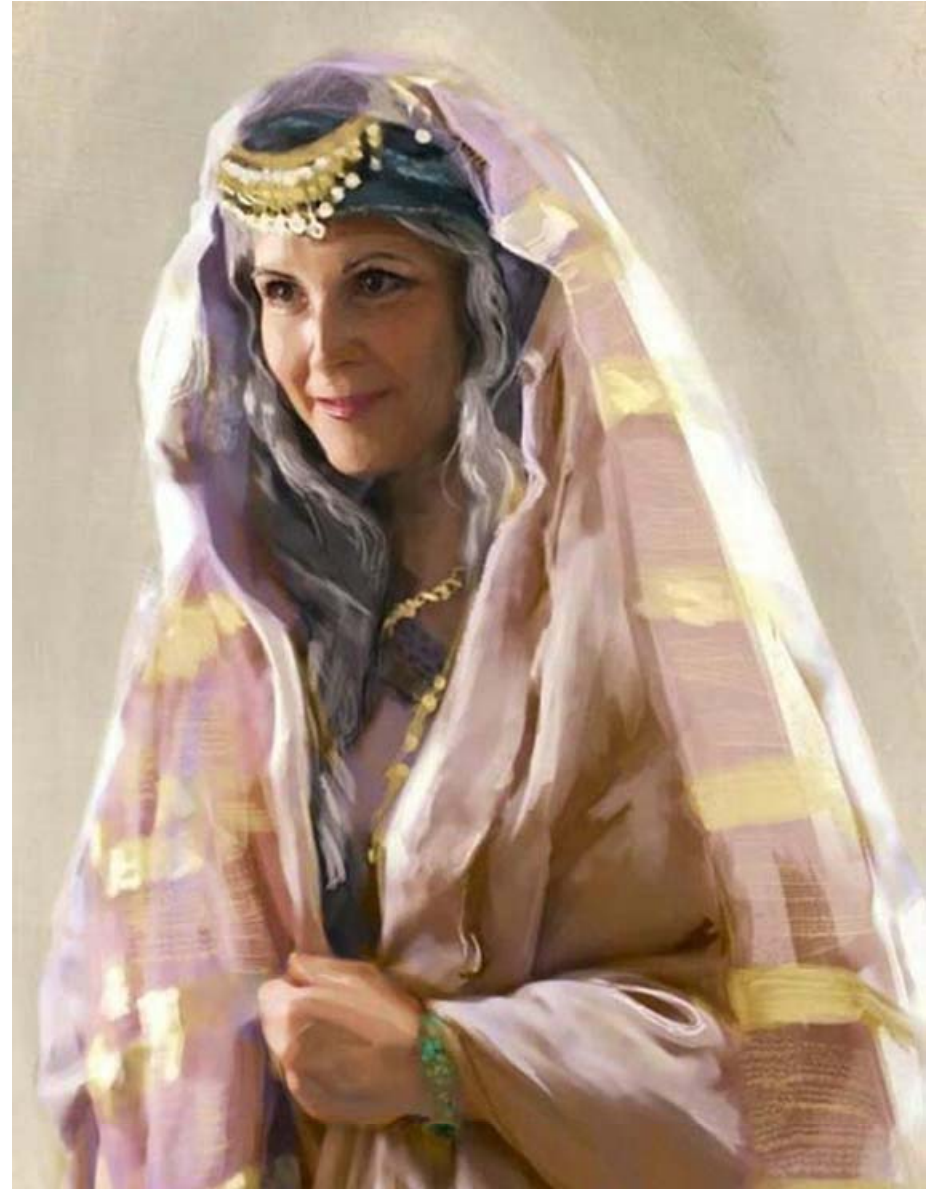


Sarah

The First Matriarch



OUTLINE

- Sarai and History
- Sarai and Bareness
- Sarai and Tradition
- Sarai and Hope
- Sarai and Problem-Solving
- Sarai and Determinedness
- Sarai and the Ego
- Sarah and Calamities
- Sarah and Faith
- Sarah and Dominance
- Sarah and Wifhood
- Trial and Reward

Sarai and History

- She was beautiful
- From Ur of the Chaldeans (southern Iraq)
- During her time, women were generally oppressed and disregarded
- Marriage generally for convenience and reproduction
- Marriages usually between close relatives



