

The Conflict of Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:1

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Then he **believed** in the LORD; and **He reckoned it to him as righteousness.** Genesis 15:6

For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “**ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**” Romans 4:2–3

Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “**FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**” 22 Therefore **IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.** Romans 4:9, 22

Even so Abraham **BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.** Galatians 3:6

and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “**AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,**” and **he was called the friend of God.** James 2:23

New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

The Conflict of Faith Genesis 12:10-13:1

Faith God approves IS personal, but its focus is more communal than individual.

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Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 **Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.** 8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, **“ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.”**

Galatians 3:6–8

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and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, **so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,**

Romans 4:11

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For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; **for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.**

Galatians 3:27–29

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For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:4–6

Roots of Saving Faith

Genesis 12:1-9

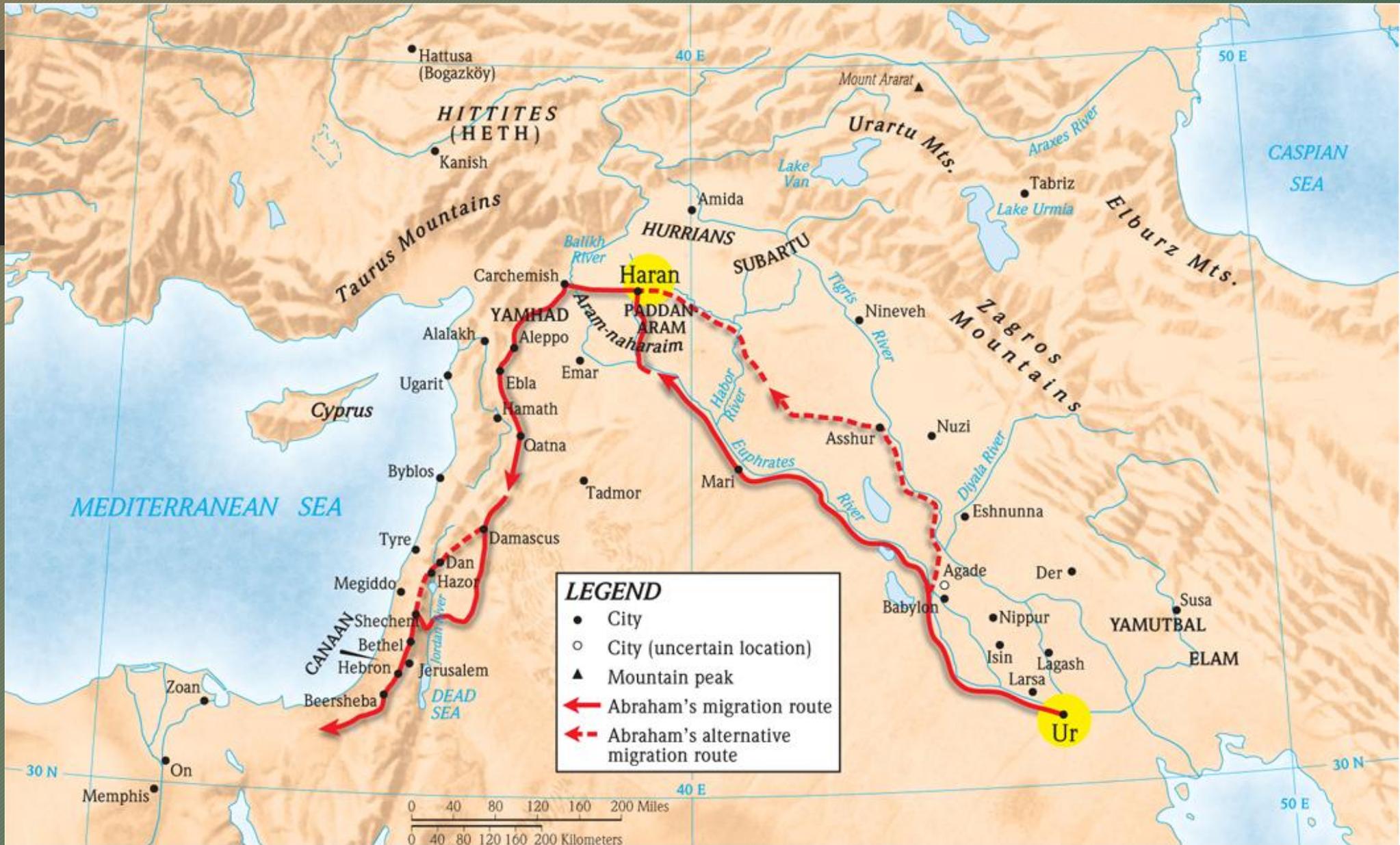
Biblical faith begins with God's call, is motivated by God's promise, and responds with obedience and worship because of the worthiness of the One who called.

