

# DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31



**May 7, 2023**

**Genesis 12:9 – 13:4**

**There and Back Again**

## **Main Idea**

The normal pattern of Abram's life was marked by obedience to the LORD's word and worship. Scripture reveals him to have been a man of exemplary faith. But sometimes, even the faithful fail, and before us today is the record of such a season in Abram's life. At some point, for reasons unstated, he dropped his guard and succumbed to the temptation to walk not by faith in God, but according to his own sight. This resulted in a test for Abram – not to see how he would respond, for God already knew the answer. Abram would continue to struggle until God intervened. The purpose of the testing was to bring Abram's inner stumbling into plain view, thereby revealing to the Patriarch himself his need for a course correction. Abram's growing self-reliance was chipping away at his faith and wakening it. That had to stop.

The test arrived in the form of a famine that although dangerous from a human perspective, was no match for God's sovereign providence. Sadly, Abram failed miserably! He chose not to stand on God's promises to him, and instead to take matters into his own hands by seeking safety in Egypt. After being overtaken by a far worse calamity than the one from which he fled, God intervened and rescued Abram. At the end of the ordeal, Abram repented. God had shown him his need to always trust fully in Him. Upon arriving back from where he'd begun, Abram worshiped the LORD.

## **Outline**

No outline today

## Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 For the believer, self-sufficiency is a dangerous temptation. Why?

What sinful attitude is at the heart of it?

#2 In the message Pastor Vaughn made the point that the Bible doesn't spare its heroes. What does that mean?

Why is it important for us to have the record not only of the triumphs of our Bible heroes but also their failures?

#3 When the famine struck, Abram took matters into his own hands and sought provision and safety in Egypt. Read again the promises God made to Abram. What should he have done differently?

#4 How does God design testing for our good?

When approached with faith, what positive result can believers expect when confronted with trials?

How has God ultimately strengthened you through a time of testing?

#5 Sarai actually was Abram's half-sister (Genesis 20:12). Why did that not absolve Abram of lying in C. 12?

What is a half-truth anyway?

#6 How did Abram fail as a witness for the LORD to Pharaoh?

#7 What does 13:4 tell us about Abram?

Select helpful resources:

Alders, G. Ch. (1981). *Genesis, Vol. 1*. Zondervan.

Davis, J. J. (1975). *Paradise to Prison*. Revell.

Phillips, John. (2001). *Exploring Genesis*. Kregel Publications.

Ross, A. P. (1997). *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*. Baker Academic.

Swindoll, C. R. (2014). *Abraham: One Nomad's Amazing Journey of Faith*. Tyndale House.

Tolkien, J.R.R. Credit for title of sermon

Wood, L. J. (1998). *A Shorter Commentary on Genesis*. Wipf & Stock.