

~**SARAH (672)**

**(Sar'ah) [Princess, Sarai or Sar'ai, possibly, Contentious]**

.. **Figures In A Symbolic Drama**

- **Half sister and wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac.**
- **And Abram and Nahor proceeded to take wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was **Sarai**, while the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and father of Iscah. (**Genesis 11:29**)**
- **And, besides, she is truly my sister, the daughter of my father, only not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. (**Genesis 20:12**)**
- **Look to Abraham your father and to **Sarah** who gradually brought you forth with childbirth pains. For he was one when I called him, and I proceeded to bless him and to make him many. (**Isaiah 51:2**)**
- **Her original name was **Sarai**.**
- **And God went on to say to Abraham; As for **Sarai** your wife, you must not call her name **Sarai**, because **Sarah** is her name. (**Genesis 17:15**)**
- **She was ten years younger than Abraham**
- **At this Abraham fell upon his face and began to laugh and to say in his heart; Will a man a hundred years old have a child born, and will **Sarah**, yes, will a woman ninety years old give birth? (**Genesis 17:17**)**
- **And married him while they were living in the Chaldean city of Ur.**
- **Later Haran died while in company with Terah his father in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. (**Genesis 11:28**)**
- **And Abram and Nahor proceeded to take wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was **Sarai**, while the name of Nahors wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and**

- father of Iscah. ([Genesis 11:29](#))
- She continued barren until her reproductive powers were miraculously revived after she had already stopped menstruating.
  - And Abraham and **Sarah** were old, being advanced in years. Sarah had stopped having menstruation. ([Genesis 18:11](#))
  - And, although he did not grow weak in faith, he considered his own body, now already deadened, as he was about one hundred years old, also the deadness of the womb of **Sarah**. ([Romans 4:19](#))
  - By faith also **Sarah** herself received power to conceive seed, even when she was past the age limit, since she esteemed him faithful who had promised. ([Hebrews 11:11](#))
  - **Sarah** may have been in her 60s when she left Ur with Abraham and took up residence in Haran. At the age of 65 she accompanied her husband from Haran to the land of Canaan.
  - At that Abram went just as Yehowah had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he went out from Haran. ([Genesis 12:4](#))
  - So Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot the son of his brother and all the goods that they had accumulated and the souls whom they had acquired in Haran, and they got on their way out to go to the land of Canaan. Finally they came to the land of Canaan. ([Genesis 12:5](#))
  - There they spent time at Shechem and in the mountainous region East of Bethel, as well as in various other places, before famine forced them to go to Egypt.
  - And Abram went on through the land as far as the site of Shechem, near the big trees of Moreh, and at that time the Canaanite was in the land. ([Genesis 12:6](#))
  - Yehowah now appeared to Abram and said; To your seed I am going to give this land. After that he built an altar there to Yehowah, who had appeared to him. ([Genesis 12:7](#))
  - Later he moved from there to the mountainous region to the east

- of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. Then he built an altar there to Yehowah and began to call on the name of Yehowah. (**Genesis 12:8**)
- Afterward Abram broke camp, going then from encampment to encampment toward the Negeb. (**Genesis 12:9**)
  - Now a famine arose in the land and Abram made his way down toward Egypt to reside there as an alien, because the famine was severe in the land. (**Genesis 12:10**)
  - Though advanced in years, **Sarah** was very beautiful in appearance. Therefore, Abraham had earlier requested that, whenever necessary in the course of their travels, Sarah identify him as her brother, lest others kill him and then take her.
  - And it came about that, when God caused me to wander from the house of my father, then I said to her, This is your loving-kindness which you may exercise toward me. At every place where we shall come say of me; He is my brother. (**Genesis 20:13**)
  - In Egypt this resulted in **Sarah's** being taken into the household of Pharaoh on the recommendation of his princes. But divine intervention prevented Pharaoh from violating her.
  - Thereafter he returned **Sarah** to Abraham, requesting that they leave the land. He also provided safe conduct for Abraham and his possessions.
  - And it came about that as soon as he got near to entering Egypt, then he said to Sarai his wife; Please, now! I well know you are a woman beautiful in appearance. (**Genesis 12:11**)
  - So it is bound to happen that the Egyptians will see you and will say; This is his wife. And they will certainly kill me, but you they will preserve alive. (**Genesis 12:12**)
  - Please say you are my sister, in order, that it may go well with me on your account, and my soul will be certain to live due to you. (**Genesis 12:13**)
  - So it happened that, as soon as Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians got to see the woman, that she was very beautiful.