Roots of Saving Faith

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I. The Call of God v. 1



The Migration of Abraham

Roots of Saving Faith

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I. **The Call of God** v. 1

II. **The Promises of God** vv. 2-3

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- I. **The Call of God** v. 1
- II. **The Promises of God** vv. 2-3
- III. **The Response of Man** vv. 4-5

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Biblical, saving faith includes the conflict of faith.

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Conflict Exposes the True Shape of Our Faith and Provides an Opportunity to See God's Hand

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I. **The Conflict of Faith Exposes Our True Values** vv. 10-13

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- I. **The Conflict of Faith Exposes Our True Values** vv. 10-13
 - A. **Crisis Expose Fears** vv. 10-12



Abram and Sarai Go to Egypt

 Abram and Sarai's route from the altar near Bethel and Ai to Egypt



Journeys of Abraham - Part 1

UR OF CHALDEES TO HARAN

- About 600 miles distance
- Genesis 11:27-32
- Ur 50 miles south of Babylon
- Death of Abraham's father Nahor (age 148)
- God calls for Abraham to leave
 - Genesis 12:1-3
 - Acts 7:2-4

HARAN TO SHECHEM

- About 400 miles distance
- Crossing Jordan at Succoth
 - Genesis 12:1-7
- 1st altar built
- Abram worships God

SHECHEM TO BETHEL

- About 20 miles distance
- Genesis 12:8
- 2nd altar built
- Prayer offered
- Famine in Canaan



Abraham
"Father of the Faithful"

BETHEL TO EGYPT

- About 225 miles southwest
- Genesis 12:9-13
- Abraham denies that Sarah is his wife

EGYPT TO BETHEL

- About 225 miles northeast
- Abram returns and offers prayer
- Genesis 13:1-4
- Lot separates from Abraham

BETHEL TO MAMRE (HEBRON)

- About 35 miles distance
- Genesis 13:18
- Builds 3rd altar

HEBRON TO HOBAB

- Near Damascus
- About 160 miles distance
- Genesis 14:1-16
- Abram
 - Pursues robbers
 - Rescues Lot
 - Recovers goods



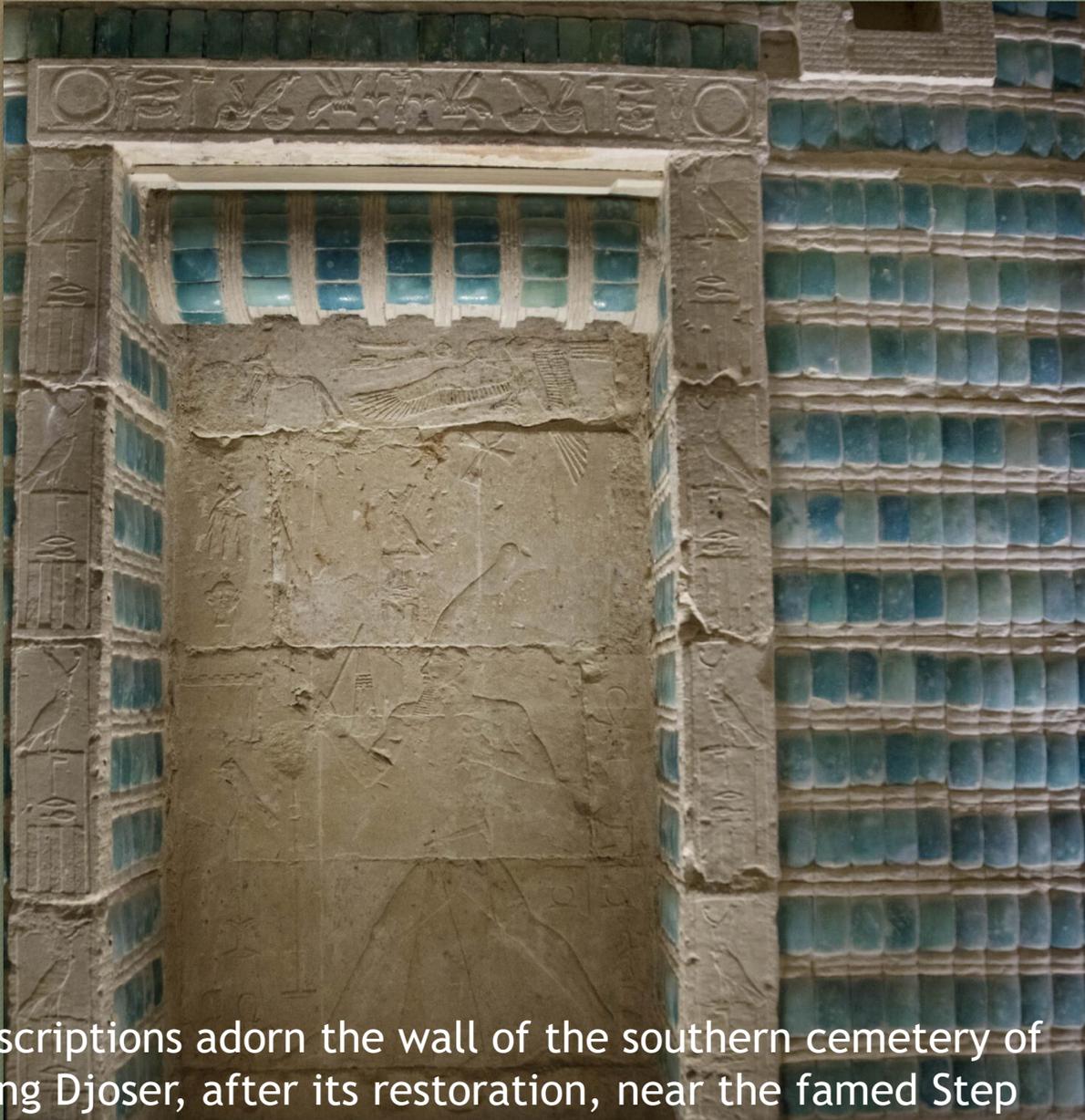
Djoser's stepped pyramid built during the Third Dynasty (c. 2670 BCE)

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Entrance of the southern cemetery of King Djoser



Inscriptions adorn the wall of the southern cemetery of King Djoser, after its restoration, near the famed Step Pyramid, in Saqqara, south of Cairo, Egypt, on Tuesday, September 14, 2021. (AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty)



