

# GENESIS 12

## Expounding God's Word

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### KEYWORD

### REVERANCE

God (Plural)  
God (Singular)  
LORD  
GOD  
Lord  
lord  
El Olam  
Bara  
Asah  
Beth  
Numbers

Elohim (The Trinity)  
El  
Jehovah & or Yahweh (YHWH)  
Jehovah & or Yahweh  
GOD the Master (Kurios), Adonai  
Man the Master  
Everlasting God  
God creating from nothing  
God making or assembling from existent materials  
House

- 1 - Unity between God the Father & His Son Jesus (John 10:30)
- 2 - Represents union, division, and verification
- 3 - Harmony, New Life & completeness (467 times)
- 4 - Creation & The creative ability of God.
- 5 - God's grace, goodness and favor toward humans (318)
- 6 - Imperfection of man and the sin and weakness he has
- 7 - Perfection
- 8 - New beginnings
- 9 - Divine completeness or conveys the meaning of finality (49)
- 10 - God's authority, completeness, order, and divine perfection
- 11 - Disorder, chaos and judgment (11 - 24 & "11th" - 19)
- 12 - God's power and authority (187)
- 13 - Rebellion
- 40 - Represent completeness or wholeness.
- 70 - Perfect spiritual order carried out with all power.

### Keywords

“create” (bara), “make” (asah), and “form” (yatsar). In Isaiah 43:7 – All the three are used.

*Jehova means the becoming one as God relates to man and man's needs and becomes to man whatever man may need*

# GENESIS 12

## REVIEW

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Genesis 12 is marked as the beginning of Genesis's "patriarchal history," which tells the story of Israel's earliest ancestors: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's sons.

Before this chapter, we have all the familiar stories that make up what we call the "primeval history" that is Creation, the Fall, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood.

Beginning with this chapter the focus narrows down to Abram, Sarai and their family.

God tells Abram whose name will later be renamed to Abraham to resume the journey his father Terah began, to Canaan. Possibly to depart from the paganism worship during the disperse of the languages at the tower Babel.

In calling Abram to do this, God also states his plan to make a great nation, a people that were His own through whom he would bring his own son who would bring salvation to the world.

He is 75 years old when he leaves Haran (**Latter-day Assyria**) for the land of Canaan. When they enter Canaan, a land that was occupied by Canaanites the LORD appears to Abram and tells him that he will give this land to Abram's offspring.

In response, Abram builds an altar to the LORD. He then gradually journeys toward the Negeb.

When a famine hits the land, Abram and Sarai go to Egypt. Before they enter Egypt, Abram tells Sarai that because she is beautiful, the Egyptians may kill him and take her for themselves.

Instead of asking for the LORD's help, Abram makes up a scheme:

He and Sarai would say she was his sister. It was a half-truth; they did share the same father. But it was also a full lie, in that it was really meant to hide the fact they were married.

Abram's hope, apparently, was that as Sarai's "brother" he would be able to refuse any marriage proposals or, at least, to remove motivation for rivals to kill him in order to have access to Sarai.

Therefore, the officials of Pharaoh's household take Sarai for Pharaoh and give Abram lots of livestock and slaves. But the LORD sends plagues into Pharaoh's house, which leads Pharaoh to discover that Sarai is actually Abram's wife.

He sends Abram and his household on their way.

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## GEN 12: 1

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Now the LORD had said unto Abram,

(In Genesis 1-11, God struggled with a repeatedly rebellious, violent, and corrupt humanity as a whole (Eden, Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood, the tower of Babel).

As a result, God resolves to try a new strategy by focusing on one particular family among all the families of the earth.

However, as God often does, God decides to work through a most unlikely pair: old Abram and Sarai (later “Abraham” and “Sarah”—Genesis 17:5, 15).

Now we really don’t find a particular reason to single out Abram as anyone worthy of God’s choosing.