**(Genesis 12:14)**

- And the princes of Pharaoh also got to see her and they began praising her to Pharaoh, so that the woman was taken to the house of Pharaoh. **(Genesis 12:15)**
- And he treated Abram well on her account, and he came to have sheep and cattle and asses and menservants and maidservants and she-asses and camels. **(Genesis 12:16)**
- Then Yehowah touched Pharaoh and his household with great plagues because of **Sarai**, Abram's wife. **(Genesis 12:17)**
- With that Pharaoh called Abram and said; What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? **(Genesis 12:18)**
- Why did you say; She is my sister, so that I was about to take her as my wife? And now here is your wife. Take her and go! **(Genesis 12:19)**
- And Pharaoh issued commands to men concerning him, and they went escorting him and his wife and all that he had. **(Genesis 12:20)**
- It is noteworthy that an ancient papyrus tells of a Pharaoh who commissioned armed men to seize an attractive woman and kill her husband. Thus Abraham's fear that he might be killed on account of **Sarah** was not unfounded.
- Instead of endangering his life in an unsuccessful attempt to save the honor of his wife in an alien land, Abraham followed what appeared to him to be the safest course.
- It should be remembered that Abraham was the owner of his wife. **Sarah** was happy to serve Yehowah and Abraham in this way. Never do the Scriptures censure Abraham for having done this.
- Ten years after having originally entered Canaan, 75-year-old **Sarah** requested that Abraham have relations with her Egyptian maidservant Hagar in order to have children from her.
- Now **Sarai**, Abram's wife, had borne him no children, but she had an Egyptian maidservant and her name was Hagar. **(Genesis**

**16:1)**

- Hence **Sarai** said to Abram; Please now! Yehowah has shut me off from bearing children. Please, have relations with my maidservant. Perhaps I may get children from her. So Abram listened to the voice of **Sarai**. (**Genesis 16:2**)
- Then **Sarai**, Abram's wife, took Hagar, her Egyptian maidservant, at the end of ten years of Abram's dwelling in the land of Canaan, and gave her to Abram her husband as his wife. (**Genesis 16:3**)
- The resultant difficulties made it apparent that this was not Yehowah's way of fulfilling the promise previously made to Abraham concerning the **seed**.
- After these things the word of Yehowah came to Abram in a vision, saying; Do not fear, Abram. I am a shield for you. Your reward will be very great. (**Genesis 15:1**)
- At this Abram said; Sovereign Lord Yehowah, what will you give me, seeing that I am going childless and the one who will possess my house is a man of Damascus, Eliezer? (**Genesis 15:2**)
- And Abram added; Look! You have given me no seed, and, look! A son of my household is succeeding me as heir. (**Genesis 15:3**)
- But, look! The word of Yehowah to him was in these words; This man will not succeed you as heir, but one who will come out of your own inward parts will succeed you as heir. (**Genesis 15:4**)
- He now brought him outside and said; Look up, please, to the heavens and count the stars, if you are possibly able to count them. And he went on to say to him; So your seed will become. (**Genesis 15:5**)
- And he put faith in Yehowah, and he proceeded to count it to him as righteousness. (**Genesis 15:6**)
- Then he added to him; I am Yehowah, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take it in possession. (**Genesis 15:7**)
- To this he said; Sovereign Lord Yehowah, by what shall I know that I shall take it in possession? (**Genesis 15:8**)

