

# Genesis 20:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this.

## Analysis

**Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the inte...** This passage is part of the Abrahamic narratives which shift from universal human history to God's particular covenant people. The Abraham cycle (Genesis 12-25) demonstrates God's sovereign election, covenant faithfulness, and the development of faith through testing and promise fulfillment.

Central themes include God's unconditional covenant promises (land, descendants, blessing to nations), the call to faith and obedience, the testing of faith through delays and impossibilities, the contrast between divine promises and human schemes, and God's gracious persistence despite human failures. Abraham emerges as the father of faith whose trust in God's promises becomes the model for all believers (Romans 4, Galatians 3, Hebrews 11).

Theologically, these narratives establish:

1. salvation by grace through faith rather than works
2. covenant as God's gracious initiative binding Himself to His people
3. the necessity of patient trust when promises seem impossible
4. the consequences of attempting to fulfill God's promises through human effort
5. the pattern of divine testing producing mature faith.

The Abraham cycle foreshadows Christ as the ultimate seed through whom blessing extends to all nations (Galatians 3:16).

## Historical Context

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The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What does this passage reveal about God's sovereignty and human responsibility?
2. How should this truth about Divine Protection shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. How does this passage point forward to Christ and the gospel of redemption?

## Interlinear Text

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ה וְאַתָּה אָמַתְּנָה לְיִצְחָק וְאַתָּה גָּמָן וְאַתָּה אָמַתְּנָה  
H3808 and she Said H0 is my sister and she even and she  
H1931 H559 H269 H1931 H1571 H1931

אָמַתְּנָה אַתָּה בְּתִמְמָה לְבָבִי וְאַתָּה בְּתִמְמָה  
Said He is my brother and she in the integrity of my heart and innocence  
H559 H251 H1931 H8537 H3824 H5356

צָאתָתִי עֲשָׂתִי כְּפָרִי  
of my hands have I done H2063  
H3709 H6213

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 7:8** (Parallel theme): The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me.

**1 Kings 9:4** (Parallel theme): And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: