ABRAHAM, SARA AND PHAROAH

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Category: Observations

After yesterday's look at the Babel narrative, I want to highlight another short quote from Jehu Hanciles' book, Migration and the Making of Global Christianity which refers to the book of Genesis. I find this insight very helpful; it does not excuse Abraham, but it certainly goes some way to explaining why he acted in the way he did - something I have always struggled with.

> *Much has been made of the fact that Abraham, out of desperationâ€"having migrated with his family to escape the danger of famineâ€"felt compelled to lie and put his wife at risk as part of an elaborate ploy to enter Egypt (Gen. 12:10â€“13). Some commentators, with the privilege of modern Western sensibilities, label this a dreadful betrayal committed by a feckless man who â€œsells his wife for riches.â€ Many others lament Abrahamâ€™s lack of faith. Viewed through the lens of migration, however, it is perhaps easier to understand why Abraham purposely deceived the authorities in an effort to ensure the survival of his large family. (During this period, Egyptian authorities were often hostile to Semitic-speaking immigrants, who were driven to Egypt in search of food; and they made great effort to secure Egyptâ€™s borders.*