

A. Famine in the Land (12:10)

1. Site of the Famine

The Famine was "in the land," which caused the...

-Will of God

-Promises of God (12:2,3,7)

*Mat 5:11-12

*Rom 8:18

*2Co 4:17

-Dedication to God

To be challenged!

2. Season of the Famine

-Abram had just arrived in the land God had promised (12:5-9)

-Tests often follow triumphs

-2Co 12:7

3. Severity of the Famine

C. Folly out of the Land (12:11-17)

1. Fearfulness (12:11-12)

"Then they will kill me"

-Prv 29:25

-Isa 12:2

2. Deceitfulness (12:13)

"Say you are my sister"

-Gen 20:12

-Prv 3:5-6

-1Co 3:18-20

3. Selfishness (12:13)

"that it may go well with me"

-Eph 5:25,28-29

-1Pe 3:7

4. Injuriousness (12:14-17)

"the LORD afflicted Pharaoh..."

¹⁰Now there was a **famine in the land**. So Abram **went down to Egypt** to sojourn there, for the **famine** was **severe** in the land.

"Went Down" - Since Palestine is a highland country, travel to Egypt by its southern boundary would be a continual descent.

¹¹When he was about to enter **Egypt**, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that *you are a woman beautiful in appearance*,

¹²and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' **Then they will kill me**, but they will let you live.

¹³**Say you are my sister**, that **it may go well with me** because of you, and **that my life may be spared** for your sake."

¹⁴When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was **very beautiful**.

¹⁵And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was **taken into Pharaoh's house**.

¹⁶And for her sake **he dealt well with Abram**; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, **female servants, female donkeys, and camels**.

Wealth from Pharaoh:
Joseph - Gen 41:41-43 / Jacob 45:16-20

¹⁷But **the LORD afflicted Pharaoh** and his house with **great plagues** because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

Compare to: 10 Plagues - Exo 7 to 12

B. Forsaking of the Land (12:10)

1. Rationalization

-Young in the Faith!

2. Reason

-Forsaking (12:1)

*Ps 119:105

-Circumstances

*Severe Famine

-Self Preservation

*Mat 6:25-34

3. Reoccurrence

-Joseph / Jacob

*Gen 41 to Exo 12

Eastern kings have for ages claimed the privilege of taking to their harem an unmarried woman whom they like.



Sarai becomes a member of Pharaoh's harem. Unlike the similar story in 20:1-18, this text does not indicate that Pharaoh does not sleep with Sarai (20:3-4). Pharaoh acknowledges that he has taken Sarai as a wife (v. 19).

D. Flight Back to the Land (12:17-13:4)

1. Reason (12:17-19)

-God's providence & grace

2. Retribution (12:17-19)

-Plagues

3. Rebuke (12:18-19)

-Abraham, a man who has been given a high calling from God, being rebuked by a heathen king

4. Riches (12:20-13:2)

-Hagar (16:1)?

5. Revival (13:3-4)

-Gen 12:8 (Bethel)

6. Repeating



Compare to the Exodus Story:

-Each went to Egypt because of famine in Canaan (12:10; 45:9-11)

-Each escaped Egypt because of great plagues (12:17; Exo 7-12)

-Each was told by Pharaoh to get out of Egypt (12:19; Exo 12:30-32)

-Each left Egypt with much wealth (12:16,20; Exo 12:36)

¹⁸So Pharaoh called Abram and said, "*What is this you have done to me?*" Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?

Had God not intervened, Abram might have been tempted to stay in Egypt instead of returning to the promised land of Canaan.

¹⁹Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; *take her, and go.*"

²⁰And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and *they sent him away* with his wife and all that he had.

¹So Abram *went up from Egypt*, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

"Went Up" - Since Palestine is a highland country, travel from Egypt by its southern boundary would be a continual ascent.

²Now *Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.*

³And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as **Bethel** to the place *where his tent had been at the beginning*, between Bethel and Ai, <- Gen 12:8

Bethel לַאֲתוּיָב = "house of God"

⁴to the place *where he had made an altar at the first*. And there *Abram called upon the name of the LORD.*

Promises of God

Matthew 5:11–12 (ESV)

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Romans 8:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

Tests after Triumph

2 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)

⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

Forsaking God’s Word

Psalms 119:105 (ESV)

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

Self Preservation

Matthew 6:25–34 (ESV)

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Fearfulness

Proverbs 29:25 (ESV)

²⁵ The fear of man lays a snare,
but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.

Isaiah 12:2 (ESV)

² “Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the Lord God is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.”

Deceitfulness

Genesis 20:12 (ESV)

¹² Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

1 Corinthians 3:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

Selfishness

Ephesians 5:25 (ESV)

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

Ephesians 5:28–29 (ESV)

²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

1 Peter 3:7 (ESV)

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Sarai → Harem

Genesis 20:1–18 (ESV)

¹ From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar. ² And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ³ But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.” ⁴ Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, “Lord, will you kill an innocent people? ⁵ Did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.” ⁶ Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷ Now then, return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”

⁸ So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid. ⁹ Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.” ¹⁰ And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you see, that you did this thing?” ¹¹ Abraham said, “I did it because I thought, ‘There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’ ¹² Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. ¹³ And when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, I said to her, ‘This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, “He is my brother.” ’ ”

¹⁴ Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him. ¹⁵ And Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you.” ¹⁶ To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated.” ¹⁷ Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. ¹⁸ For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

Wealth from Pharaoh

Genesis 41:41–43 (ESV)

⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” ⁴² Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. ⁴³ And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 45:16–20 (ESV)

¹⁶ When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. ¹⁷ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, ¹⁸ and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' ¹⁹ And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. ²⁰ Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.' "

Hagar from Egypt

Genesis 16:1 (ESV)

¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar.

Bethel

Genesis 12:8 (ESV)

⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord.

1008. בֵּיתֵאל **Betheel** (110d); from 1004 and 410; "house of God," a city in Ephraim, also a place in S. Judah:—Bethel(71).¹

Compare to Exodus Story

Genesis 45:9–11 (ESV)

⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

Exodus 12:30–32 (ESV)

³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. ³¹ Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as you have said. ³² Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!"

Exodus 12:36 (ESV)

³⁶ And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

¹ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.