



10 MAY 2026 AM

Isaiah 51:1-2

**SARAH**

= wife of Abraham; mother of Isaac

Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him... And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

**Isaiah 51:2, 1 Corinthians 13:13**

## INTRODUCTION

- for those of us in church, Mother's Day is not a strange or foreign idea

every person here today was born of a woman and has a mother to whom they were once connected physically

yet, motherhood has been maligned by the culture of the day, reduced to being a 'birthing parent'

add to that the bizarre beauty standards of the day, the confusion of transgenderism, and the battle against the family in general...

is it any wonder mothers are stressed and perhaps feel a tiny bit unappreciated?

- in the Bible, there are plenty of examples of motherhood:

Eve, the mother of all living

Ruth, the great-grandmother of David

Hannah, the mother of Samuel

Mary, the mother of Jesus

- but this morning, I want us to follow the exhortation of the scripture found in **Isaiah 51:2**

Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him...

- while the context of the verse centers on Abraham, Israel was encouraged to consider or regard deeply the example of their earthly mother

biblically, the story of Sarah does not even begin until the age of 65

she is mentioned by name **58x** in scripture...this means she is named more than the Apostle John

she went from being 'my princess' (Sarai) to being named 'a princess' (Sarah) by God

NOTE: we considered this back on March 22, in a sermon entitled "Significant"

realistically, we can find all kinds of character traits in the life of Sarah:

godly submission  
foolish impetuosity  
fierce anger  
gullible obedience

Sarah is the only woman in the Bible whose age is given at the time of her death

**Genesis 23:1** 127 years old

- with our text, we ask the question:

**When people look at Sarah,  
what can they expect to see in her?**

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three;  
but the greatest of these is charity.

# 1. An Example Of CHARITY **Genesis 12:5**

And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

NOTE: the word *charity* is different than mere *love*, because it implies love in action

## **SHE FOLLOWED HER HUSBAND**

consider this: Sarah was the half-sister to Abraham; they shared the same father, Terah

### **Genesis 20:12**

God always spoke to Abraham

the covenant, the promises, the directions

Acts 7:2 ...the God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia...

Sarah had to trust her husband as he followed the words of God

### **Ephesians 5:22**

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

twice Abraham involved her in lies to save his own life

### **Genesis 12:13 (20:2)**

the changes she endured, the hope for a child to which she held onto, etc.

Sarah was a princess in name and in nature. She understood her husband's divine vocation, shared his religious aspiration, and never ceased to be his true helpmeet.

~ James Strahan, *Hebrew Ideals*

## **SHE FOUGHT FOR HER CHILD**

### **Genesis 21:9-10**

And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.

Sarah was ~90 years old at this time

Sarah had been wrong in offering Hagar as a substitute...a serious lapse in her faith towards God...but she was right in sending her and Ishmael away

### **Proverbs 31**

verse 17 she girdeth her loins with strength

verse 21 she is not afraid...

verse 25 strength and honor are her clothing

## **2. An Example Of HOPE Hebrews 11:11**

Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

### **HOPE IN GODLY POWER**

for years after leaving her home in Ur, Sarah followed her husband and believed in the promises God made to him

she traveled from place to place, counting down the years of her life...wondering if and when God would provide her with a child of her own

### **Romans 4:18**

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

## HOPE IN A GODLY PATTERN

### Isaiah 51:1-2

Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

in the context of this verse, Isaiah is reminding those in captivity that the nation did not merely descend from Heaven on a cloud...they were forged from the mind of God and at His direction

hewn from a rock...dug from a pit

if things seemed hopeless in Babylon, then they were reminded to look back at Abraham and Sarah

if God could build a nation out of two elderly, homeless people, could He not rebuild the nation with a remnant of Jewish exiles?

### Zechariah 4:6, 10

This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts...For who hath despised the day of small things?

### 3. An Example Of FAITH 1 Peter 3:5-6

For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

#### LEARN HER INWARD CHARACTER

certainly, man looks on the outward appearance

1 Samuel 16:7

Sarah was known for her physical beauty...even in her later years, King Abimelech noticed her

Genesis 20

but true character is developed in the inner recesses of the heart of a person

#### verse 4

But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

consider that for almost 13 years, God was silent toward Abraham, yet Sarah continued to trust her husband, and by extension, her God

#### LEARN HER UPWARD CONFIDENCE

Peter warned believers about trying to scheme their way through life:

church women were trying to get their husbands saved by cultivating a false beauty and adopting a domineering attitude

they were following the pagan practices of Greek and Roman women

Peter challenged them to follow the godly example of biblical women:

*...if you do not give way to fear*