

Title: Famine, Conflict, War

Text: Genesis 12:10-14:24

Proposition: As Abram grew in faith through difficult circumstances, we also must grow in our faith through the events of life.

I. **Famine: Deception instead of faith (12:10-20)**

A. ***And there was a famine in the land. . . (10)***

1. **The Bible does not give the length of the time period between Abram's arrival in the Promised Land and his departure for Egypt.**
2. **As Abram surveyed the land promised to Him by God, he travelled south.**
 - a) **The extent of the land began to take shape in his mind and he began to fully understand what God was promising to him.**
 - b) **According to historical record, famines were not uncommon, and one occurred on this survey trip of the Promised Land.**
 - (1) The book of Hebrews gives us insight into the perspective of Abram on how to deal with this famine: **Hebrews 11:15** *And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.*
 - (2) It seems that Abram and Isaac kept some sort of familial ties between them and the family they left behind, as seen in Abram and Isaac seeking wives and refuge for their sons in the old country.
 - (3) However, as far as they were concerned, return to the old country was out of the question because the promise of God was found in the Promise Land.
 - c) **Abram left the Promised Land out of practical necessity.**
 - (1) The Land could not sustain him.
 - (2) Did he seek God or act upon his own wisdom, the Bible is silent.
 - (3) It is possible this is the first step in relying upon himself then God and continues with the next verses.

B. ***And it came to pass. . . (11-13)***

1. **As they came to the point of entering Egypt, Abram became fearful.**
 - a) **This was an unknown land to him.**
 - b) **He travelled with many people and possessions, and one person who he felt could endanger his life: Sarai.**
 - (1) All husbands could learn from Abrams words and honor he gives to Sarai.

(2) She was a beautiful woman and told her so!

2. **Due to her beauty, he contrives a plan to deceive the authorities of Egypt.**

a) **His fear is that they will kill him to get her.**

b) **Instead, he asks Sarai to deceive any inquiries about their relationship, saying she is Abrams sister (half-truth).**

C. *And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt. . .*
(14-20)

1. **Just as Abram predicted, the Egyptians identified Sarai as a beautiful and desirous woman to have. (14-16)**

a) **At first it must have been a satisfying situation to have predicted this occurring and have devised a plan to protect them.**

b) **However, he discovered too late the threat to the promise.**

c) **Pharaoh's lieutenants spoke to Pharaoh about the beauty of Sarai and he took her for himself.**

(1) This was a common practice for rulers of the age, they could take any woman they wanted for their harem.

(2) This was a threat to the promise God had given to Abram.

d) **Pharaoh blessed Abram with material items in payment for her.**

2. **God stepped into preserve the promise and line. (17-20)**

a) **Abram failed to consider the result of his plan.**

(1) His life was saved, but Sarai was still taken.

(2) Most importantly, the promise was in jeopardy.

b) **God brought plagues upon the house of Pharaoh.**

(1) The Bible does not reveal what plagues God brought.

(2) However, they were significant to get his attention.

c) **How Pharaoh perceived the truth of the situation is not mentioned, but he understood the deception and immediately corrected it.**

(1) Abram called for Abram and asked him why.

(2) He gave Sarai back and sent them back where they came from.

D. Application

1. **Our sin never disposes God's plan.**
2. **Abram's plan could have been the end of the line of the redeemer, humanly speaking.**
 - a) **Before the chosen line even had a chance to produce an heir in Isaac.**
 - b) **God stepped in and through His grace saved mankind from himself.**
3. **We are sinners and will be in battle against the sin nature we carry within ourselves until we are heaven.**
 - a) **It is imperative we are willing to trust God in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in, no matter the difficulty.**
 - (1) Isn't it interesting pagan Pharaoh had more respect for God than Abram did.
 - (2) Abram had spoken to God and received God's promise, yet it was Pharaoh responding in proper fear of God, not Abram.
 - b) **We need understand who saved us and what He is capable of, no matter the situation.**
 - c) **1 John 4:4 *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.***

II.

III.