

## Circumstances that Test Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:4

**Introduction:** Genesis 12:10-13:4 reveals a pattern in Abram's relationship with God, he has to wait for God to keep his promises.

Famine - Genesis indicates that there were three major famines (12:10; 26:1; 41:56) and each was likely the result of drought.

Life - Genesis 12:10

**Summary:** Life is orchestrated by God, according to scripture. Is God in charge of famines or do they just take place according to the ebb and flow of nature? Should Abram have known this about God?

Trouble - Genesis 12:11-16

Abram began walking by sight and that led to "fear"; and what Abram feared most actually took place.

**Precept:** Fear is the opposite of faith and reveals that I cannot manage the situation without some kind of personal manipulation, deception or human intervention.

**Fear is based on what I see; faith is based on what God sees and when I walk by faith I am trusting God that what he sees is better than what I see.**

God's Intervention - Genesis 12:17-13:4

**Summary:** What are the ways that God uses to compel me to trust him? How does my trust of God affect others around me? (Psalm 105:12-15)

**Conclusion:** The "out of Egypt" theme in this story plays itself out in the rescue of God's people from Egypt (Exodus 1-14) and the first century story of Joseph, Mary and Jesus (Matthew 2:13-19).

It may appear in this story that Abram, in the end, prospered from his deception of Pharaoh; he was physically enriched. But that enrichment may have caused the separation between him and Lot (Genesis 13) and also the gift of Hagar to Sarai, who became the mother of the son is a cause of many problems in today's world.

As much as we learn about Abram in this story we learn more about God. God is omnipotent, he is omniscient and he is omnipresent with his people and nothing is going to happen that alters God's plans or changes his promises.

We must learn from this story that present circumstances can be a test of faith; and to whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48); therefore we will be held much more responsible for our responses to troubling circumstances.

God never abandons his children when they leave the 'place of his will'; he pursues them indirectly and protects them along the way, all the while embarrassing and sometimes even punishing them. Walking by faith is always a testimony to those who watch us; such that they can see the power of God and the importance of faith.