

Character Study: Abraham
Part 2 – A Near Costly Mistake
Genesis 12:10-20

What's happening?

- Abraham had followed God's leading and traveled to Canaan. However, shortly after his arrival, a terrible famine occurred. Abraham decided to leave Canaan and travelled on to Egypt. (12:10)
- Abraham was concerned that the Egyptians would kill him in order to take his beautiful wife, Sarah, so he asked her to tell people that she was his sister. (12:11-13)
- Abraham was correct in that the Egyptians did notice the beauty of Sarah. She was invited by the princes of Egypt to go to the Pharaoh's house. Probably to his surprise, however, Abraham was given animals and servants, and treated very well by the Pharaoh. (12:14-16)
- God was not pleased with Abraham, and did not bless him for his actions. Instead, He sent plagues on the Pharaoh's house, at which time the Pharaoh learned that Abraham had lied about who Sarah was. The Pharaoh knew that the plagues were a result of Abraham's actions, so he quickly removed Abraham and Sarah from his house. (12:17-20)

What's God doing?

- > Abraham had used deception to get out of a situation he should have never gotten himself into. Abraham had traveled to where God wanted him to go, and there is no indication God wanted him to go any further. Regardless of the famine, God desired Abraham's full obedience.
- > What is interesting is the fact that Sarah was Abraham's half-sister (Gen. 20:12), so Abraham was telling half the truth. But by not telling the whole truth, he almost lost his wife (and thus his descendants and God's promises as well). Abraham had acted out of fear in hopes of misleading the Egyptians, and it was only by God's grace that he escaped.

What's to learn?

→ God had big plans for Abraham, yet God needed to strengthen Abraham's faith before He could accomplish the great plans He desired to do through him. How well do you handle the little tests God uses to strengthen your faith? Daily commitment produces strong faith, and strong faith is the key that makes our lives available for the Lord's use!