

## **SAINTS ALIVE! SARAH: BEAUTIFUL BY FAITH ODC, Jan.29.2009 (hk)**

**Biographical notes** (GEN 11-25:10; ROM 4:19, 9:9; GAL 4.21-28 HEB 11:11; 1PE 3:5)

Half sister/wife to Abraham-10 years his junior-same father, Terah, but different mother.

Mother to Isaac : *"God has brought me laughter"*

Her Name Was Sarai, "princely" (GEN 11-17:14)

Her Name Was Sarah, "princess" (GEN 17:15-23:20) Sarah is the covenant name that was given to her by God

GEN 17:15,16 "God also said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be *the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.*'"

She (and Abraham) was from \*Ur, southern Iraq (300 km SE of Baghdad)

*\*Ur was a very civilized area with a population of perhaps a quarter of a million persons, a ziggurat of 70 feet, a great wall surrounding the city, a sophisticated sewage system, a library, and a bustling commerce.*

First significant fact about her was her barrenness-first woman so mentioned in Scripture

She was very beautiful-first mentioned when age 65! GEN 12:11- "you are a beautiful woman" GEN 12:14- "the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful"

Died at 127-the only female in Scripture where her age at death is noted

Conceived Isaac when she was 90 years old-her womb was ``as good as dead``

### **Spiritual facts**

1. Mother of `us all`. True mother of the covenant people of God-the children of faith. The covenant promised two things: GAL 3.21-28

### **A Seed**

- an heir to inherit Abraham's wealth
- descendants "as numerous as the stars" (GEN 15:5)
- and "as numerous as the grains of sand" (GEN 22:23)
- a "seed" in whom all the nations would be blessed (GEN 22:18) -this would be fulfilled in Jesus Christ

### **Land - Canaan**

2. Example to all Christian women 1 PE 3.1-7
  - Beautiful in spirit-purity and reverence

- Submissive to God and Abraham
- 3. Trusting –left everyone, followed Abraham without the benefit of all the visions and conversations
- 4. God protected her twice- from Pharaoh and Abimilech (Gen 12,20)

### **Positive Aspects of Her Character**

She was submissive to her husband

She followed him EVERYWHERE!

- Ur, Genesis 11:28.
- Haran, Genesis 12:4.
- Shechem, Genesis 12:6.
- Bethel and Ai, Genesis 12:8.
- Negev, Genesis 12:9.
- Egypt, Genesis 12:10.
- Hebron, Genesis 13:18.
- Kadesh, Shur, and Gerar, Genesis 20:1.
- Beersheba, Genesis 22:19.
- Mamre, Genesis 25:9.

*When God called Abram to leave Ur Sarai accompanied him, though it meant leaving comforts and friends (ACT7:2-4). "The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. 'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.' So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living."*

*When God commanded Abram to go to Canaan Sarai went too even though it meant lowering her standard of living to nomadic tent dwelling in Canaan (GEN 12:5) "He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there."*

*When Abram left Canaan to sojourn in Egypt Sarai again went with him (GEN 12:10,11) "Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai..."*

*When Abram left Egypt Sarai accompanied him (GEN 13:1) "So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him."*

*When Abraham went to Gerar she was with him (GEN 20:1,2) "Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah..."*

She obeyed him in all things (even by deception-big no no!)

She was a loving mother

Her faith grew as she trusted in her God

## **Less Admirable Aspects of Her Character**

### **She had weak faith**

GEN 18:12,13 "So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?' Then the LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?'" *\*She had a low view of God and His power but her faith grew, just as ours does, when God fulfilled His promise.*

GEN 21:1,2 "Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him."

### **She tried to force God's hand with Hagar**

GEN 16:2 "so she said to Abram, 'The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her.'"

### **She could be selfish and cruel**

GEN 16:5 "Then Sarai said to Abram, 'You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me.'"

GEN 16:6 "Your servant is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

GEN 21:10 "and she said to Abraham, 'Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.'"

## **What We Can Learn From Her**

We do not have to "feel" like obeying to obey: it is a matter of the will.

Obedience is pleasing to God.

1SA 15:22 "But Samuel replied: 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'"

JN 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

Our weak faith cannot thwart God's will for our lives: He is still conforming us to the image of His Son, Jesus.

PHI 1:6 "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

God will be gracious with us when our faith is weak as He was with Sarah.