

Rough Discipleship 2

The Journey Continues

Genesis 12

6. Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

Verses 6 sets up the scene. Gives the geography and social setting. Note: Canaanites were in the land.

7. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Again Canaanites in the land but God gives Abrahams people the land. Why displace people? God's plan. Doesn't explain it much does it.

Notice, Abe built an altar. He worshipped, and gave credit to God. He accepted God's plan. A weird question here: we're the Canaanites offered the same deal and did they reject it? We don't know.

8. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.

This is worth noting, Abe builds altars wherever he goes. Worship is a moveable thing. Worship is where you go or where you are. It is not located here in this building and we create worship space wherever we go. Abraham did - it's in the bible.

9. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

V9 continues the setting – Abraham kept moving. And things get tough.

Abram and Sarai in Egypt

10. Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.

Some of Abraham's moving about is logistically necessary. Drought. Remember from last week- this is not a camping trip but life in the wilderness. He needs to move around to find good feed for his animals and water for the animals as well as his family.

11. When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, Say what?"

12. and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13. Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake."

Now, this is a bit weird. What do we make off it?

1. Abe is a bit of a chicken
2. Sarah is a bit of a babe
3. Abe is out of his comfort zone. Feels more comfortable in the wilderness.,
4. Abe tries to be political
5. Abe doesn't trust Egyptians
6. There's more to this.

14. When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15. And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

The assumption here is she is taken into a royal harem. This has a level of protection. OK Abe got it right. They thought Sarai was a bit of a babe.

16. And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

Because Sarah was a babe, Abe was treated well and gifted stuff.

17. But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife

Interesting, Pharaoh gets punished and he doesn't even know why at first. So, God blesses Abe and protects Sarah despite the lie! Is that the way it works? Well, no, but God does protect despite our failings and mistakes. Remember last week we mentioned that God respected Abrahams decision to follow Him. God I suppose is honouring that decision even though Abe has yet to learn to put his total trust in God. But it is interesting isn't it.

. 18. So Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19. Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go."

The assumption here from how it is written is that Sarai and Pharaoh had a fling. As He took her as his wife.

I'm losing some respect for Abraham here.

He lies, sets his wife up for an adulterous relationship, Not a good look. But hey the bible is real isn't it. We see the hero's of faith in their failures as well as their successes.

But the big thing to notice is:

God intervenes in Abrahams mistakes.,

Notice: v17

17. But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife

It is God who controls the situation not Abrahams politicking. Arrh, this is what we need to hear. God is in control.

20. And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

Pharaoh knows what he has to do. Get rid of these people. But notice, there is no punishment from Pharaoh, he sends them away with their wealth intact. So Abraham is back where he started. Wandering around the wilderness with all his animals and family.