



MATTHEW 6

The Lilies of The Valley

Revealing the Life of Sarah

Right after Eve, the next woman mentioned by name in the Bible is Sarah, the wife of Abraham. It is just amazing that so many years have passed and we can still tell the story of Sarah, how she lived and especially how she had enjoyed a long life.

We know from reading our Bible that Sarah left an idolatrous home and followed a new path with her husband, Abraham. The Scriptures referred that Sarah lived up to a wonderful and good age of 127 years. Her burial is the first one to be mentioned in the Bible. She is buried in the "Cave of the Patriarchs"

Sarah demonstrated this radical obedience to her husband. Since they have already been married she could certainly confide in his judgement. Her obedience was proven first by leaving everything behind, including her home and family, to follow Abraham to a new land.

She did not know where they were going and had to live inside a tent in the desert. They traveled in such radical obedience and that is through absolute faith and trusting in YHVH that He will provide.

Genesis 12:4 revealed to us that Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. From this chapter we also know that he was already married to Sarai. Before they left Harran, they gathered possessions they accumulated and people they had acquired in Harran, before they set out to the land of Canaan. She had this privilege of travelling from one place to the next, experiencing the landscapes and people.

Abraham didn't leave Haran until Terah his father died. And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah was an idol worshipper (Joshua. 24:1) and YHVH would not allow him to proceed to Canaan but has chosen his son Abram.

Our father Abraham ... dwelt in Haran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed himself into this land. Acts 7:2-4

Genesis 12:7 YHVH appeared to Abram and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built an altar there to YHVH who had appeared to him.

Sarah was matriarch of the tribes of Israel and her contribution came strong into focus in the Genesis story.

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Morehat Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. YHVH appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring will give this land." So he built an altar there to YHVH, who had appeared to him. They traveled from there to Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, where Abram built another altar to YHVH. Then Abram continued toward the Negev.

At that time there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

Abram spent a number of years in Egypt to escape the famine where he accumulated wealth. He had no altar or tent there and he had no communications from YHVH. These years resulted in his separation from Lot and taking an Egyptian maid servant with them when they left Egypt who later would mother Ishmael.

Genesis 12:11-17

As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, 'I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.' When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. He treated Abram well for her sake,

and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels. But YHVH inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai.

Sarah's name means "princess". Sarah represented confidence which accompanied her physical and spiritual beauty. For a woman to leave her husband's side to ensure his safety she must have had the courage and strength but also great love and compassion.

We can give many other qualities to the purposefulness and nobility of Sarah, like kindness and compassion.

Genesis 21 Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old.

The extraordinary findings of Sarah in the Scriptures.

Sarah was certainly a noble and beautiful woman as even in her advanced age men found her attractive. The stunning beauty of Sarai was not only noticed by Pharaoh in Gen 12 but also turned the head of Abimelek in Gen 20 when Sarah was even older.

1 Peter 3:5–6

"For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in YHVH used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her Master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear."

Sarah certainly had a strong and fearless character and she stood strongly for her family. It was through her inner peace and tranquility that her optimism grew with faith in YHVH that Sarah was able to deal with such adversity in her lifetime.

It was not often that the Bible elaborated in detail of women, but those mentioned played a strong role in the History. Her endurance brought the fulfillment of the promise.

Hebrews 10:36

“For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of YHVH you may receive what is promised.”

The women of Proverbs often comes to mind when we look at the character of Sarah.

Proverbs 31:10–11

“Who can find a virtuous wife [**eshet chayil**]? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.”

Putting this into short history. What we gather from the Scriptures is that Abram was 75 years old when they left Haran (Genesis 12:4). After they left Egypt the birth of Ishmael took place (Genesis 16) when Abram was 86 years old. With Sarah remaining very beautiful into her seventies and even eighties; she died at a very blessed age of 127 (Genesis 23:1)

Genesis 23:1

And the life of Sarah [Chayei Sarah] was a hundred and seven and twenty years; these were the years of the life of Sarah.”

Sarah played a very important role in the history of salvation, even though she initially doubt in the plan set out for her. Sarah was childless until she was 90 years old.

YHVH promised Abraham that she would be “a mother of nations” Genesis 17:16

Sarah was convinced that YHVH would be true to His promise to bring forth nations through Abraham, and that her action in faith was to even giving her husband up to the fulfillment of that blessing.

When the three angels visited Abraham, Sarah understood that the child of promise would come through her.

Hagar was a personal servant that were close to Sarah and Abraham. As Hagar traveled from Egypt she must have accepted the faith and traditions. Was this indeed where the Ishlamites learned to gather on a Shabbat?

Sarah offered to Abraham to sleep with Sarah so that they may have a child because Sarah was baren.

Unfortunately the pride of Hagar let her think she could exalted herself over Sarah. Hagar conceived and Sarah did not.

The extraordinary discovery is in the number of years Sarah was spared, the miracle that YHVH brought forth even at such advance age.

Let us look again at the verse *Genesis 23:1*

And the life of Sarah was a hundred and seven and twenty years; these were the years of the life of Sarah

It states Sarah was a hundred and seven years inbetween and a further 20 years. Sarah gave birth to Isaac at 90 years old and her death at 127.

In her Journey Sarah shared Abraham's journey with YHVH in a spirit of good faith, exteme courage, and, self-sacrifice.

Sarah endured being taken from her family, being barren until the age of 90, being held captive, and being exposed twice to the advances of foreign kings .

Through all this Sarah remained faithful to YHVH, stayed side to her husband, and stood strong her the destined plan of her calling.

Between the age of 90 and 127, Sarah had 37 of her best years of life as she raised the child that she and Abraham had hoped and prayed for.

Abraham's marriage to Sarah and Isaac's marriage to Rivkah (Rebecca) reveal that a partner's spiritual qualities are far more important than their physical attributes (although beauty and attention to appearance obviously helps).

YHVH has a plan for each one of us. we all received certain attributes to live to the fullest. May we use the wisdom of YHVH to understand that we have to make the right choice when we make commitment to a life partner. That it be in the will of YHVH and that nothing separate you from His calling for us.

Making the right decision and choices will affect how we fulfill our calling and subsequently, the legacy that we leave.

Lesson continue

Be blessed and stay blessed 