- In turn he said to him; Take for me a three year old heifer and a three year old shegoat and a three year old ram and a turtledove and a young pigeon. (**Genesis 15:9**)
- So he took all these to himself and cut them in two and put each part of them so as to match the other, but the birds he did not cut in pieces. (**Genesis 15:10**)
- And the birds of prey began to descend upon the carcasses, but Abram kept driving them away. (**Genesis 15:11**)
- After a while the sun was about to set, and a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and, look! a frightfully great darkness was falling upon him. (**Genesis 15:12**)
- And he began to say to Abram; You may know for sure that your seed will become an alien resident in a land not theirs, and they will have to serve them, and these will certainly afflict them for four hundred years. (**Genesis 15:13**)
- But the nation that they will serve I am judging, and after that they will go out with many goods. (**Genesis 15:14**)
- As for you, you will go to your forefathers in peace; You will be buried at a good old age. (**Genesis 15:15**)
- But in the fourth generation they will return here, because the error of the Amorites has not yet come to completion. (**Genesis 15:16**)
- Becoming aware of her pregnancy, Hagar began despising her mistress. When **Sarah** voiced complaint, Abraham granted his wife full authority to deal with Hagar as her maidservant.
- Humiliated by **Sarah**, Hagar ran away from her mistress but returned in obedience to divine direction, after which she gave birth to Ishmael.
- Accordingly he had relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she became aware that she was pregnant, then her mistress began to be despised in her eyes. (**Genesis 16:4**)
- At this **Sarai** said to Abram; The violence done me be upon you.

**I myself gave my maidservant over to your bosom, and she became aware that she was pregnant, and I began to be despised in her eyes. May Yehowah judge between me and you. (Genesis 16:5)**

- **So Abram said to Sarai; Look! Your maidservant is at your disposal. Do to her what is good in your eyes. Then Sarai began to humiliate her so that she ran away from her. (Genesis 16:6)**
- **Later Yehowah's angel found her at a fountain of waters in the wilderness, at the fountain on the way to Shur. (Genesis 16:7)**
- **And he began to say; Hagar, maidservant of Sarai, just where have you come from and where are you going? To this she said; Why, from Sarai my mistress I am running away. (Genesis 16:8)**
- **And Yehowah's angel went on to say to her; Return to your mistress and humble yourself under her hand. (Genesis 16:9)**
- **Then Yehowah's angel said to her; I shall greatly multiply your seed, so that it will not be numbered for multitude. (Genesis 16:10)**
- **Further Yehowah's angel added to her; Here you are pregnant, and you shall give birth to a son and must call his name Ishmael, for Yehowah has heard your affliction. (Genesis 16:11)**
- **As for him, he will become a zebra of a man. His hand will be against everyone, and the hand of everyone will be against him, and before the face of all his brothers he will tabernacle. (Genesis 16:12)**
- **Then she began to call the name of Yehowah, who was speaking to her; You are a God of sight, for she said; Have I here actually looked upon him who sees me? (Genesis 16:13)**
- **That is why the well was called Beerlahairoi. Here it is between Kadesh and Bered. (Genesis 16:14)**
- **Later on Hagar bore to Abram a son and Abram called the name of his son whom Hagar bore Ishmael. (Genesis 16:15)**
- **And Abram was eighty-six years old at Hagar's bearing Ishmael to Abram. (Genesis 16:16)**

