

WHY DID ABRAHAM AND ISAACH LIE?

Gen. 26:7-11 (see also Gen. 20:1-5 & 12:11-13) *“When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, ‘She is my sister,’ for he was afraid to say, ‘my wife,’ thinking, ‘the men of the place might kill me on account of Rebekah, **for she is beautiful.**”* 8 *And it came about, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out through a window, and saw, and behold, Isaac was caressing his wife Rebekah.* 9 *Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, ‘Behold, certainly she is your wife! How then did you say, ‘She is my sister?’”* And Isaac said to him, *“Because I said, Lest I die on account of her.”* 10 *And Abimelech said, ‘What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.”* 11 *So Abimelech charged all the people, saying, ‘He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.’”*



Many have asked why Isaac lied to Abimelech about Rebekah being his sister. Rebekah as you recall was a very very beautiful woman. In those days it was common for those in power to kill the head of a household so they could steal the beautiful women. By saying Rebekah was Isaac’s sister he was simply protecting himself from being murdered. The exact same situation happened to Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 20:1-7).

Gen. 12:11-20 *And it came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, ‘See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; 12 and it will come about when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 ‘Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you.’”* 14 *And it came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 And Pharaoh’s officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. 16 Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels. 17 But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. 18 Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, ‘What is this you have done to me? **Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?** 19 ‘Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go.’”* 20 *And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all*

that belonged to him. **Gen. 20:1-5** Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar. 2 And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married." 4 Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, wilt Thou slay a nation, even though blameless? 5 "Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this."

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Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Nov 28/16)