

— Genesis 12.10-20 —
Genesis Series 42
Abram & Sarai in Egypt

Gn 12¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹ And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance. ¹² Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you." ¹⁴ So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. ¹⁵ The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶ He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels. ¹⁷ But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸ And 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'? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take her and go your way." ²⁰ So Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.

* **The events of this story** are easy, the _____ are not.

* **What are some of the questions** we are left pondering?

* **One key to this text** is realizing that it is establishing a _____ that will be repeated by Israel.

Gn 15¹³ Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions."

* **Looking at this pattern:**

– **Was it wrong** for Abram to go to Egypt during a famine?

Gn 46³ So He said [to Jacob], "I am ... the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. ⁴ I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again"

– **Does God's blessing & deliverance** of Abram & Sarai mean Abram did everything right in Egypt?

Dt 9⁵ "It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going to possess their land ... ⁶ Know, then, it is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is giving you this good land to possess"

Josh 24¹⁴ "[F]ear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt."

Exo 2¹¹ [W]hen Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. ¹² He ... struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?" ¹⁴ He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us?"

– **What was Abram's root sin** in this passage?

Prov 29²⁵ The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe [lit., set on high]. ²⁶ Many seek the ruler's favor, but justice for man comes from the LORD.

Gn 3¹ Now the serpent ... said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" ... ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die" ... ⁶ So ... she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Dt 10²⁰ "You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast ...²¹ He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things ...²² Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as the stars of heaven in multitude."

*** What do we learn about God and ourselves in this passage?**

1) We all _____ in many ways.

James 3² [W]e all stumble in many ways. (ESV)

Psalm 143² Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous.

Psalm 130³ If you, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But there is forgiveness with you, that you may be feared.

2) The Christian life is _____ from start to finish.

Jn 1¹⁶ [O]f His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

Rm 5² through [Christ] we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand ...²⁰ [W]here sin abounded, grace abounded much more

3) Salvation is not just what God has done, it's _____

He _____.

2Tm 2¹³ If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

Isa 55⁷ "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."⁸ For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

Exo 33¹⁸ And [Moses] said, "Please, show me Your glory."¹⁹ Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." ... 34⁵ Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

Eph 3¹⁸ [that you] may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

*** 4) Times of trial are times of _____.**

James 1² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,³ for the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.⁴ And let steadfastness have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.