**So who is this particular Mesopotamian that God should call him specifically and make astounding promises to him?**

Firstly Abraham was a sinful heathen who grew up in an unbelieving and idolatrous society.

In comparing with Joshua 24:2 it would seem that Abram was raised in a pagan home and his father, Terah, was a maker of idols.

While still in his father’s house, Abram discerned that the idols were false gods and that there was only one true God. So one night he went into his father’s workshop and smashed and burned all his father’s idols.

His native city of Ur (latter-day Babylonia) was in Chaldea, in the general region called Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. It was a fertile land and was culturally advanced.

It was near where the Garden of Eden was located (Gen. 2:14) and was some 140 miles from where the great city of Babylon would one day be built.

Isaiah refers to Abraham as “the rock from which you were hewn” and “the quarry from which you were dug” (Isa. 51:1–2), reminding his fellow Jews that God sovereignly condescended to call Abraham out of paganism and idolatry in order to bless him and the world through him.

He may have had higher moral standards than his friends and neighbours, but this was not the reason God chose him.

God chose him because He wanted to choose him.

And when God spoke to him, he listened; when God promised, he trusted; when God commanded, he obeyed)

get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house,

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(God commands Abram to sever his ties to his larger nation, his ties to his larger kinship group, and finally even his ties to his immediate family or father's house.)

unto a land that I will shew thee.

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## GEN 12: 2-3

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And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee,

(Blessing involves fertility, life, success, wellbeing, and a good name. By this blessing Abram must have figured that God would open the womb of Sarai)

and make thy name great;

(Interestingly, the tower builders in Genesis 11:1-9 had built their tower with the purpose of making a name for themselves.

Their self-centered and heaven-storming strategy led only to confusion and scattering. But God now promises to give Abram a great name as a gift with the purpose that "you will be a blessing")

and thou shalt be a blessing;

(God's promises are not predicated upon Abraham's goodness, but upon the grace of God.

And as such God doesn't bless us because we're good, but His blessings come to us by virtue of His grace.

We have this hang up that God only blesses, as a reward for our goodness; but, we find that the blessings of God are given to us by His grace.

It is not by merit of our works or our faithfulness or diligence, but by His grace I experience and receive the blessings of God.

We don't expect God to bless us for what we are but for what He is. God is love and He loves us.)

And I will bless them that bless thee,

(Abraham's friends will be blessed. I believe part of the blessing of the United States is that they became a refuge to the persecuted Jews)

and curse him that curseth thee;

(Abraham's enemies will be cursed. It is interesting that every nation that has persecuted the Jew later goes into a decline.

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1. Spain, after the Inquisition, was reduced to a fifth rate nation;
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2. Rome soon fell after beginning to persecute the Jews;
  3. The Greek civilization, after defaming the temple, fell; and of course,
  4. Germany, of more recent history, fell from being a great power as a result of persecuting the Jews.)
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and in thee shall all families (In this is the promise that the Messiah or Jesus Christ shall come from Abraham. Not just the Jews but all families) of the earth be blessed.

(We now realize that this selection of one particular family and people out of all the peoples of the earth does not entail God abandoning other nations which has been a concern for many. God remains committed to all creation and all humanity.)

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God said He would make Abraham's name great and to this day Abraham's name is great to the Jew, the Islam and to the Christian.

We all look back to Abraham as our father and the greatness of this man who believed and trusted in God.

The blessing of Abraham is to come upon all the families of the earth and we are blessed today because of Jesus Christ, who was born of the seed of Abraham.

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## GEN 12: 4-5

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So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot (Abraham's nephew who was the ancestor of the nations of Moab and Ammon-Genesis 13-14; 19:36-38) went with him;

(God said he was to leave his family but yet he is taking Lot with him probably Lot had become like a son to Abraham)

and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

(At the age of 75, Abram leaves his country, his people, and his home and heads toward whatever God has in store for him. He trusts God, which is the essence of the Bible's depiction of faith (Psalm 31:6; 1 Peter 2:6; 2 Corinthians 3:4)

Interestingly, Abram will later fail to express this faith, leading to controversy. However, after being renamed Abraham, he will perform one of the greatest acts of trust recorded in Scripture (Genesis 22; Hebrews 11:17-19))

And Abram took Sarai his wife,

(Remember Sarai was barren and as such God's selection of a barren husband and wife to be a blessing to others emphasizes that it is first and foremost God's power and initiative that will accomplish God's purposes.)

