

## Genesis Chapter 12 Part 2

**Ge 12:6-9** And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And **the Canaanite was then in the land.** **7** And **the LORD appeared unto Abram**, and said, **Unto thy seed will I give this land:** and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. **8** And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, *having* Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. **9** And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

This is the second time the Lord spoke with Abram. This time he adds more detail and reveals that Abrams **seed** would inherit the land. The Canaanite would need to be removed. God didn't care who was there first! Notice that this promise has nothing to do with eternal life, but with real estate. This reveals a great dispensational truth. **The blessings of Israel are physical** (a nation, a temple, the law, holy days, sacrifices, signs, circumcision, etc.) and **the blessings of the N.T. believer are spiritual** (Heavenly Jerusalem, the body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, walk in the Spirit, looking at things not seen, spiritual circumcision, etc.).

**Ge 12:10-13** 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. **11** 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 to look upon: **12** 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**, but they will save thee alive. **13** Say, I pray thee, thou *art* my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

There was a famine in the land and "Abram **went down** into Egypt." Egypt is a type of the world. We all live **in** this world but are not to be **of** this world. We must be careful not to establish roots or rely on in this world. Nevertheless, Abram decided to seek help from Egypt and even premeditate his compromise to get along. Surely, he must have known this was unnecessary since his future was to be a great nation! He should have sojourned in the land of promise (*vs.7, Heb.11:9*). It's safe to say we've all been faced with such a temptation. Despite the promises of God, we can find ourselves planning and scheming to achieve a desired outcome.

**Ge 12:14-20** And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, **the Egyptians beheld the woman** that she *was* very fair. **15** The princes also of Pharaoh **saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh:** and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. **16** 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. **17** And 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 *that* thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she *was* thy wife? **19** Why saidst thou, She *is* my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take *her*, and go thy way. **20** And Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

Before Abram ever reached Egypt, he knew what he was headed for. Egyptian culture was ungodly. The first thing they did was take Sarai as a possession for Pharaoh. This same scenario took place when the angels went to Sodom (*Gen.19:5*). The defining test of a society is not their wealth or their quality of living, but their morality. Before choosing a job, a place to live, a school, an entertainment venue, etc. we might first consider the moral implications.

It is unclear if Pharaoh was upset with Abram because of his conscience or because of the plagues, but at least he had enough sense to give Sarai back. I believe God protected Abram and Sarai because of his promise in *vs.7*. This is a great picture of our salvation. God has promised every believer eternal life regardless of how much of a mess they make.

**Ge 13:1-4** And Abram **went up** out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. **2** And Abram *was* very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. **3** And he went on his journeys from the south **even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning**, between Bethel and Hai; **4** **Unto the place of the altar**, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

**Pr 24:16** For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. Although Abram fell, he didn't stay down. He **went up** out of Egypt and back to where he spoke with the Lord. It was a humble place, but the Lord was there. Although Abram left Egypt a rich man, he understood it was better to dwell in tents in the land of promise than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (*Heb.11:9-10,25, Ps.84:10*).

**Ge 13:5-9 ... 8** And Abram said unto Lot, **Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee**, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we *be* brethren. **9** *Is* not the whole land before thee? **separate thyself, I pray thee, from me:** if *thou wilt take* the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if *thou depart* to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

Until now, Abram had not separated from Lot, so it seems the Lord forced the issue. Abram addressed the situation diplomatically by giving Lot his choice of where to go. Be ready to use whatever occasion the Lord provides to take a stand.