- About 13 years after Ishmael's birth, on the occasion of Abraham's being divinely commanded to circumcise all the males of his household, Abraham was also instructed to call his wife, no longer by the name **Sarai**, but **Sarah**, meaning, **Princess**.
- Regarding Sarah, God said; I will bless her and also give you a son from her, and I will bless her and she shall become nations, kings of peoples will come from her.
- And God said further to Abraham; As for you, you are to keep my covenant, you and your seed after you according to their generations. (**Genesis 17:9**)
- This is my covenant that you men will keep, between me and you men, even your seed after you; Every male of yours must get circumcised. (**Genesis 17:10**)
- And you must get circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it must serve as a sign of the covenant between me and you. (**Genesis 17:11**)
- And every male of yours eight days old must be circumcised, according to your generations, anyone born in the house and anyone purchased with money from any foreigner who is not from your seed. (**Genesis 17:12**)
- Every man born in your house and every man purchased with money of yours must without fail get circumcised, and my covenant in the flesh of you men must serve as a covenant to time indefinite. (**Genesis 17:13**)
- And an uncircumcised male who will not get the flesh of his foreskin circumcised, even that soul must be cut off from his people. He has broken my covenant. (**Genesis 17:14**)
- And God went on to say to Abraham; As for **Sarai** your wife, you must not call her name Sarai, because **Sarah** is her name. (**Genesis 17:15**)
- And I will bless her and also give you a son from her, and I will bless her and she shall become nations, kings of peoples will come from her. (**Genesis 17:16**)



- **At this Abraham fell upon his face and began to laugh and to say in his heart; Will a man a hundred years old have a child born, and will Sarah, yes, will a woman ninety years old give birth? (Genesis 17:17)**
- **After that Abraham said to the true God; O that Ishmael might live before you! (Genesis 17:18)**
- **To this God said; Sarah your wife is indeed bearing you a son, and you must call his name Isaac. And I will establish my covenant with him for a covenant to time indefinite to his seed after him. (Genesis 17:19)**
- **But as regards Ishmael I have heard you. Look! I will bless him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him very, very much. He will certainly produce twelve chieftains, and I will make him become a great nation. (Genesis 17:20)**
- **However, my covenant I shall establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this appointed time next year. (Genesis 17:21)**
- **With that God finished speaking with him and went up from Abraham. (Genesis 17:22)**
- **Abraham then proceeded to take Ishmael his son and all the men born in his house and everyone purchased with money of his, every male among the men of the household of Abraham, and he went to circumcising the flesh of their foreskins in this very day, just as God had spoken with him. (Genesis 17:23)**
- **And Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he had the flesh of his foreskin circumcised. (Genesis 17:24)**
- **And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he had the flesh of his foreskin circumcised. (Genesis 17:25)**
- **In this very day Abraham got circumcised, and also Ishmael his son. (Genesis 17:26)**
- **And all the men of his household, anyone born in the house and anyone purchased with money from a foreigner, got circumcised with him. (Genesis 17:27)**

- Not long thereafter, at Mamre, one of three angelic visitors reaffirmed that **Sarah** would give birth to a son. Overhearing this; **Sarah** began to laugh inside herself, saying;
- Afterward Yehowah appeared to him among the big trees of Mamre, while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent about the heat of the day. (**Genesis 18:1**)
- When he raised his eyes, then he looked and there three men were standing some distance from him. When he caught sight of them he began running to meet them from the entrance of the tent and proceeded to bow down to the earth. (**Genesis 18:2**)
- Then he said; Yehowah, if, now, I have found favor in your eyes, please do not pass by your servant. (**Genesis 18:3**)
- Let a little water be taken, please, and you must have your feet washed. Then recline under the tree. (**Genesis 18:4**)
- And let me get a piece of bread, and refresh your hearts. Following that, you can pass on, because that is why you have passed this way to your servant. At this they said; All right. You may do just as you have spoken. (**Genesis 18:5**)
- So Abraham went hurrying to the tent to **Sarah** and said; Hurry! Get three seah measures of fine flour, knead the dough and make round cakes. (**Genesis 18:6**)
- Next Abraham ran to the herd and proceeded to get a tender and good young bull and to give it to the attendant, and he went hurrying to get it ready. (**Genesis 18:7**)
- He then took butter and milk and the young bull that he had got ready and set it before them. Then he himself kept standing by them under the tree as they were eating. (**Genesis 18:8**)
- They now said to him; Where is **Sarah** your wife? To this he said; Here in the tent! (**Genesis 18:9**)
- So he continued; I am surely going to return to you next year at this time, and, look! **Sarah** your wife will have a son. Now Sarah was listening at the tent entrance, and it was behind the man. (**Genesis 18:10**)