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and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran;

(This verse shows us what a wealthy man Abram was. He and Sarai had possessions and servants acquired during their time in Haran. This could have been one of the reasons that Terah wanted to linger in Haran)

and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.  
(400 Miles of Journey in which those days could take quite a long time indeed)

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## GEN 12: 6

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And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Shechem, unto the plain of Moreh.

(Abram believed God and went. He entered the land of Canaan, which would become the Promised Land as we shall see in the next verse.

He travelled across it, perhaps walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee on his way to a town called Shechem. Joshua 20:7 describes Shechem as being "in the hill country of Ephraim," roughly in the centre of the land.

In Shechem, Abram goes to a tree called the oak of Moreh. The Hebrew term moreh means "teacher." It's possible this tree was in an oak grove used by the Canaanites in their religious cults.

It was a common practice of these cults to use nature, including trees, to seek messages from their gods. Perhaps Abram came to this place hoping to hear from the LORD)

And the Canaanites (The descendants of Canaan) was then in the land.

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## GEN 12: 7

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And the LORD appeared unto Abram,

(This is a different experience than when God spoke to Abram in verse 1. The LORD "appears."

This also could be the place where Jesus was referring to in John 8:56-59 when he told the Jews that your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

The other possible place would be in Genesis 18:1 (When the LORD appeared unto Abraham in the plain of Mamre, as he sat in his tent door about the heat of the day.)

And then also in Genesis 14:18-24 (When Melchizedek, the king of Salem, brought out bread and wine.)

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We are not told what form He took. The LORD is called Yahweh, and the term used for when Yahweh physically appears to people is theophany. This is the first of several theophanies made to the fathers of Israel)

and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land;

(This is the first time Jesus has promised the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants whom at this time would include the Arabs or Palestinians because the Arabs also were descendants of Abraham through Ishmael.

But later on when God repeats it to Jacob it excludes the Arabs and narrows it down to the children of Jacob who later be called the Israelites.

Abram after leaving his old life, and his old culture he is now home, however Abram himself would not take possession of the land in his own lifetime. Even his descendants will not fully possess the land for several generations. But the promise had been made by Jesus and it would eventually happen)

and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

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Stephen tells us, in Acts, that the God of glory appeared to him while he was still in Mesopotamia and told him to get out of the land. There are seven references here in Genesis of the LORD appearing to Abraham.

These appearances of God to Abraham are actually progressive and make an interesting study. Abraham is being drawn into a deeper communion and fellowship with God. The first appearance in Babylon when God told him to get out of the land, he was brought into the fellowship with the "discontent of God."

God was not content with what was happening in Babylon. He caused this same discontent within Abraham so that he would search out another place to worship God. Now, Abraham comes into the land. God did not deal with Abraham while he was in Haran.

I think that we should take note how the work of God in our life can be stalled by our disobedience. God leads us step by step. I wish God would lay out the whole plan that He has for my future. I would appreciate God letting me know what plans He has for me this year so I can make my plans accordingly.

If I only knew a little further in advance it would help me a lot in planning my future, but God only gives us one step at a time. The next step isn't given until you've taken the one He just gave you. If you don't take it but question God instead, He is silent until you obey, then He gives you the next step.

In the Book of Acts, when Philip was in Samaria having a tremendous revival meeting and many were being saved and baptized, the angel of the Lord spoke to him and told him to go down to Gaza.

"And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

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And he arose and went; and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him..." (Acts 8:26-31).

