



THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

FAITH, FIGHTS AND FAMINE

GENESIS 12:10-20

Wherever Abraham went in the land of Canaan, he was marked by his **TENT** and his **ALTAR**.

- The **TENT** marked him as a “*stranger and pilgrim*” who did not belong to this world. **1 Peter 2:11-12**
- The **ALTAR** marked him as a citizen of heaven who worshiped the true and living God.
- He gave witness that he was separated from this world—**THE TENT (body, physically)**—and devoted to the Lord—**THE ALTAR (spiritually, a type of the human heart)**.

OUR WALK OF FAITH OFTEN LEADS TO TROUBLE AND TESTS *Gen. 12:10*

- In leaving his family and traveling to an unknown land, Abraham took a great step of faith.

Why did God allow the famine? To teach Abram and Sarah one of the most basic lessons of faith.

- Abram's triumph of faith was followed by a testing of his faith.
- One of the greatest enemies of the life of faith is pride (**1 Cor. 10:12-13**). Self trust is mistrust of God.

LESSONS IN THE FURNACE

After you have won a great victory of faith, expect the enemy to attack you, or the Lord to test you—or both.

- Instead of remaining in the land and trusting the Lord to help him, Abram went “*down into Egypt*.” **Gen. 12:10**
- People went *up* to Jerusalem (**God**); but when they went to Egypt, they went *down* (**the world**).
Deuteronomy 11:10-12
- Spiritually speaking, “*going down to Egypt*” means doubting God’s promises and running to the world for help. **Isaiah 30:1-2**

DEALING WITH SOME SERIOUSLY PROBLEMATIC PEOPLE

Abraham soon discovered that he had been better off dealing with the famine in Canaan ***with God***, than with the fights with people in Egypt ***without God***.

Notice the changes that took place in Abraham's life because he went down to Egypt.

- Abraham moved from ***TRUSTING*** to ***SCHEMING***.
 - Lying and scheming always brings worse troubles! **Proverbs 3:5-7; 1 Corinthians 3:18-20**

- **The second change:** Abram moved from *CONFIDENCE* to *FEAR*.
 - When you are in God's will, you don't ever need to be afraid; for faith and fear cannot simultaneously dwell in the same heart. **Isaiah 12:2**
- **A third change took place:** Abram moved from *OTHERS* to *SELF*.
 - As the husband, Abraham should have thought first of his wife and not of himself. In fact, he should never have taken his wife to Egypt in the first place! **1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:25-29**

- **The fourth change:** Abram moved from ***BRINGING BLESSING*** to ***BRINGING JUDGMENT***.
 - If you want to be a blessing to others, then stay in the will of God.

God forgave Abraham's sin and he started over again.

So, what's the big problem?

- Everything Abraham received in Egypt—the world—later caused him great trouble.
- The furnace of faith, famine and fights is God's way of refining; even if you got yourself into the furnace!