- And Abraham and **Sarah** were old, being advanced in years. Sarah had stopped having menstruation. (**Genesis 18:11**)
- Hence **Sarah** began to laugh inside herself, saying; After I am worn out, shall I really have pleasure, my lord being old besides? (**Genesis 18:12**)
- Then Yehowah said to Abraham; Why was it that **Sarah** laughed, saying; Shall I really and truly give birth although I have become old? (**Genesis 18:13**)
- Is anything too extraordinary for Yehowah? At the appointed time I shall return to you, next year at this time, and **Sarah** will have a son. (**Genesis 18:14**)
- But **Sarah** began to deny it, saying; I did not laugh! For she was afraid. At this he said; No! but you did laugh. (**Genesis 18:15**)
- For the word of promise was as follows; At this time I will come and **Sarah** will have a son. (**Romans 9:9**)
- Since **Sarah** is cited at;
- By faith also **Sarah** herself received power to conceive seed, even when she was past the age limit, since she esteemed him faithful who had promised. (**Hebrews 11:11**)
- As an example of faith, evidently her laughter was not an expression of complete unbelief but merely indicated that the thought of having a son in her old age apparently struck her as somewhat humorous.
- **Sarah's** acknowledgment, inside herself, of Abraham as her lord was indicative of her obedience and subjection to her husbandly head, and her example is recommended to Christian wives.
- For so, too, formerly the holy women who were hoping in God used to adorn themselves, subjecting themselves to their own husbands. (**1 Peter 3:5**)
- As **Sarah** used to obey Abraham, calling him lord. And you have become her children, provided you keep on doing good and not fearing any cause for terror. (**1 Peter 3:6**)

- **Sarah** and her husband began residing at Gerar. As previously, Abraham referred to his wife as his sister. The king of Gerar, Abimelech, then took **Sarah**.
- Again Yehowah's intervention saved her from being violated. Upon returning **Sarah** to Abraham, Abimelech gave livestock and male and female servants to Abraham, perhaps in compensation for having temporarily deprived him of his wife.
- Additionally he gave Abraham a thousand pieces of silver (c. \$2,200). These silver pieces were to serve as evidence that Sarah was cleared of all reproach against her as a moral woman. ([Genesis Chapter 20](#))
- At the age of 90, **Sarah** had the joy of giving birth to Isaac. She then exclaimed; God has prepared laughter for me, everybody hearing of it will laugh at me.
- Such laughter would evidently be prompted by delight and amazement over the birth of the child. **Sarah** nursed her son for about five years. When Isaac was finally weaned, Abraham spread a big feast.
- On that occasion Sarah observed Hagar's son Ishmael, now about 19 years old, poking fun, or playing with Isaac in a mocking way. Apparently fearing for the future of her son Isaac, **Sarah** requested that Abraham dismiss Hagar and Ishmael. Abraham did so, subsequent to his receiving divine approval for this action.
- And Yehowah turned his attention to **Sarah** just as he had said; and Yehowah now did to **Sarah** just as he had spoken. ([Genesis 21:1](#))
- And **Sarah** became pregnant and then bore a son to Abraham in his old age at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. ([Genesis 21:2](#))
- Accordingly Abraham called the name of his son who had been born to him, whom **Sarah** had borne to him, Isaac. ([Genesis 21:3](#))
- And Abraham proceeded to circumcise Isaac his son when eight days old, just as God had commanded him. ([Genesis 21:4](#))
- And Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac his son was

born to him.  
(Genesis 21:5)

