

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MAY 4, 2022
GENESIS 12.10-20

INTRODUCTION:

1. At the command of God, Abram left his home and began his journey toward the land of promise where he would live as a stranger. (Gen. 12.1,4,7)
 - a) After arriving in Canaan, Abram camped in Canaan between Bethel and Ai. (Gen. 12.8)
 - b) **GENESIS 12.9:** “*So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.*”
2. Abram traveled down to Egypt where Abram’s fear created problems for him and the nation.

I. LOOKING AT THE PASSAGE

- A. Abram lies to Pharaoh. (Gen. 12.10-16)
 1. **GENESIS 12.13:** “*Please say you are my sister, that it will be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you.*” This wasn’t the only time.
 - a) It was a half-truth, but a half-truth was still a lie. (Gen. 20.12)
 - b) It was a premeditated lie. (Gen. 20.13)
 2. Why did Abram lie about his wife? Fear!
 - a) **GENESIS 12.11:** “*I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.*”
 - b) **GENESIS 12.12:** “*they will kill me, but they will let you live.*”
- B. Pharaoh takes Sarai for his own.
 1. **GENESIS 12.14:** “*the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful.*”
 - a) How old was Sarah when they came to Egypt? (Gen. 17.17; 12.4; cf. Gen. 23.1)
 - b) In contrast to the Egyptian women who were typically weathered in the desert sun.
 2. **GENESIS 12.15:** “*The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh.*” They extolled her beauty to Pharaoh.
 3. **GENESIS 12.15:** “*And the woman was taken to Pharaoh’s house.*”
- C. The consequences of Abram’s lie.
 1. Abram lie made him wealthy. (Gen. 12.16)
 2. Abram’s lie brought a plague on the house of Pharaoh. (Gen. 12.17-19)
 - a) **GENESIS 12.18:** “*What is this you have done to me?*”
 - b) **GENESIS 12.19:** “*Why did you say, ‘She is my sister?’*”
 3. Abram’s lie drove him from his home. (Gen. 12.19,20)

II. LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE

- A. The cause of lying.
 1. Profit: We lie to gain some benefit that would have been otherwise been withheld.
 - a) Did Abram benefit from his lie? (Gen. 12.16)
 - b) Ananias and Sapphira lied because they wanted praise. (Acts 5.1-3)
 2. Protection: We lie to protect ourselves or others from harm.
 - a) Who was Abram protecting with his lie? (Gen. 12.12,13)
 - b) **PSALM 15.1-5:** “*He who swears to his own hurt.*”
- B. The consequences of lying.
 1. Lying brings harm on those to whom we lie.
 - a) Abram’s lie brought a plague on Pharaoh’s house. (Gen. 12.17)
 - b) Sin brings problems into the life of others. There is no victimless sin. (Rom. 5.12)
 - c) “*What they don’t know, can’t hurt them.*” Yet lying to someone can do real damage.
 2. Lying causes harm to ourselves.
 - a) Because of Abram’s lie, he almost lost his wife to another man. (Gen. 12.19)
 - b) Because of Abram’s lie, he was driven from the land. (Gen. 12.20)
 - c) Lying destroys friendships, marriages, and ultimately our relationship with God.
 3. Eventually, your lie will be exposed. (Gen. 12.18; Num. 32.23)