



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

GOD PROTECTS HIS PROMISE

GENESIS 20:1-18



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

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“...how could Abraham and Sarah, at this time, repeat the very same sin they had committed many years ago in Egypt... they had, over and over again, seen many wonderful answers to prayer, many miraculous proofs of God’s care and protection. Their faith had stood many tests, and God had never failed them. And now, finally, they were about to have their long-promised son. Sarah may even have been actually pregnant with Isaac...” *(Henry Morris)*

A sobering two-fold reality about sin in our lives:

The first deals with repeated sin

The second reveals the harm our sins bring to others

What is the worst thing about our sin?

It is against God.

Sinners against God should break your heart. It should lead you to ask God to:

- Give you a biblical sensitivity to sin
- Reveal sin in your life
- Lead you to
 - confess it
 - repent of it
 - replace it with godliness

There is no win when we sin.

What should increasingly be our primary motive for fighting and repenting of sin?

Because we love Jesus; we do not want anything about our lives to grieve, misrepresent, or hurt Him.

Our sin is not greater than God's grace.

This true account reveals that truth in two halves.

The first half describes human sinful failure and its effects.

The second half describes God's Grace and its effects.

I. The Power of Life's Patterns

1. Our decisions, actions, and selfish compromises bring consequences for others

"But God..."

God got his attention! God graciously intervened.

"Behold, you are a dead man..." "you are..."

"... because of the woman whom you have taken for she is married."

Abimelech is responsible!

I. The Power of Life's Patterns

2. Our thoughts drive our actions, which form habits/patterns of relating to others

Abimelech did not ask God what God thinks about all this.

I. The Power of Life's Patterns

II. The Power of God's Protection

God's grace conquering/correcting human sin

"I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore, I did not let you touch her."

God does not prejudge or misjudge anyone.

God knows our hearts.

II. The Power of God's Protection

What matters is what God says.

We must always measure our own thoughts and actions by God's Word of wisdom.

Abraham justified himself to himself.

Godly thinking is truthful thinking.

Abraham did not anchor his thoughts in the truth of God's promises to him.

II. The Power of God's Protection

First, God required Abimelech to make public restitution to Sarah (v. 16).

Second, God required Abraham to pray [publicly?] (v. 17).

II. The Power of God's Protection

Nothing can threaten God's promises to you as His child.

God is carefully watching over you to do good to you.

God's grace is greater than our sin.

God allows us to live with consequences we create for ourselves.

A person stands on a dark rock in the foreground, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The text "GRACE CHURCH" is written in large, white, serif capital letters, and "WILLIAMSBURG" is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters below it.

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