- Then **Sarah** said; God has prepared laughter for me: everybody hearing of it will laugh at me. (Genesis 21:6)
- And she added; Who would have uttered to Abraham, **Sarah** will certainly suckle children, whereas I have given birth to a son in his old age? (Genesis 21:7)
- Now the child kept growing and came to be weaned, and Abraham then prepared a big feast on the day of Isaac's being weaned. (Genesis 21:8)
- And **Sarah** kept noticing the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, poking fun. (Genesis 21:9)
- So she began to say to Abraham; Drive out this slave girl and her son, for the son of this slave girl is not going to be an heir with my son, with Isaac! (Genesis 21:10)
- But the thing proved to be very displeasing to Abraham as regards his son. (Genesis 21:11)
- Then God said to Abraham; Do not let anything that **Sarah** keeps saying to you be displeasing to you about the boy and about your slave girl. Listen to her voice, because it is by means of Isaac that what will be called your seed will be. (Genesis 21:12)
- And as for the son of the slave girl, I shall also constitute him a nation, because he is your offspring. (Genesis 21:13)
- So Abraham got up early in the morning and took bread and a skin water bottle and gave it to Hagar, setting it upon her shoulder, and the child, and then dismissed her. And she went her way and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba. (Genesis 21:14)
- About 32 years later **Sarah** died, at the age of 127 years, and Abraham buried her in the cave of the field of Machpelah.
- And **Sarah's** life got to be a hundred and twenty-seven years long. They were the years of **Sarah's** life. (Genesis 23:1)

- And after that Abraham buried **Sarah** his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah in front of Mamre, that is to say; Hebron, in the land of Canaan. (**Genesis 23:19**)
- Thus the field and the cave that was in it became confirmed to Abraham for the possession of a burial place at the hands of the sons of Heth. (**Genesis 23:20**)

### •• **Figures In A Symbolic Drama**

- In writing to the Galatians, the apostle Paul showed that Abraham's wife **Sarah** represented the Jerusalem above, the mother of spirit-anointed Christians, **the spiritual seed of Abraham**.
- Like **Sarah**, the Jerusalem above, God's symbolic woman, has never been in slavery, and therefore, her children are also free. For an individual to become a free child of the Jerusalem above, having her freedom, he must be emancipated from the bondage of sin by the Son of God.
- For example, it is written that Abraham acquired two sons, one by the servant girl and one by the free woman. (**Galatians 4:22**)
- But the one by the servant girl was actually born in the manner of flesh, the other by the free woman through a promise. (**Galatians 4:23**)
- These things stand as a symbolic drama, for these women mean two covenants, the one from Mount Sinai, which brings forth children for slavery, and which is Hagar. (**Galatians 4:24**)
- Now this Hagar means Sinai, a mountain in Arabia, and she corresponds with the Jerusalem today, for she is in slavery with her children. (**Galatians 4:25**)
- But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. (**Galatians 4:26**)
- For it is written: Be glad, you barren woman who does not give birth, break out and cry aloud, you woman who does not have childbirth pains, for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than those of her who has the husband. (**Galatians 4:27**)

- Now we, brothers, are children belonging to the promise the same as Isaac was. (**Galatians 4:28**)
- But just as then the one born in the manner of flesh began persecuting the one born in the manner of spirit, so also now. (**Galatians 4:29**)
- Nevertheless, what does the Scripture say: Drive out the servant girl and her son, for by no means shall the son of the servant girl be an heir with the son of the free woman. (**Galatians 4:30**)
- Wherefore, brothers, we are children, not of a servant girl, but of the free woman. (**Galatians 4:31**)
- For such freedom Christ set us free. Therefore stand fast, and do not let yourselves be confined again in a yoke of slavery. (**Galatians 5:1**) Footnote
- As Christ Jesus told the natural descendants of Abraham; Most truly I say to you, Every doer of sin is a slave of sin. Moreover, the slave does not remain in the household forever, the son remains forever. Therefore if the Son sets you free, you will be actually free.
- Jesus answered them; Most truly I say to you, every doer of sin is a slave of sin. (**John 8:34**)
- Moreover, the slave does not remain in the household forever, the son remains forever. (**John 8:35**)
- Therefore if the Son sets you free, you will be actually free. (**John 8:36**)

**See Also FREE WOMAN**

**See Also HAGAR**