Now the Lord didn't tell Philip to go to Gaza and when you get there you will see a chariot going south, go join yourself to the chariot; there will be a high ranking official there who will later be baptized. The Lord didn't lay the whole plan out, He just said to go to Gaza.

I can see where Philip would have good grounds to question the sanity of God. "Hey God! There's nobody in Gaza, that place is deserted, but people are being saved here in Samaria. There's a revival going on here and the potential is great.

Why would you want me to go to the desert? It doesn't seem sensible to leave a tremendous revival to go off to the desert, but when Philip had taken the first step then God gave him the next step.

That is the way the Lord works and so, God called Abraham to leave the land and Abraham went to Haran and dwelt there. It is interesting to note that God didn't speak to him all the time he was in Haran nor did He appear to him again until he came into Canaan. Now that Abraham is in the land, God begins to deal with him again.

When you have been obedient to the first step that God gives you, then He can deal with you again and give you the next step. **The walk of faith is one step at a time.**

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## GEN 12: 8-10

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And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, (seems to imply that Abram and his people settled there for some time.) having Bethel on the west, and Ai on the east;

(When Joshua came in later to take the land he came up from Jericho and conquered Ai and then on to Bethel.

Abram now has a favorite spot there near Bethel in between Bethel and AI it's the highest part of the land in that particular area and it gives you just a fabulous view.

It's about 10 miles north of Jerusalem and about 20 miles or so from Shechem but from there

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- You can see down into the Jordan Valley.
  - You can also see up towards the area of Samaria.
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- You can see Jerusalem and the area South you can look over towards the Mediterranean and just as a beautiful vantage point.
  - That mountainous area between Bethel & Ai)
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and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

(The implication here may be that Abram began to participate in regular, formal worship of Jesus in this place. The terminology is similar to that of Genesis chapter 4, where people are said to begin to "call upon the name of the Lord" after the banishment of Cain, and the birth of Seth (Genesis 4:26).

Genesis 13:4 records that Abram later returned to this altar and called on the Lord's name again. This strongly suggests this altar was a lasting structure and not merely a temporary arrangement.)

And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

(Abram and his entourage move on again, heading farther south in the land of Canaan toward the region of the Negeb.

The Negeb was a dry, desert area. Without extensive cultivation, the land there could not support crops. At that time, the region was sparsely populated, and so it was not a good source for food or resources.

It may be that Abram and his large group of people and animals had to keep moving away from the more populated areas to find a place to settle down.)

And there was a famine in the land; and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

(The land of the Negeb, where Abram and his family were is dry and hilly. It was prone to famine in seasons of drought, especially before modern methods of farming came along.

A severe famine, then would most likely have forced most inhabitants of the region to travel to find resources.

Egypt, on the other hand, had the advantage of the flat lowlands along the Nile river. People of the surrounding regions often immigrated to Egypt hoping to survive a famine.

Abram will not be the last of the patriarchs, the fathers of Israel, to move to Egypt in a time of drought. The sons of Jacob, Abram's grandson, will travel there to seek food and encounter their estranged brother, Joseph in Genesis 37—47)

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I believe that this was a lapse of faith in going down to Egypt. God was testing Abraham in this famine. "Do you believe me, Abraham? I've led you to the land, do you believe that I can sustain you in the land? Abraham flunked the test, because he went down to Egypt.

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Paul, in writing to the Galatians said, “Hey you started well, what hindered you?” (paraphrased). That’s the case of a lot of people. You get a good start but then suddenly you think, whoa! What am I doing here? What am I going to do now? And so, we go down to Egypt.

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## GEN 12: 11

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And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman (That’s a great thing for a husband to say to his wife, “You’re a beautiful woman.”) to look upon.

(Sarai was about 65 years old at this time and she was fair skinned and a woman of great beauty. Infact the following verses will show, the Egyptians were indeed smitten with Sarai's beauty as such Abram's concern that other men would desire his wife, at the least, were not entirely unjustified)

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## GEN 12: 12-13

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Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife; and they will kill me,

(Does this sound like a man of tremendous faith in God? Remember! He’s the father of all who believe. Let’s recognize the fact that Abraham didn’t have this great faith all at once. It was something that grew.