Sarai and Bareness

Righteous women who were barren:

- Sarah (Isaac)
- Manoah's wife (Samson)
- Hannah (Samuel)
- Anna (St. Mary)
- Elizabeth (St. John)

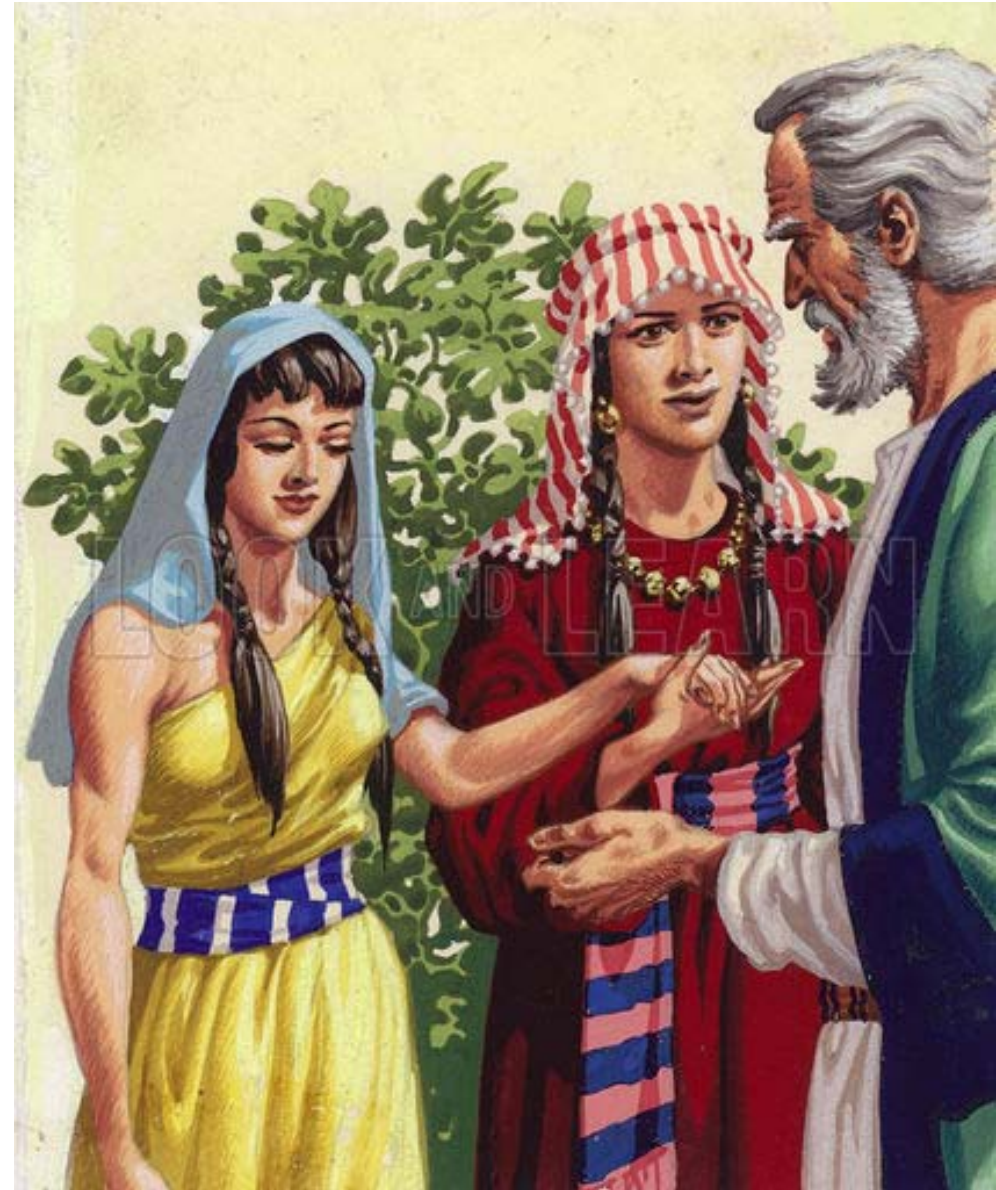
Barren: Too poor to produce much or any [fruit]

Fallow: Plowed and harrowed but left unsown for a period in order to restore its fertility



Sarai and Tradition

- Adam & Eve
 - Noah, Ham, Shem, Japeth
(only one wife each)
 - Abram & Sarai, Nahor & Milcah
(only one wife named for each)
 - Isaac & Rebekah
-
- Offering Hagar as a surrogate
was likely a tradition adopted
from the surrounding nations



Sarai and Hope

- Despite not having children for 90 years, did not:
 - mourn,
 - weep,
 - complain,
 - wear black
- Waited 70 years before proposing her own “solution”



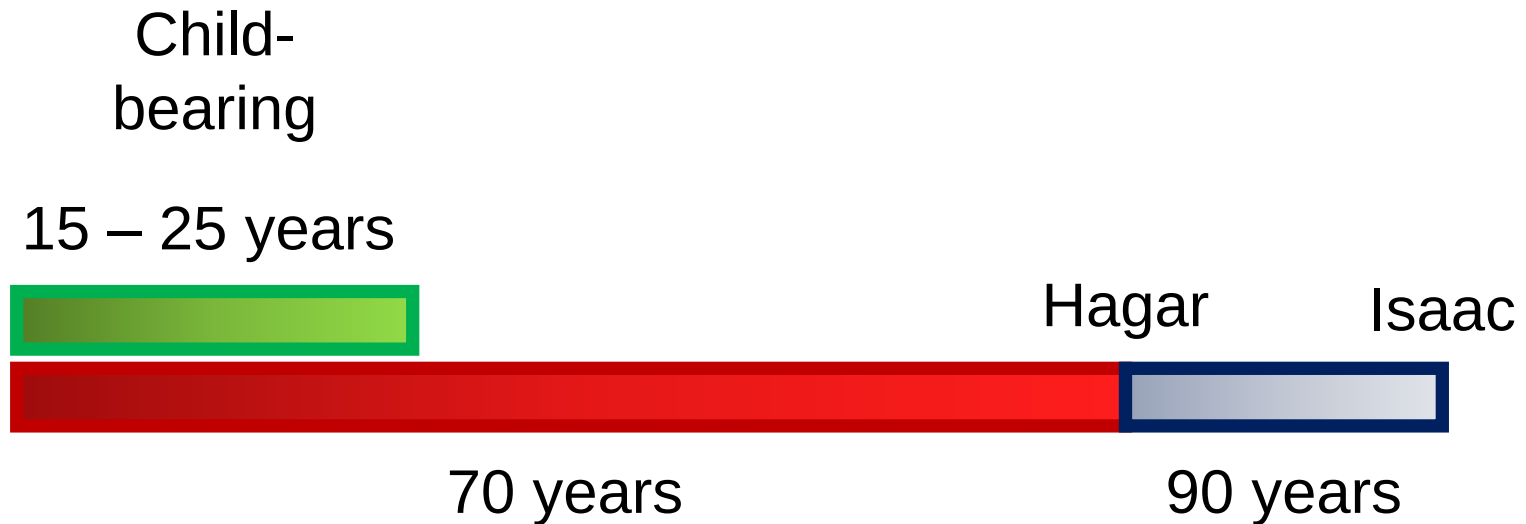
Sarai and Problem-Solving

Does Sarai's solution show lack of faith? Anything else?

- Weakness in faith?
YES, but
- Care/concern for the difficult situation?
Also YES, and
- “out of the box” solution at great sacrifice from her side for the sake of her husband.
- She did what she could, but human wisdom often misleads.



Sarai and Determinedness



On this time scale, other women her age could have been great grandmothers when she offered Hagar!

Sarai and Ego

- Despised by her maid
- Guilt: Abraham is clearly fertile
- Her infertility known publicly
- Perhaps Hagar's loyalty was previously questioned?
- Regret over "sharing" her husband
- BUT, Abraham took her side
- Hagar was mistreated



Sarah and Calamities

- Twice her marriage to Abraham was concealed (Pharaoh and Abimelech)
- Abraham was concerned for his life...what about HER life?
- God upheld her honor and intervened for her.



Sarah and Faith

Laughing = lack of faith?

- 1) Bible said she passed child-bearing age
- 2) She did not know the men
- 3) May have been a reflex out of surprise
- 4) Did not intend for them to hear



Sarah and Dominance

Was casting out Hagar and Ishmael wrong?

By human terms, yes.

In Godly terms:

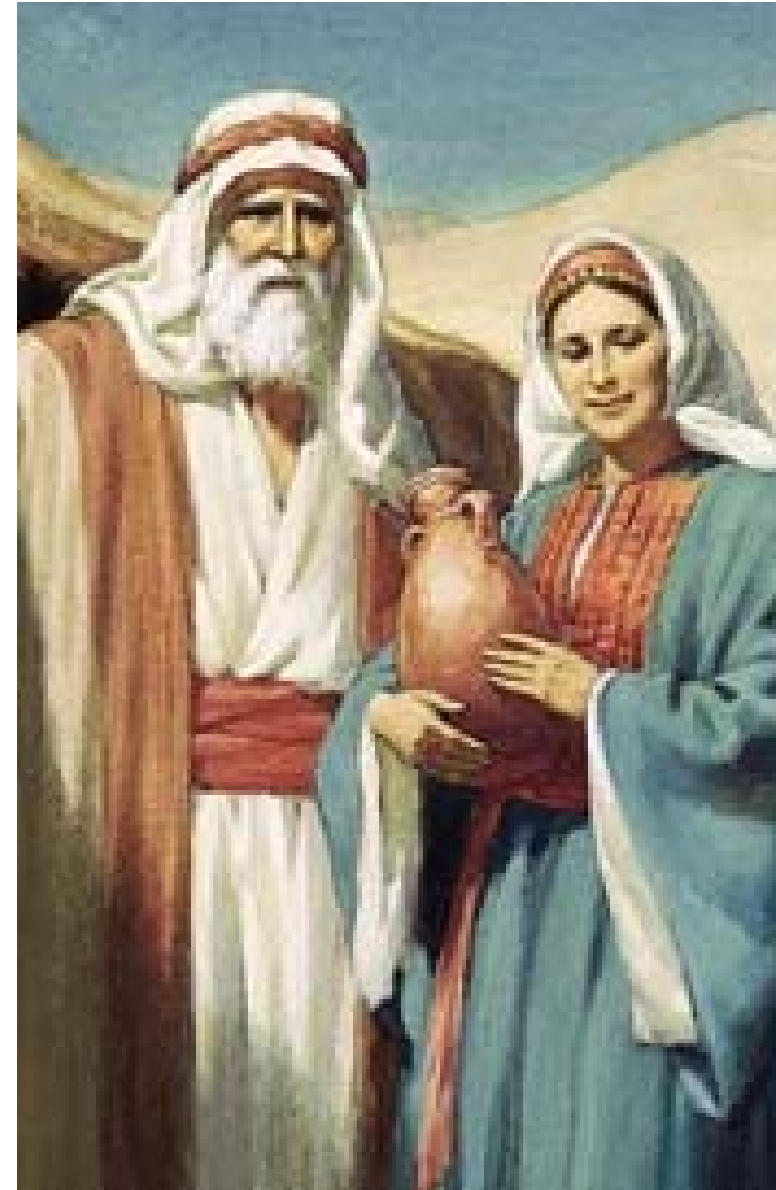
Ishmael represents children of the flesh

Isaac represents children of faith



Sarah and Wifehood

- **Love:** Accommodated each other
Even wrong ideas rooted in love
- **Submission & Obedience:** “Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid...” (1 Peter 3:6)
- **Selflessness:** Offering Hagar, accepting Isaac’s sacrifice.
- They had a **GODLY** marriage, not a **PERFECT** marriage.



Trial and Reward

- Did not try to prevent Abraham
- Trusted in God's economy
- Endured 90 childless years
- Ultimately, an ancestor of the Lord Christ



CONCLUSIONS

- Strength of character
- Problem-solving in an oppressive culture
- Faith in God
- Faithfulness to her husband
- Love between her and her husband
- Submission & obedience
- Some low points in her life,
but God understands and has mercy

**Glory be to God
forever. Amen.**

