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1Peter 1:7

His grace overrules



Abimelech – spared, Abraham and Sarah - rescued

The Lord God reigns



Which one ?

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, Ephesians 1:11



Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Jude 1:24-25