

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day

"Knowing the God of David" #3



Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

Charles Barry will lead our **Bible Class** and **Kerry Johnson** will lead us in **Song**, **Paul McCollum** will present the **Lesson**. may

God bless their efforts!

*Our Lord's Day
Plan...*

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
Romans 12:9*

We are praying for you!

Rosemarie Johnson - for relief from her allergies and serious watery eyes - she has been to the doctor and is under his care. Rosemarie is doing a little better this week.
Arron Yaras - for relief and healing from his bout with gout.

Have a blessed week!

ABRAHAM AND ISSAC

John Black, Houston

Abram (later Abraham) and Sarai (later Sarah) were living near Bethel when a severe famine struck. They moved to Egypt, as described in Genesis 12: 10-20. Approaching the border of Egypt, Abram told Sarai she must say to the Egyptian rulers that she was Abram's sister. Otherwise, since Sarai was a most attractive woman, they might kill him, but spare her. It was a half-truth. Sarai was Abram's half-sister.

Sarai was such a beauty she was soon invited to live in Pharaoh's palace. While Abram increased his wealth bargaining with traders for cattle, camels and servants, Pharaoh considered taking Sarai for his wife. The Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his household with terrible diseases. Pharaoh perceived their lives were in danger because of Sarai. He sent for Abram and chastised him for not telling the whole truth about his wife. Then he ordered Sarai to be restored to Abram and that Abram leave immediately, taking with him all his possessions and his true wife.

This episode is the first of three similar events found in Genesis 12, 20 and 26.

They all describe incidents where the husband arranges for the wife to be considered his sister. We might call these episodes "Sister-Wife Narrations" in Genesis.

Genesis Chapter 20 says Abraham and Sarah were in the Philistine Gerar region. Abraham let spread the word that Sarah was his sister. Abimelek, the king of Gerar, sent word for Sarah and she came to him.

But the Lord appeared to Abimelek in a dream, and warned him to leave the woman alone. If he did not he would die. Abimelek hadn't approached Sarah. He asked if the Lord would kill the innocent. He had not known anything was wrong. The Lord cautioned Abimelek to give back the woman or he would die.

The next morning Abimelek summoned his officials and Abraham. Abimelek demanded Abraham explain why he told a half-truth about his wife. Abraham said he thought there was no fear or respect for his God in the land. He could have been killed so someone could take Sarah. Besides, Sarah really was his sister, the daughter of his father but not of his mother.

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Abimelek gave gifts of slaves, livestock, and silver to Abraham. Then he prayed to God, and God made well Abimelek, his wife and the female slaves who had become barren on account of Sarah.

The third Sister-Wife Narration is found in Genesis Chapter 26. The focus in this chapter is on Abraham's son Isaac and Isaac's sister Rebekah.

There was another famine, and Isaac visited Abimelek, the king of Gerar, who was probably the same Abimelek Abraham had dealt with. The Lord appeared to Isaac and instructed him not to go to Egypt, but to spend some time in this land.

When asked about Rebekah, Isaac's wife, Isaac said she was his sister. Isaac and Rebekah stayed in the region a long while. One day Abimelek looked out a window and saw below him Isaac and Rebekah cuddling. Abimelek sent for Isaac. He asked why Isaac had told people his sister was his wife. As his father had said to Abimelek before, Isaac's fear was that someone would kill him in order to take possession of Rebekah.

Abimelek charged all the people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife will surely be put to death." (Genesis 26:11, WEB)

Isaac and Rebekah continued their stay in Gerar for a time, and the Lord blessed Isaac. His crops, herds and flocks increased. Isaac became a man of wealth. What do we learn from the Sister-Wife Narrations?

These similar episodes emphasize that the Lord cares for and looks after his children. That remains true in the present day. It will always be true.

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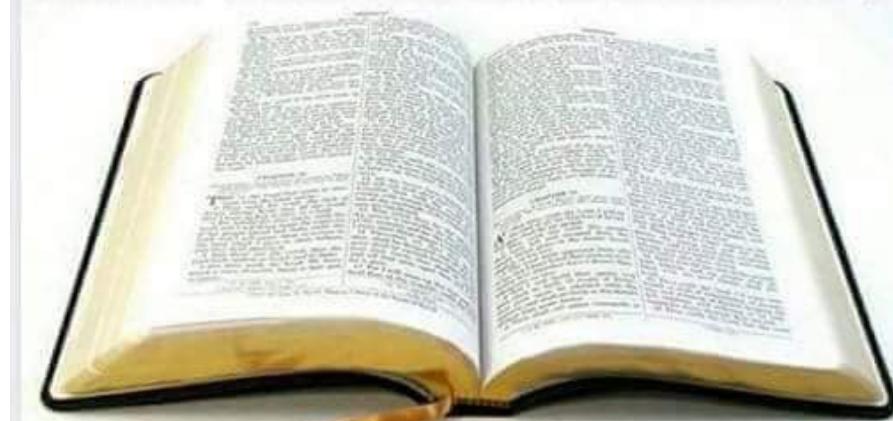
A Divisive Spirit

Cecil May, Jr.

Paul told Titus, "But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned" (Titus 3:9-11 ESV). Among the "works of the flesh" are "enmity, strife... rivalries, dissensions, divisions." These are numbered right along with "sexual immorality... idolatry... orgies." "Those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19- 21). God strongly opposes those who, because they are eager for arguments and love to pick fights, bring division among brothers.

July 17, 2022

THIS IS STILL THE FINAL AUTHORITY



OPINIONS DON'T MATTER...

Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

Wednesday (via Zoom) Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm

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