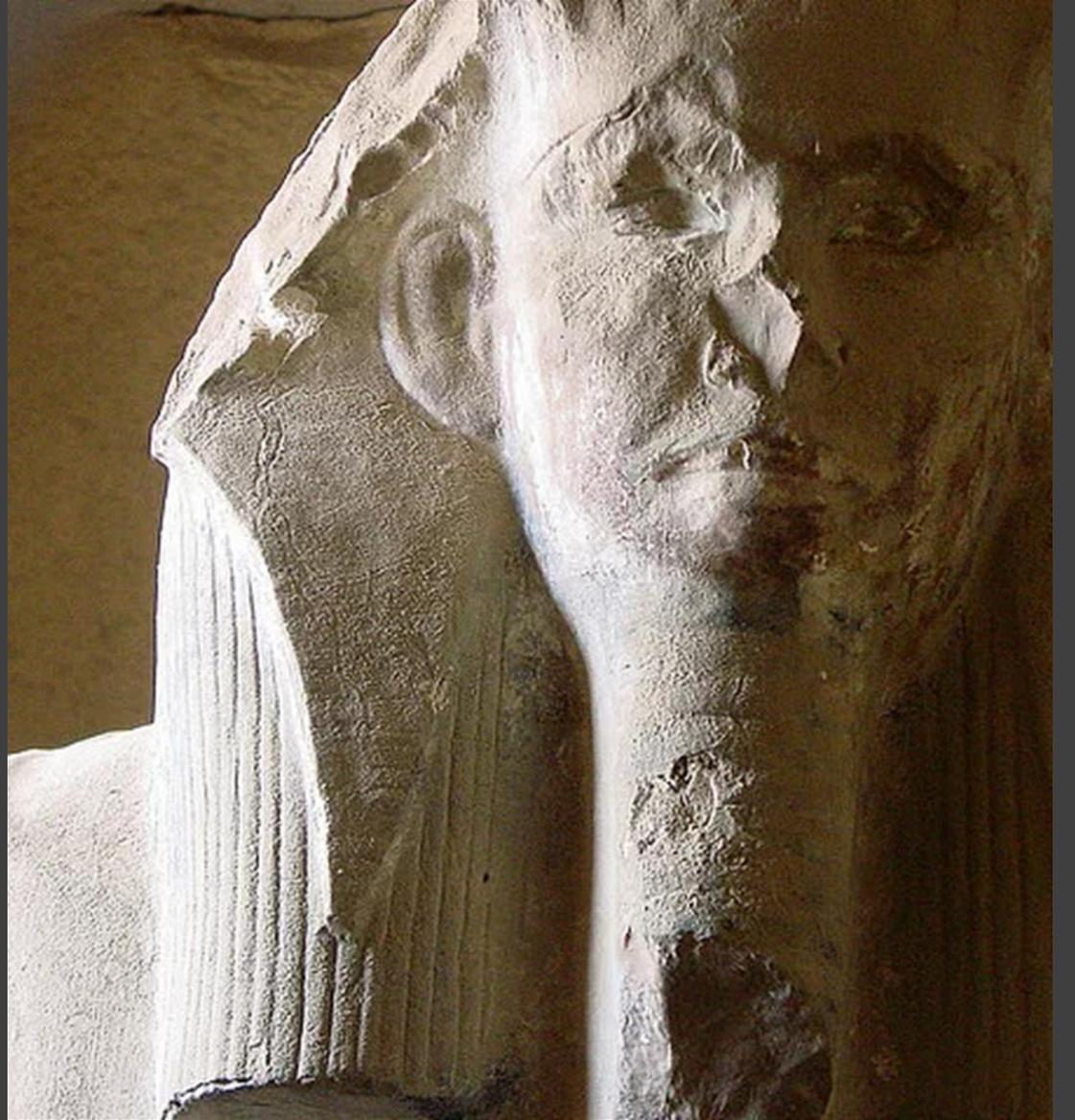


Temple at Saqqara Complex built for Djoser

Photo by Jay Galvin



Seeing the Past



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- I. **The Conflict of Faith Exposes Our True Values** vv. 10-13
 - A. **Crisis Expose Fears** vv. 10-12
 - B. **Our Actions Reflect Our Priorities and Values** v. 13

The Conflict of Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:1

But now being expelled by hunger from that land, where, in reliance on the word of God, he had promised himself a happy life, supplied with all abundance of good things, what must have been his thoughts, had he not been well fortified against the devices of Satan? And we know, that whenever our expectation is frustrated, and things do not succeed according to our wishes, our flesh soon harps on this string, 'God has deceived thee.'

John Calvin

The Conflict of Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:1

And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:15-16

The Conflict of Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:1

“Whenever you want to do something wrong, you will always be able to find some good reasons for doing it. If you cannot think of them yourself, the Devil will supply them.”