You see even great men of faith have their weaknesses and their moments.

Now that encourages me for some silly reason because I also have my own moments of weaknesses. But I had the concept that in my weaknesses God sort of lets me be and moves onto another...

But not so God continued to honor Abraham, God continue to bless Abraham, he wasn't perfect. God doesn't use perfect people because they don't exist.

So don't worry because you are not perfect. Don't think God is going to reject you because you're not perfect. Don't think that God can't use you because you're not perfect.

Don't be disappointed if you don't have all this “great faith” the moment you begin your walk with the Lord. Our expectations of ourselves are many times unrealistic in spiritual development and growth.

We are so accustomed to “instant” things. Living in this revved up society everything is instant.

You want instant faith! You want to be an instant giant! You want God to give you some kind of an inoculation of faith and Shazam!. We think if we only had the faith of Abraham,

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but that faith was something that developed over a process of time as he discovered the faithfulness of God.

It was through fellowship with God and knowing God that his faith developed; as your faith also will develop through fellowship with God. The Bible says to grow in faith and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The growth of your faith corresponds with the growth of your knowledge of God. The more you know Him, the more you will trust Him and the more your faith will increase.

There were many failures in this man's life of faith, but God still used him. God shows us the weaknesses as well as the triumphs of Abraham.

Your faith is not perfect yet, but it should be growing as you walk with God and experience His faithfulness.

God blessed Abraham God used Abraham though he had his lapses of Faith just like we have our lapses of faith.

For the first time, we get a glimpse of Abram's fearfulness in spite of his belief in the promises of God)

but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister;

(This was a half-truth. Sarai and Abram were both children of Abram's father Terah, though they had different mothers.

Apparently, it was not uncommon at the time to marry a half-sister. Later, God would later forbid such marriages for the people of Israel.

Of course, Abram's statement was also a lie—it was spoken specifically to mislead others about his relationship to Sarai. Sarai was fully Abram's wife. He was asking her to pretend not to be his wife to protect himself, obviously putting her at great risk.

It's possible that Abram hoped that being viewed as Sarai's brother would give him the opportunity to reject any marriage proposals she might receive, rather than being a target for a jealous suitor.

Abram's failing here began with not trusting the LORD to protect him. God had promised the land to Abram's offspring, along with promises of protection and greatness. Since Abram didn't have any children yet, God's promise meant that he would not be killed)

that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

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**GEN 12: 14-17**

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And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair, The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house,

(Pharaoh takes Sarai for his wife—most likely one of many. Apparently, the Pharaoh didn't need permission to take a man's sister for his wife. Ironically, as later verses will show, even the pagan Pharaoh balked at stealing a married woman.)

The passage doesn't reveal whether Pharaoh actually slept with Sarai as his wife or was prevented from doing so by the affliction reported in the next verses.

Given that Egypt's ruler probably had many wives already, and God's intentions for Sarai, the most likely situation is that he never had the opportunity to touch her.)

And he entreated Abram well for her sake; and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels,

(This scheme backfired. Instead of approaching Abram to request Sarai's hand in marriage, or leaving her alone entirely, Pharaoh apparently just took her as his wife, and instead paid the bride price or honor payment which included livestock, work animals, and human servants.)

Abram's scheme had increased his wealth, but lost him his wife.

This is a classic example of good intentions being perverted by foolish actions (Job 5:13). Abram's own godless actions actually instigated what he feared most!)

And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

(To rescue Abram from his own stupid scheming, the LORD afflicts Pharaoh's household with great plagues or diseases. Some scholars understand these plagues to be diseases of the skin. The Egyptians being superstitious people understood correctly that such plagues were a punishment for sin. Through this affliction, Pharaoh comes to understand that Sarai is actually Abram's wife and not merely his sister)

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So, God was faithful, but Abraham wasn't. He turned Sarai over to the Pharaoh, but God intervened and plagued the house of Pharaoh.

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### GEN 12: 18-20

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And Pharaoh called Abram,

(Pharaoh is upset with Abram and as such he summons Abram into his presence and begins to question him harshly.)

and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? Why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? Why saidst thou, She is my sister? So I might have taken her to me to wife;

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(Not only did Abram withhold the truth that Sarai was his wife, he had received from Pharaoh great gifts of livestock, work animals, and human servants—all while remaining silent about the truth.)

now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way,

(Abram remains silent once again. The irony of the situation is enormous. Abram's half-truth-and-whole-lie actually caused the very outcome he was trying to avoid.

Even the pagan Pharaoh had enough respect for marriage that he recognized taking a married woman to be a moral crime. Had he known Sarai was Abram's spouse, or so Pharaoh says he would not have taken her.

We must notice here that Abram does not act honorably in any way in this episode. The LORD, though, remains faithful to His promise. God intends to accomplish His plan through Abram and Sarai no matter what trouble their foolishness leads them into.

Abram's deception almost cost him his wife! It's not surprising, therefore, that the Bible does not record any meaningful answer from Abram to Pharaoh.

What could he say? Abram was guilty of causing all of this with his deceptive plan to protect himself from harm instead of trusting the LORD to protect him and Sarai from harm.)

And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

(This is not an unintentional aspect of the story of Genesis—God's use of flawed people, whom He blesses despite their sin, is a crucial point in understanding our relationship to the LORD.

It is clear that God's promise to Abram is completely one-sided.

No matter what Abram does, God will keep His promise to bless Abram, to protect him, and to make him and his offspring into a great nation.

Abram won't earn it; God will give it. Over time, Abram will learn to trust God. His obedience with his son, Isaac, after being renamed Abraham (Genesis 22), will become a key example of godly faith in the face of doubt and danger (Hebrews 11:17–19).)

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So we have Abraham expelled from Egypt. An interesting insight is that the Bible doesn't have to tell us of this failure of Abraham, because, when we read the New Testament, in Hebrews, Hall of Faith, it only speaks of his triumphs of faith and not of his failures.

When God finally writes the records of your faith, He will record only your triumphs. All your failures of faith will be buried. With Abraham, the word of God lasting forever, his failures will never be buried; but, God has buried your failures. God accounts us righteous in and through Jesus Christ.

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Our believing and trusting in Jesus, is counted to us for righteousness. Even as God accounted Abraham's faith for righteousness so does He account our faith for righteousness.

Even though Abraham's faith was not perfect and ours is not yet perfected, when God makes His final accounting; He reckons that faithfulness to His promise and His work and blots out our sin and our failure.

Now if you think that this is a license to live a shabby life, it's not. It's for that earnest struggling soul that's being condemned by the enemy for their failures and for their weaknesses. It's a word of encouragement for that person who is being beaten down by the enemy that God is faithful and will bless you because He is a gracious, loving, compassionate God. The blessings of God are a result of the grace of God and not a reward for your goodness.

We will start from Chapter 13 next week ...

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## **IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR, I WANT YOU TO PRAY THIS PRAYER WITH ME RIGHT NOW**

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- Heavenly Father, I realize that I'm a sinner
- But right now I repent of my sins
- I make you my Lord
- I receive the free gift of forgiveness of sin
- I need you, Jesus
- Be my savior
- So right now I declare by faith that I am saved in Jesus' name. Amen & Praise God

If you just prayed that prayer with me online, please let us know through our website and we shall send you a free eBook as a gift to you today.

Otherwise, welcome to the family of God. Amen!

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### PRAYER

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**God of covenant, you promised Abraham land, descendants, and blessing so that he might be a blessing for all.**

**Show us how to honor the covenant, so that we might be a blessing to others.**

**We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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