

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Faith Tested"
Genesis 12:10-13:4
Study-32

"A Faith That Can't Be Tested Can't Be Trusted." James 1:2-4

Job: used the image of refiner of gold: (**Job 23:10, NKJV**).

Apostle Peter: (N.L.T) 1 Peter 1:7

Thought Of Our Passage: "Faith Must Be Tested, A Faith That Can't Be Tested Surely Can't Be Trusted."

10 Lessons From "The Famine Test"

Genesis 12:10 Now Context - We left off with Abraham building an altar.
Genesis 12:8

with Bethel on the west 10 miles north of Jerusalem. "*The House of God*" and
Ai on the east; "*Heap of Ruins*"

and there he built an altar to the LORD ("Abram The Worshipper Of God")

Genesis 12:9 continues to move but in the wrong direction towards Egypt.

Genesis 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land; (for the famine was severe in the land.) What we have here is the testing of our faith.

1. Verse 10 - Tests Often Follow Triumphs: Now there was a famine in the land; (for the famine was severe in the land.) Context – God Gave The Unconditional Abrahamic Covenant Promise to Abram

Genesis 12:2-3 Can God help Abram in a Famine?

Tests Often Follow Triumphs: Illustrated in the history of Israel.

Delivered from Egypt than the Egyptian army chased them

(Exodus 12-15). Triumph was followed by testing.

(Exodus 15:22-27). God brought them through, faced another test: No Water

(Exodus 16) After that came hunger

(Exodus 17) and an attack from the Amalekites Tests follows triumphs.

After we have won a great Triumph of faith, expect the enemy to Tempt us or the Lord to Test us, or both.

1 Kings 17 Elijah in a famine was provided for by ravens with meat and bread.

2. Verse 10 - Unbelief, Don't Run From Your Testing: so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, (Fails the test)

A Famine Comes, We Can – (1) Escape It, (2) Endure It, (3) Enlist It:

Human wisdom Versus God's wisdom.

Egypt – This represents the world and bondage in Scripture. **Isaiah 31:1**

Canaan – Our inheritance and blessings of God, trusting in the Lord.

3. Verse 10 - Abram Fails To Build An Altar: for the famine was severe in the land. Famines in **Genesis 12:10; 26:1; 41:56 (Faith & Worship go together)**

We don't read about Abraham in this period building and altar and praying and seeking God.

for the famine was severe in the land. It was not only a famine but severe. Another problem - **Genesis 12:6**

When circumstances become difficult and we are in the furnace of testing, remain where God has placed us until He tells us to move.

4. Verses 11-13 - Scheming Replaced Trusting: that he said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman;

you are a beautiful 1st Time This Word Is Used In Scripture: His wife Sari is now about 65 and is a beautiful woman. Sarai lived to 127; her age would be equivalent today as 30-40's, she gave birth at 90 which was equivalent to our 50's.

Genesis 12:12 and when the Egyptians see you,

Notice The Fear: leaving of God and now Abraham fears for his life. **they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.** Up to this point God had said, **"I Will"** it was going to be God protecting **Proverbs 29:25**

Scheming Replaced Trusting: Genesis 12:13

Abram Lies: "Please say that you are my sister The half-truths which is a lie. **Genesis 20:12** Sarai was his half-sister, but it was a lie. Sarai was the daughter of his father but not his mother. **you are my sister (She was not his wife)** Abram does it again in **Genesis 20:1-18**, and Isaac does so with his wife Rebekah **Genesis 26:1-11**

"A Half Truths Equal A Whole Lie."

"Please say that you are my sister How low a saint will go when we lose touch

5. Verse 13 - When Tested Don't Be Consumed With Yourself: so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you."

As the husband, Abraham should have thought first of his wife and not of himself.

(N.L.T) 1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:28-29

6. Verses 14-16 - Loss Outweighed Worldly Gain: Genesis 12:14-15

A husband out of the will of God can bring untold trouble to his wife and family.

Great Loss: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

Genesis 12:16 Abrams Worldly Gain: Therefore - (Sarai taken into Pharaoh Harem) he treated Abram well for her sake; Here is Abraham being blessed over a lie and putting his bride in danger. Gifts of the king to the guardian of Sarai.

Being treated well! is no compensation for what you have lost!

Note **female servants** "Hagar" may be part of this group, Ishmael being the result. **female donkeys** were the desired transportation of the wealthy, **camels** domesticated were used by the super-wealthy, well-to-do. Here Abraham is becoming wealthy over a lie. Wealthy **Genesis 12:5,16**

7. Verse 17 - Abram Becomes A Curse Instead Of A Blessing: Genesis 12:17

God Intervenes: But (God Stepped In) the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues The Lord had said to Abraham **Genesis 12:1-3** that he was going to bring blessing to the world.
Genesis 12:3

Plagues – often used of skin diseases, maybe boils **Exodus 9:9**

Jonah ran from God, and it resulted in a storm that just about cost a crew their lives

because of Sarai, Abram's wife. Abram compromised and it hurt others. Sarai was unaffected by plagues, Egyptians asked questions and found out she was Abram's wife.

8. Verses 18-20 – Abram's Rebuke And Humiliation: "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?"

Genesis 12:19 "Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? The Bible does not record the answer that Abraham gave.

Now then, here is your wife, take her and go." 4 Words spoken by Pharaoh

Genesis 12:20 they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.

9. Verses 1-2 - Separation Of Abram From Egypt: So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, We see that Abraham learned from his lesson. Separation:

Genesis 13:2 Abraham became very wealthy through his bout with compromise.

Abram Snared By Egypt: The "Consequences" is that everything Abram received in Egypt later caused problems. Genesis 13:5-6

Hagar, the Egyptian maidservant, brought division and sorrow
(Genesis 16)

Having had a taste of Egypt (the world), Lot started measuring everything by what he saw there (Genesis 13:10-11);

10. Verses 3-4 - Abram Returns To The Place Of Beginning: Genesis 13:3 from the Negev as far as Bethel, "The House Of God"

U-turn – Repentance, turn around: to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, We need to return to the Lord.

The church of Ephesus The Lord said these words: **Revelation 2:5**

between Bethel "The House of God" and Ai, "Heap of Ruins"

Genesis 13:4 Sacrifice: to the place of the altar, which he had made there formerly; Abraham had left the altar and the relationship that he once had.

Application:

1. After We Have Won A Great Triumph Of Faith, Expect The Enemy To Tempt Us Or The Lord To Test Us, Or Both. This Is The Only Way We Can Grow In Our Faith:
2. When A Famine Comes, We Can Respond In 3 Ways – (1) Escape It, (2) Endure It, Or (3) Enlist It:
3. "The Will Of God Will Never Lead You Where The Grace Of God Cannot Keep You."
4. Abram Returns To Faith To The Place Of His Beginning: