

Faith Fails, God Doesn't 2015-10-15

Gen 12:10-13:4

God designs **tests** of life to **grow/develop** faith, **not destroy** it. [Rom 5:3-4](#), [Jas 1:3-4](#)
Jn 15:2, Heb 12:11

- Right **after obedience & theophany** Abram's **faith tested** by **famine**. [12:6-8](#), [10](#)

Nothing wrong w/going to Egypt but **here** it's **not** from **faith**. [Gen. 46:3](#); [Matt. 2:13](#)

- **w/o seeking God, in fear** he **prematurely acted** on his **own**.
 - **Trusted God** for incredible **future/eternity** but **not** for **immediate food**.

1 sin leads to another: now **more afraid** of **Egyptians** (man) than **God**. [Gen 12:11-13](#),
[20:12](#), [Mt 10:28](#), [Ps 118:6](#)

- **Selfishly** devised **half-truth** (deception) to **protect himself** instead of **thrusting** in the **Lord's** **protect**.
- Because of his **fears & worry** his **ethics** became **situational**.
 - **Soothed** his **conscience** cause **technically not lie**.
 - **God never** puts us in a **situation** where we **must sin**: [1 Cor 10:13](#)
- **Ingenious** plan: **insist** on **long engagement** (remain in Abram's home) to **stall** for time until **famine subside**, then **home**. Abram **not killed**, Sarai **not married**.
 - **Sarai wrong** to **go along** w/deception. **Obey God, not men**.

Backfires: **Pharaoh want** & he **not negotiate** anything w/anybody. [Gen 12:14-16](#), [16:1](#)

- **Worry** of **Sarai** in **Pharaoh's harem** **not worth dowry**.
 - **Prosperity** is **never blessing w/o peace** from **being right w/God**.
 - **Prosperity/good** circumstances **not necessarily signs** of **God's blessing**.....Dowry **probably inc.** servant **Hagar**.

Abram **brings cursing** not **blessing upon Egypt**. [Gen 12:2](#), [17-19](#)

- Egyptians **realized** unspecified **plagues started** w/**Sarai** in **harem**.
 - **Somehow** found out **she was Abram's wife**.
- Abram **exposed & disgraced**. Pagan **idolater rebukes** man of **faith**.
 - **Your life**, character, **choices & conduct** **influence** people around you & **greatly affects** our **credibility**.

Abram's **eyes off Lord**, but **Lord's eyes never off Abram**.

- **Despite** Abram's **lack of faith & unethical behavior**, loving **God delivered** him.
- This event **prefigured** greater **redemption** in **Israel's future**.
 - **Parallels**: **Egypt** because of **famine**, God sent **plagues** to **deliver**, **left w/ Egyptian possessions**, journeyed **north** toward **Negev**.

Abram's life an **encouragement**: when **Cxn** is **faithless**, loving **God** remains **faithful** to **restore & fulfill** His **purposes** for **us**. [2 Tim 2:13](#), [Ps 103:13](#), [Rom 2:4](#), [Gen 13:1-4](#)

- God's **faithfulness** intended to lead us to **repentance & restoration**.
- When **succumb** to **fear**, worry &/or **doubt**, do what **Abram** did, **return** to **beginning place** w/God =**cross**. **Confess** any sin, seek **forgiveness & worship**

Victorious Cxn life is **series of new beginnings**.

- When our **faith fails**, **God doesn't**.
 - Our **eternal security & salvation** rests in **His faithfulness**, not ours.

Gen 12:10-13:4

Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.

11 When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake."

14 When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. 16 And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

17 But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. 18 So Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go." 20 And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

13 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. 3 And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to the place where he

had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord.