

Sarah

Abraham's Wife

- ✦ Isaiah 51:1, 2
- ✦ Hebrews 11:11
- ✦ 1 Peter 3:6 (Genesis 18:12)

But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. (1 Peter 3:4-6)

- ✦ Meek—Greek: gentle, humble, not impressed by a sense of self-importance, considerate, gentle in the face of their wrath.
- ✦ Hebrew: the goal which God intends with suffering and affliction—humility, humbleness, dependence on God
- ✦ Numbers 12:3
- ✦ Quiet—well-ordered, peaceful, tranquil

During their stay in Haran, both Abraham and Sarah had led others to the worship and service of the true God. These attached themselves to the patriarch's household, and accompanied him to the land of promise. "And they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came." (*PP* 127.1)

- ✦ Beautiful (Genesis 12:11)
- ✦ God said she would be a mother of nations (Genesis 17:16)
- ✦ Related to Abram (Genesis 20:12)
- ✦ She was abducted twice—by Pharaoh (Genesis 12:15) and by King Abimelech (Genesis 20:2)
- ✦ God performed miracles both times to preserve her to be the mother of nations. Pharaoh was plagued (Genesis 12:17), King Abimelech had a dream (Genesis 20:3)
- ✦ Gave birth when she was 90–91 years old (Genesis 17:21), and died when she was 127 (Genesis 23:1)
- ✦ She was 10 years younger than Abraham (Genesis 17:17)

Through Abraham's lack of faith, Sarah was placed in great peril. The king of Egypt, being informed of her beauty, caused her to be taken to his palace, intending to make her his wife. But the Lord, in His great mercy, protected Sarah by sending judgments upon the royal household. By this means the monarch learned the truth in the matter, and, indignant at the deception practiced upon him, he reproved Abraham and restored to him his wife, saying, "What is this that thou hast done unto me? ... Why saidst thou, She is my sister? So I might have taken her to me to wife. Now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way." (*PP* 130.1)

- ✦ She laughed within herself at God's promise! (Genesis 18:12) So did Abraham. (Genesis 17:17)
- ✦ She lied to God. (Genesis 18:15)
- ✦ She is the only woman in the Bible whose name was changed by God. (Genesis 17:15)

When Abraham had been nearly twenty-five years in Canaan, the Lord appeared unto him, and said, “I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect.” In awe, the patriarch fell upon his face, and the message continued: “Behold, My covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.” **In token of the fulfillment of this covenant**, his name, heretofore called Abram, was changed to Abraham, which signifies, “father of a great multitude.” Sarai’s name became Sarah—“princess;” for, said the divine Voice, “she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.” (*PP* 137.3)

Thinking it impossible that a child should be given her in her old age, Sarah suggested, as a plan by which the divine purpose might be fulfilled, that one of her handmaidens should be taken by Abraham as a secondary wife. Polygamy had become so widespread that it had ceased to be regarded as a sin, but it was no less a violation of the law of God, and was fatal to the sacredness and peace of the family relation. Abraham's marriage with Hagar resulted in evil, not only to his own household, but to future generations. (*PP* 145.1)

Again the Lord saw fit to test the faith of Abraham by a most fearful trial. If he had endured the first test, and **had patiently waited for the promise to be fulfilled in Sarah**, and had not taken Hagar as his wife, he would not have been subjected to the closest test that was ever required of man. (*ISP* 98.3)

He did not reveal the true nature of his journey to Sarah, knowing that **her affection for Isaac would lead her to distrust God**, and withhold her son.

(ISP 99.1)

Abraham is greatly distressed. Ishmael is his son, beloved by him. How can he send him away! He prays to God in his perplexity, for he knows not what course to take. The Lord informs Abraham, through his angels, to listen to the voice of Sarah his wife, and that he should **not let his affections for his son**, or for Hagar, prevent his compliance with her wishes. For this was the only course he could pursue to restore harmony and happiness again to his family. Abraham has the consoling promise from the angel, that Ishmael, although separated from his father's house, should not die, nor be forsaken of God; that he should be preserved because he was the son of Abraham. God also promises to make of Ishmael a great nation. (*ISP* 97.2)

Abraham believed that Isaac was the son of promise. He also believed that God meant just what he said when he bade him to go offer him as a burnt-offering. He staggered not at the promise of God; but believed that God, who had in his providence given Sarah a son in her old age, and who had required him to take that son's life, **could also give life again**, and bring up Isaac from the dead. (*ISP* 99.3)