

“Abram’s Growing Faith” Genesis 12:1-20 1/06/19

Today, we’d like to see the title of “Abram’s Growing Faith” in the book of Gen 12:1-20.

To Online Word’s people, *through MP3 or YouTube Channel*, on the earth, we’d like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In verse 7 “Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him,” when does the “then” tell us? And what can we learn from here?

Q2. In verse 13, “Please say you *are* my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you,” what are we seeing? And how can our faith grow?

Q3. In verse 18, “And Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What *is* this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?” Abram’s lie or the failure of his faith was in particular recorded as well as the victory of his faith in verses 4 & 5. And how about the victory of our faith and the failure of our faith in the NT time would be recorded or remembered by God?

(Background for Daily Bible Reading and Studying Weekly Book Basis)

(Gen 11:31-32) And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram’s wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. ³² So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran. (See a reliable Bible map. Haran was the upper part city moved from Ur the lower part City of Euphrates river in Babylon the pagan country.

Abram – a high father; Abraham – a father of many nations in (Gen 17:5), “No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.”

(1-9) Abram’s Faith

(10-20) Failure of Abram’s Faith

Text: NKJV [KJV]

¹Now the LORD had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country,
From your family

(1-9) Abram’s Faith

¹= the Lord had said to Abram (at Ur, God appeared and told Abram to leave from Babylon, called as Chaldeans or

<p>And <u>from your father's house</u>, <u>To a land that I will show you.</u></p> <p>² I will make you <u>a great nation</u>; I will bless you And make <u>your name great</u>; And you shall be <u>a blessing</u>.</p> <p>³ <u>I will bless those who bless you</u>, And <u>I will curse him who curses you</u>; And <u>in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.</u>"</p> <p>⁴ <u>So Abram departed</u> as the LORD had spoken to him, and <u>Lot went with him</u>. And <u>Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.</u></p> <p>⁵ Then Abram took <u>Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son</u>, and <u>all their possessions</u> that they had gathered, and <u>the people whom they had acquired in Haran</u>, and they departed to go <u>to the land of Canaan</u>. <u>So they came to the land of Canaan.</u></p> <p>⁶ Abram passed through <u>the land to the place of Shechem</u>, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And <u>the Canaanites were then in the land.</u></p> <p>⁷ <u>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said</u>, "To</p>	<p>Mesopotamia <i>Acts 7:2-4</i>¹ but God never told him about the next step until he obeys to leave from Babylon, i.e. Haran city the upper part of Euphrates river); Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house (leave from your country, and your relatives); To a land I will show you (upon your obedience to leave, then God will show the next step --- Progressive Direction! Often God does so. The 1st obedience to leave and reach the shown land is pre-condition to the next verse 2)</p> <p>2= a great nation (Abram is forefather of the Arabic People, the Jews, and spiritually all Christians); you name great (Abram is well known over the world); a blessing (because of God's grace, not Abram's goodness e.g. Israelites' increase <i>1 Chronicle 21:1</i>²)</p> <p>3= I will bless those who bless you (God will bless the blessing people, e.g. US provided the refuge for the Jews during the World War II); I will curse him who curses you (God will curse the cursing people, e.g., after persecuting the Jews, those countries - Egypt, Babylon, Germany declined); in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (through Abram, Isaac, Israel, David, through Jesus, the children of God are not only physically but also spiritually blessed.)</p> <p>4= So Abram departed (from the Babylon the pagan country, i.e. Haran city; he obeyed); Lot went with him (Lot the son of Haran the brother of Abram; So, Lot is his nephew); 75 years old when he departed from Haran.</p> <p>5= Sarai his wife...Lot his brother's son... all their possessions... the people...acquired in Haran (Abram just "came out of the land of the Chaldeans" without knowing "where he was going" <i>Heb 11:8</i>³); to the land of Canaan (God led him and showed Canaan to him.); So they came to the land of Canaan (arrived the promised land which God had the plan as a holy land)</p> <p>6= the land of the place of Shechem (the center city of Canaanites, see a map); the Canaanites were then in the land</p>
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¹ *Acts 7:2-4* And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,"³ and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.'⁴ Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.

² *1 Chronicle 21:1* Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.

