**Abram: When Faith Falters**

Genesis 12:1-20

 ***12****The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people & your father’s household to the land I will show you.*

***2****“I will make you into a great nation, & I will bless you;
I will make your name great, & you will be a blessing.****3****I will bless those who bless you, & whoever curses you I will curse;
& all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

***4****So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; & Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.****5****He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated & the people they had acquired in Harran, & they set out for the land of Canaan, & they arrived there.*

***6****Abram travelled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.****7****The Lord appeared to Abram & said, “To your offspring[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-306c)*] I will give this land.” So, he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.*

***8****From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel & pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west & Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord & called on the name of the Lord.*

***9****Then Abram set out & continued toward the Negev.*

### *Abram in Egypt*

***10****Now there was a famine in the land, & Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.****11****As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are.****12****When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live.****13****Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake & my life will be spared because of you.”*

***14****When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman.****15****And when Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, & she was taken into his palace.****16****He treated Abram well for her sake, & Abram acquired sheep & cattle, male & female donkeys, male & female servants, & camels.*

***17****But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh & his household because of Abram’s wife Sarai.****18****So Pharaoh summoned Abram. “What have you done to me?” he said. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife?****19****Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her & go!”****20****Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, & they sent him on his way, with his wife & everything he had.*

**Abram: When Faith Falters**

Genesis 12:1-20

1. The Call
2. The call of Abram is both significant & extraordinary.
3. *“Go from your country, your people & your father’s household to the land I will show you.*".
4. In leaving Ur, Abram abandons his home, birthplace, family, friends, the security of his father’s house & even an inheritance.
5. Comparable this to Jesus's call to the disciples in Matt. 4:20.
6. They immediately left their nets to follow him.
7. Initially, there were no Jews until God called Abram, a Hebrew, to be the physical father of the Jewish people & spiritual father of both Jews & Christians.
8. Abram Had Been Called From Ur Through Haran.
9. Abram is often held up as a poster boy for faith.
10. His decision to follow God set into motion the development of the nation that God would eventually use as his own when he visited earth, himself.
11. The early stages of Abram’s life show us how he almost never succeeded.
12. Abram was given a command & had a choice to make.
13. He had to leave the place he lived in & the people there, & go out alone.
14. But he almost failed.
15. In Genesis 12:4 we are told, “*So Abram left… & Lot went with him.*”
16. What was he doing, taking Lot then?
17. Abram Was In The Place Of God's Choosing.
	* 1. Famine strikes.
		2. Shows that trouble can come even when we are in God's will
		3. Not everything bad is punishment.
18. Abram's Sin.
	* 1. His sin was simply not trusting in God's ability to keep His promises.
		2. This was really a failure of faith.
		3. What did Abram’s sin do?
		4. It grieved God.
		5. It cost Abram his testimony.
		6. Abram’s sin weakened his own faith.
		7. He failed God later by doing the same thing (Gen. 20).
		8. Sinful patterns are easy to establish.
		9. What was the result of Abram’s sin?
19. It Caused Pharoah To Be Afflicted (v.17).
	1. It is possible for the sins of Christians to hurt others.
	2. Tragic that rebuke (vv. 18, 19) came from ungodly.
20. It Resulted In Contact With Hagar (16:3).
	1. Evidently added her to household.
	2. She later became mistress with tragic results.
	3. Once into sin, sins are more accessible.
21. It Weakened The Faith Of Sarah.
	1. His lack of faith was noticed & repeated.
	2. Sarah later laughed in disbelief at God's promise.
	3. Our sins often weaken the faith of others, especially our children.
22. It Provided A Bad Example For Isaac.
	1. Son did just what father did (Gen. 26).
	2. No doubt he had been told about act.
23. There Are Several Important Principles In This Passage.
24. There are consequences to any action we take.
25. Sin has its price.
26. Sin always results in lost testimony.
27. Sin always makes it easier for more sin.
28. Sin always affects others (Christian & non-Christians).
29. Sin always grieves God.