

## SARAH

f the 2d row of the high priests  
te (Ex 28:18; 39:11). When the  
e prophets beheld the throne of  
ey selected the rich color of  
 describe the scene (Ex 28:35-38;  
10:1). Both its value and beauty  
ed to in the poetic portions of  
e (Job 28:16; Song 5:14; Lam  
28:13), and it is described as the  
ation of the New Jerusalem (Rev  
For the translation "sapphires"  
7, RSV, see Jacinth.

arah,  
), or Sarai (sā'ri), KJV of NT  
a (sār'ā). [Heb. *Sarah*, "princess";  
, the latter attested in Akkadian  
Gr. *Sarra*.]

wife of Abraham (Gen 11:29-31;  
ghter of his father, but not of his  
ch 20:12). She was about 10 years  
than Abraham (ch 17:17), and  
fore about 65 years old when  
nd left Haran at the age of 75  
. Shortly after their arrival in  
 famine broke out which forced  
o to Egypt to keep their large  
 alive. Fearing that Sarah  
uld, in spite of her age, attract  
ion of the Egyptians, Abraham  
she was his sister. Posing now as  
, she was taken to Pharaoh  
t the king returned her to Abra-  
her true status became known,  
buke for Abraham's deception  
quest that Abraham leave the  
(vs 10-20). Abraham did not  
his experience, but again posed  
s his sister, this time in the coun-  
imelech of Gerar (ch 20:1-18).  
ut 75 years of age (cf. chs 16-18),  
ah despaired of ever becoming  
and requested her husband to  
d through Hagar, her Egyptian  
making this proposal Sarah  
custom of her native Mesopotamia  
SDACom 1:317, 318). The  
e birth of Ishmael (ch 16:1-16),  
en about 89 years old, Sarah  
definite promise that she would  
to a son within a year. It was  
occasion that her name, which  
to been Sarai, was changed to  
e promise was fulfilled in the  
aac (chs 17:1, 15-22; 18-9:10).  
uring Isaac's weaning feast  
Ishmael tormenting Isaac (Gen  
:29), whereupon she demanded  
el and Hagar be expelled from  
At God's direction Abraham  
obeyed (Gen 21:9-14). Nothing  
recorded of Sarah except that

## SARAI

she died at the age of 127 at Kiriath-arba,  
or Hebron (Gen 23:1, 2). She was buried  
in the Cave of Machpelah, which Abra-  
ham bought after her death as a family  
sepulcher (vs 19, 20). Isaiah refers to  
Sarah as the mother of the Israelite nation  
(Is 51:2), and Paul writes of her as the  
mother of the child of promise (Rom  
4:19; 9:9). Peter mentions her as an ex-  
ample of a good wife (1 Pe 3:6), and in  
Heb 11:11 she is praised for her faith.

2. For Num 26:46, KJV, see Serah.

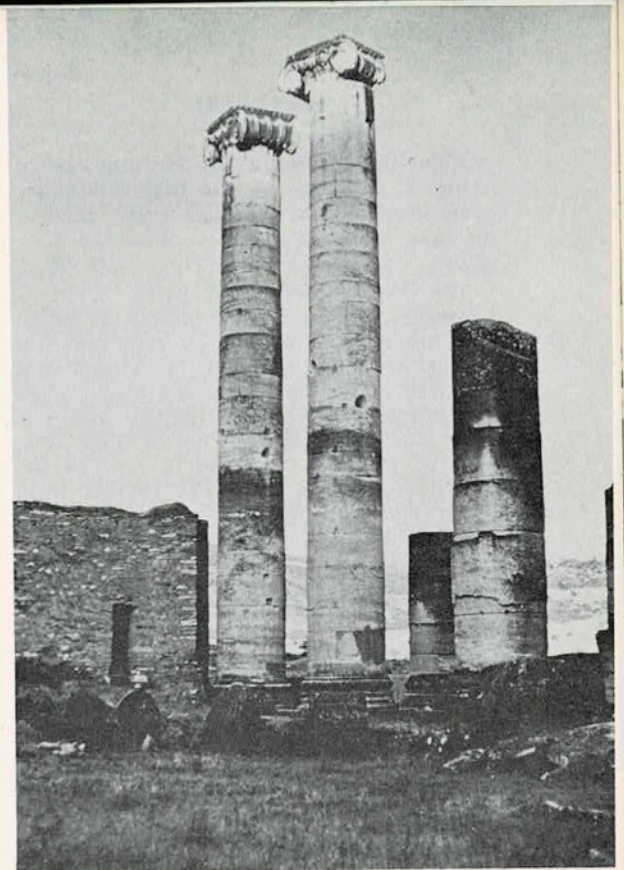
Sarai. See Sarah.

Saraph (sār'āf). [Heb. *Saraph*, literally, "a  
burning one," hence, "seraph," or "ser-  
pent."] A descendant of Shelah, the son  
of Judah. He was a ruler in Moab in an  
unspecified time, possibly as a governor  
during the period when Moab was ruled  
by David or Solomon (1 Chr 4:22).

Sardine. See Sardius.

Sardis (sār'dis). [Gr. *Sardeis*.] The old capital  
of the Lydian kingdom. It lay on a slope  
of Mount Tmolus, and was protected on  
2 sides by the river Pactolus, a tributary  
of the Hermus. Map XX, B-4. The  
original city was built entirely on the hill  
(see fig. 418), with strong protective  
walls. Later it was extended to the plain  
at the foot of the hill. The city appears  
in history 1st in the 7th cent. b.c., when  
it was the capital of the Lydian kingdom,  
the country in which coined money, so  
important in world economics, was in-  
vented. In 547 b.c. Sardis was conquered  
by Cyrus and its fabulously rich king,  
Croesus, captured. It then became the  
capital of a Persian satrapy, from which  
the Persian wars against Greece were di-  
rected. Later the city changed hands sev-  
eral times. It was taken by Alexander,  
then by Antiochus the Great, and in 190  
b.c. was incorporated into the kingdom  
of Pergamum. When that kingdom be-  
came a Roman possession in 133 b.c.,  
Sardis became part of the Roman prov-  
ince of Asia. It was destroyed by an earth-  
quake in A.D. 17, but was rebuilt with the

418. The ruin mound of ancient Sardis



419. Columns of the great Artemis temple at Sardis, with the ruins of a Christian church at the left

assistance of Tiberius. The final destruc-  
tion of Sardis came in 1402 when it was  
conquered by the Mongolians under Ti-  
mur, or Tamerlane. Nothing remains of  
its former glory except a few ruins. A  
nearby village still bears the ancient  
name in the form of *Sart*. From 1910 to  
1914 excavations were carried out by an  
American expedition under the direction  
of H. C. Butler. This expedition exca-  
vated the very impressive ruins of a great  
4th-cent. b.c. temple dedicated to the  
mother goddess Cybele, called \*Artemis  
locally in NT times. Two of this temple's  
66-ft. columns still stand (see fig. 419). Ad-  
jacent to the temple were the ruins of a  
little Christian church of the 4th cent. A.D.  
Excavations have been resumed since 1958  
under the direction of G. Hanfmann of  
Harvard University. It is sponsored by  
the Bollingen Foundation, the American  
Schools of Oriental Research, and Harvard  
and Cornell Universities. A Christian  
church existed in the city before the end  
of the 1st cent. A.D. as is proved by the  
letter written by John to the church of  
Sardis from the island of Patmos (Rev  
3:1-6).