

## OT-OV

### Lesson 27

1. Last week I gave you several key dates and events relating to Israel; then I taught Gen 12:8. When time expired we were about to look at Gen 12:9.

2. Gen 12:9 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

2.1 Now for new material and the phrase "And Abram journeyed ..."

2.1.1 In the next verse we shall see that his ultimate destination was Egypt. He left Bethel, which means "the house of God," and in so traveling he left his altar, his place of worship.

2.2 Gen 12:10 And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

2.2.1 "There was a famine in the land ..."

2.2.2 God had brought Abram all the way from Ur, not in order to let him die of hunger. The famine was to test and strengthen the faith by which Abram was learning to walk.

2.2.3 Faith is not a mushroom that grows overnight in damp soil; it is an oak tree that grows with time under the blast of the wind and rain.

2.2.4 Faith is not a work to be regarded but a gift to be developed. After all of the booming crescendo of promises, came the still small voice of daily blessing, conditioned upon Abram's dwelling in the land.

2.2.5 Abram perhaps failed this test by not trusting God to care for him in a time of need.

2.3 "Abram went down into Egypt ..."

2.3.1 Like a coin that has a head and a tail, every event in life has a side that can draw us to God and a side that can draw us away from God. The famine was just such an event.

2.3.2 If Abram had faith rested, he would have stayed in the land on full rations until the last mouthful was eaten, and then he could have expected God to rain food from heaven. God would have had to do this to keep His promise.

2.3.3 John Barnhouse has written in his book Genesis:

"God tempts no man (Jam 1:13), that is, He draws no man downward, and the prayer, "Lead us not into temptation" ... means: Lord, do not expose us to tests that have two sides, for we will always go down if left to ourselves. Do not put us to the test. When God does ... permits us to be tested, it is never more than we are able to meet (1Co 10:13)."

Jam 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

2.4 "The famine was grievous ..."

2.4.1 The famine was awful and the Canaanites still held the land and yet it was still the land of promise.

2.4.2 At times our walk with God will be such that even faith will hardly know where to turn.

2.4.3 The enemy the devil will always resist us.

Gen 12:11 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:

Gen 12:12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

Gen 12:13 Say, I pray thee, say thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

2.4.4 One failure leads to another; Abram had walked by faith from Ur to Haran to Canaan and now he panics and leaves the promised-land. Without asking counsel of the Lord, he took the easy road forgetting the promises of God.

Gen 12:14 And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.

Gen 12:15 The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

Gen 12:16 And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

2.5 Abram allowed his wife to go into the palace of a Hamite king.

2.5.1 Abram should have been Sarai's protector but having turned from God, he elected to flee from the land God had given him and being out of the will of God, it was easy for him abandon his responsibilities toward Sarai, his weaker vessel .

1Pe 3:6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

2.6 God had preceded Abram, the Pharaoh was aware of God and not only did he have an awareness, he knew Abram was God's man.

2.6.1 It would seem the Pharaoh was a believer and a believer with a certain awareness of God's protocol. Discipline came upon Egypt because of sin, even though the Pharaoh had no idea Sarai was Abram's wife.

Gen 12:17 And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

2.6.2 This emphasizes the consistent principle found throughout the Bible about sin.

2.6.3 It is sin God hates; the motivation for sin is not the issue. This is made abundantly clear with reference to the first sin.

2.6.4 Eve sinned because she was deceived; she even sincerely believed by eating of the volition tree she was helping God out.

1Ti 2:11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

1Ti 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

1Ti 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

1Ti 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

Now let's quickly review that which occurred in Genesis chapter thirteen.

Gen 13:1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him.

Gen 13:2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

Gen 13:3 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier

Gen 13:4 and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.

1. Having seen the mighty hand of God at work, Abram left Egypt with a renewed fellowship with His maker and protector.

2. Abraham was ready for a new life. He was immensely rich. Cattle, gold, and silver were his in great abundance.

3. His company of followers had increased until a serious problem confronted him.

4. With such large herds, he needed water and grass.

Gen 13:5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.

Gen 13:6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.

Gen 13:7 And quarreling arose between Abram's herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

Gen 13:8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers.

1. Soon Lot's company had difficulty with Abram's men. The Hebrew word Meriba translated in the KJV "strife," indicates disputing, striving, and contentions.

2. The righteous uncle could not allow such unbecoming conduct to continue. He said: We are brethren.

3. Behavior like that was unnecessary, unavailing, and wholly out of keeping with God's representatives.

End Lesson