



# Sarah

“In the Beginning”

*“Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?”* Genesis 17:2 KJV

According to what we read in the Bible, Sarah was a beautiful woman. Her given name at birth was Sarai. That name meant “princess”. Her beauty is referred to twice in Genesis. But God changed it to Sarah meaning “Mother of Nations.” Throughout the story of Abraham and Sarah, Sarah is shown as the helpmate of Abraham and they consulted with each other on decisions.

One time, Pharaoh took her in as one of his concubines, but God protected her. She and Abraham had told the Pharaoh that she was Abraham’s sister! According to Genesis 12, Pharaoh and his household were inflicted with a disease because he took Sarah as his concubine. But, because Abraham had said she was his sister, the Pharaoh did give her back, and Abraham received many material possessions in exchange.

Later on there was a similar incident with King Abimelech who took Sarah thinking she was Abraham’s sister. However God told him the truth in a dream and Abraham got Sarah back along with a present of animals, slaves, gold and silver.

God chose Abraham and Sarah to bear children that would become the generations of today. Yes, we had Adam and Eve, but people kept straying from the truth then, just as they do now. So, God chose Abraham at age 100 and Sarah at age 90, far past the child bearing age.

When Sarah heard that she would bear a child, she laughed. When God asked about her laughing, she denied it; she was afraid. But, she could also have been very happy. For years she had been scorned by other women because she had no children. God approached Abraham and asked why she had laughed. God tested Abraham to see if he thought anything was too great for God to do.

God told them that Sarah would have kings of nations descended from her. Do you blame her for being afraid? It was more than Sarah could comprehend.

Abraham and Sarah decided to take things into their own hands instead of waiting for God. Sarah arranged for Abraham to sleep with her maid servant, Hagar, so Abraham would be able to have the child that God said he was going to have. They weren’t willing to wait. After all they were getting too old to bear a child. Hagar and Abraham had a son named Ishmael, but that wasn’t God’s plan.

After the birth of Ishmael God appeared to Abraham again. God told Abraham that about the same time next year, Sarah would have a son and his name would be called Isaac which means “Laughter”. In time Isaac was born and it was the beginning of the 12 tribes, but not before God warned Abraham and the other people that they must change their ways or be destroyed. Isaac was born as promised.

As time went on we are told that Sarah was jealous of Hagar and Ishmael and demanded that Abraham send them away. God told him to listen to Sarah, but God also took care of Hagar and Ishmael. There are many theories as to why Hagar and Ishmael were sent away. Some say that Ishmael teased Isaac that he was the first born and would inherit more than Isaac. Others say that Hagar teased Sarah that she had the first child to Abraham. Some say that Ishmael was worshipping other gods. We can only imagine how the story grew, just as it does today.

If we believe that God created the world and all that is in it, how can we not believe that He could help a 90 year old woman have a child? I never cease to be amazed when I look at a flower, and wonder how the small plant knows what nutrients to take from the ground, and why is it so beautiful. I wonder at the green hues in the spring and the colored leaves in the fall. I wonder at the small baby and his wonderful future. God gives the knowledge of medicine, the spirit of exploring in many areas. God gives us love and forgiveness. God gives us everything we could ever want and more.

If we don’t accept God and the fact that we are not in charge, how could we possibly think that things such as the beauty that surrounds us daily just happens. We too laugh just as Sarah did because we don’t understand.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for all that You have given to us. Help us to realize that through You all things are possible, whether they are small or large. We are all equal in Your eyes. Amen.

1. How would we have reacted if told the promise given to Abraham and Sarah?
2. Why did Sarah laugh? Why did Abraham doubt?
3. Have you ever doubted God in anything large or small, only to find out that if you ask, God will answer? Are you a child of Abraham and Sarah?
4. How can we help others to see the power of Our Heavenly Father today?

Sarah: Sari, wife of Abraham, is renamed Sarah in Genesis 17. Her story continues in the book of Genesis through her death in Genesis 23, but numerous references to her continue through the rest of Genesis. Reference to her as mother is also mentioned in Isa 51:2.

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