

Israel's Patriarch

A Study in Genesis 12-24

A Journey Into Egypt
Genesis 12:4-20
July 26, 2020

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. - **Genesis 12:7**

I. AN OBEDIENT RESPONSE

- Abram went "not knowing where he was going." This does not mean he had no direction whatsoever (Gen. 12:1, 5; Acts 7:3; Heb. 11:8).
- Abram takes all he owns, plus his nephew's household. He put everything into God's promise, and went "all in" (Ps. 119:10; Jer. 29:11-14; Phil 3:8-11).
- God appears to Abram and promises him a land for his descendants. Abram responds in worship (Gen. 12:7-8).

II. EGYPT, AND THE FEAR OF MAN

- Abram heads south to Egypt in response to trouble, a common motif in Scripture (Gen. 12:10, 42:1-2; Num. 14:3; Matt. 2:13-14).
- Abram apparently does not consult the LORD on his travel plans and is forced to resort to a ruse to protect himself and his family (Gen. 12:10-16).
- God afflicts Pharaoh and his house, although he is "generally" blameless in the affair (Gen. 12:17-20; 1 Cor. 4:1-5).
- Abram's journey, minus the blessing of God, proves relatively useless. He ends up where he started (Gen. 13:1-3).
- Our hope lies in God, not our power, influence, wealth, intellect, or cunning. He upholds the righteous (Ps. 1, 5:12, 34:15-22, 55:22; Prov. 10:25; Rom. 8:28).

KNOW: Human scheming rarely brings about the will of God. Trust is what God is calling for, and obedience to his commands.

DO: Place full trust in God. He never lets the righteous fall.

Suggested Reading:

Does God Control Everything? Crucial Questions #14 by R.C. Sproul (LifePoint Library #CQ SPR)

Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts by Jerry Bridges (LifePoint Library #231.4 BRI)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 12:4-20

1. How would you describe Abram as a man from what you know about him thus far in Genesis?
2. Why does Abram build an altar to the LORD?
3. Does Abram sin by going into Egypt? What are your thoughts?
4. Abram is filled with fear in Egypt, so he lies about his wife. What type of situation does that put Sarai in, do you think?
5. Is it right for God to afflict Pharaoh and his house for a sin that they did not know about?
6. Have you ever taken a major "step of faith?" What did it look like for you? What was the outcome?
7. What are your application points from this week's message?