³ *Heb 11:8* By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

<p><u>your descendants I will give this land.</u>” And there he <u>built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.</u></p> <p>⁸ And <u>he moved from there</u> to the mountain east of Bethel, and he <u>pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east</u>; there <u>he built an altar to the LORD</u> and called on the name of the LORD.</p> <p>⁹ So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.</p> <p>¹⁰ Now there was <u>a famine in the land</u>, and Abram went <u>down to Egypt to dwell there</u>, for the <u>famine was severe</u> in the land.</p> <p>¹¹ And it came to pass, when he was <u>close to entering Egypt</u>, that he said to Sarai his wife, “Indeed I know that you <u>are a woman of beautiful countenance</u>.”</p> <p>¹² Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, ‘This <i>is</i> his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.</p> <p>¹³ <u>Please say you are my sister</u>, that it may be well</p>	<p>7=Q1 Then (upon Abram’s obedience to leave from the Babylon and reach the promised land) the Lord appeared to Abram and said, appeared and said (when Abram reached the shown land of Canaan, God told Abram the next step; God’s progressive direction; Often God directs step by step, not showing whole plan from beginning, e.g., Philip had taken the 1st step, then God gave him the next step. <i>Acts 8:26-29^d</i>; YouTube channel “Online Word For Global Crusade” to spread the word on 12/07/18; after we followed 1st step to open YouTube on 12/30/17); To your descendants I will give this land (Now, God gives this blessing because of His grace, not of Abram’s goodness <i>Psalms 86:15^b</i>); built an altar to the Lord (in OT, for sacrifice, prayer, worship, and a reminder of God’s promise)</p> <p>8= he moved from there (to the south bound, see a map); pitched his tent with Bethel (the house of God) on the west and Ai on the east; he built an altar to the Lord (the 2nd altar built)</p> <p>(10-20) failure of Abram’s faith</p> <p>10= a famine in the land (God’s test of Abram’s faith – he did not ask the Lord by prayer but followed his flesh need; so he failed the test; here recorded) down to Egypt to dwell there;...famine was severe</p> <p>11= a woman of beautiful countenance (her age 65 years old at that time because she was 10 years younger than Abram 75 years old <i>Gen 17:17^b</i>)</p>
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⁴ *Acts 8:26-29* Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. ²⁷ **So he arose and went.** And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”

⁵ *Psalms 86:15* But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth

⁶ *Gen 17:17* Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

<p>with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you.” ¹⁴ So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. ¹⁵ <u>The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh.</u> And the woman was taken to Pharaoh’s house.</p> <p>¹⁶ <u>He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.</u></p> <p>¹⁷ <u>But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.</u></p> <p>¹⁸ <u>And Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?”</u></p> <p>¹⁹ <u>Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’? I might have taken her as my wife.</u> Now therefore, here is your wife; take <i>her</i> and go your way.”</p> <p>²⁰ So Pharaoh commanded <i>his</i> men concerning him;</p>	<p>13=Q2 Please say you are my sister (it is a half true in the later the same lie to another king Abimelech <i>Gen 20:12</i>⁷; here a material fact is his wife rather than his sister; So she did so in light of verses 18 & 19 – 2nd failure of Abram’s faith; here is recorded; The more we love God, the more we will know God. And the more we have the knowledge of God, the more our faith will grow <i>Rom 10:17</i>; <i>2 Thes 1:3</i>⁸)</p> <p>16= (Abram received a lot of gifts from Pharaoh the Egyptian king)</p> <p>17= the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues (God intervened into Abram’s life because God is faithful) because of Sarai, Abram’s wife (a material fact of Abram’s wife is clearly stated; its silence is a lie or deceit or dishonesty. In verse 18 “Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?”)</p> <p>18=Q3 <i>What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?</i> (Here, the failure of Abram’s faith is recorded in particular with the victory of his faith in verses 4 & 5; how about the victory of our faith and the failure of our faith in the NT time? The failure of our faith would not be recorded or remembered but the victory of our faith as long as we confess any failure of faith to the Lord unlike the believers in the OT <i>Jer 31:31-34</i>, <i>Heb 10:14-18</i>; <i>1 John 1:9</i>⁹)</p> <p>19= <i>Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’?</i> (sister alone without saying the material fact of wife is a lie)</p>
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⁷ *Gen 20:12* But indeed *she is* truly my sister. *She is* the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

⁸ *Rom 10:17* So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God; *2 Thes 1:3* We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

⁹ *Jer 31:31-34* “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. ³³ But *this is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” *Heb 10:14-18* For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. ¹⁵ But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ¹⁶ “*This is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” ¹⁷ *then He adds*, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” ¹⁸ Now where there is remission of these, *there is* no longer an offering for sin; *1 John 1:9* If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

<p>and <u>they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.</u></p>	<p>20= they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had (Abram was expelled with all possessions)</p>
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Note: This online word for global crusade in effect develops from sermon into spiritual transformation into the image of Christ in daily love fellowship with the Lord throughout Bible Study of which application is the Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, closer to the image of Christ. We think that “Any human opinion is not really important rather than what God says. So, the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible per se. But the opinion to make us understand God’s Word is acceptable. (2 Corinthians 10:5)”

Thank you everybody. Come to Jesus!

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