James Boice

The Conflict of Faith Genesis 12:10-13:1

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- I. The Conflict of Faith Exposes Our True Values** vv. 10-13
 - A. Crisis Expose Fears** vv. 10-12
 - B. Our Actions Reflect Our Priorities and Values** v. 13
- II. The Conflict of Faith Involves Living out the Actions of Our Present Faith** vv. 14-16



GENESIS 12:15

GENEON



The Conflict of Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:1

“When you go out to battle against your enemies, and the LORD your God delivers them into your hands and you take them away captive, 11 **and see among the captives a beautiful woman, and have a desire for her and would take her as a wife for yourself,** 12 then you shall bring her home to your house, and she shall shave her head and trim her nails. 13 “She shall also remove the clothes of her captivity and shall remain in your house, and mourn her father and mother a full month; and after that you may go in to her and be her husband and she shall be your wife. 14 **“It shall be, if you are not pleased with her, then you shall let her go wherever she wishes; but you shall certainly not sell her for money, you shall not mistreat her, because you have humbled her.**

Deuteronomy 21:10–14

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- II. The Conflict of Faith Involves Living out the Actions of Our Present Faith** vv. 14-16
- III. The Conflict of Faith Always Includes the Lord's Hand** vv. 17-13:1

The Conflict of Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:1

“But it is asked, whether Pharaoh was justly punished, seeing that he neither intended, by guile nor by force, to gain possession of another man’s wife? **I answer, that the actions of men are not always to be estimated according to our judgment, but are rather to be weighed in the balances of God; for it often happens, that the Lord will find in us what he may justly punish, while we seem to ourselves to be free from fault, and while we absolve ourselves from all guilt. . . .** For, although no fault openly appears in Pharaoh; yet, since he has not faithful monitor among men, who dares to repress his licentiousness, the Lord chastises him from heaven. As to his family, it was indeed innocent; **but the Lord has always just causes, though hidden from us, why he should smite with his rod those who seem to merit no such rebuke.**”

John Calvin

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Biblical, saving faith includes the conflict of faith.

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1. Deception is dangerous.

The Conflict of Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:1

“In the face of such threat, however, the narratives show that God always remains faithful to his word and that he himself enters the arena and safeguards the promise. The purpose of such a recurring narrative theme is to show that only God can bring about his promise. Man’s failure cannot stand in the way of God’s promise.”

John Sailhamer

The Conflict of Faith Genesis 12:10-13:1

When they were only a few men in number, Very few, and strangers in it. 13 And they wandered about from nation to nation, From one kingdom to another people. 14 **He permitted no man to oppress them, And He reprovved kings for their sakes:** 15 “Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.”

Psalm 105:12–15

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Conflict Exposes the True Shape of Our Faith and Provides an Opportunity to See God's Hand

- 1. Deception is dangerous.**
- 2. Failure to include conflict in faith leads to antinomianism or introspection with a gaze on yourself instead of God.**

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Genesis 12:10-13:1

“Perfectionists, she observed, pour scorn on the vast majority of Christians as ‘ordinary’ and ‘miserable doubters’. They deny the truth that God chastises those he loves. These say that true religion is rapture, not conflict. They claim exclusive knowledge of truth, and accuse anyone who doubts perfectionist claims of doubting God himself.” Such positions angered Elizabeth. “Imagine soldiers getting ready for warfare, being told by their commander that they had no need to drill, and had nothing to do but drink nectar.”

Elizabeth Prentiss

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- 1. Deception is dangerous.**
- 2. Failure to include conflict in faith leads to antinomianism or introspection with a gaze on yourself instead of God.**
- 3. Faith grows, it does not just appear.**

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through whom we have received grace and apostleship **to bring about the obedience of faith** among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, Romans 1:5

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through whom we have received grace and apostleship **to bring about the obedience of faith** among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, Romans 1:5

There is no contradiction between a present enjoyment of justification and a proper sense of shame about past sin. Both mark the maturing Christian.

Robert Jones *Bad Memories Getting Past Your Past, P & R, 2004*

The Conflict of Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:1

Are we not, then, to see the circumstances? No, we must see them. It is no step in spiritual growth to be blind to reality. Our difficulty is not that we see the circumstances but that we fail to see the whole picture, a picture that includes not only the earthly circumstances but also the God who is the God of circumstances.”

James Boice

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What do your patterns of sin in the midst of life's difficulties expose about your deep heart loyalties?"

Iain Duguid

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Iain Duguid

"Most of us have 'been there.' We have the promises of God but we don't rub them into our circumstances . . . we don't apply what we know in the situation we're in."

Dale Ralph Davis

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- 3. Faith grows, it does not just appear.**
- 4. Look for the mercies of God.**

The Conflict of Faith

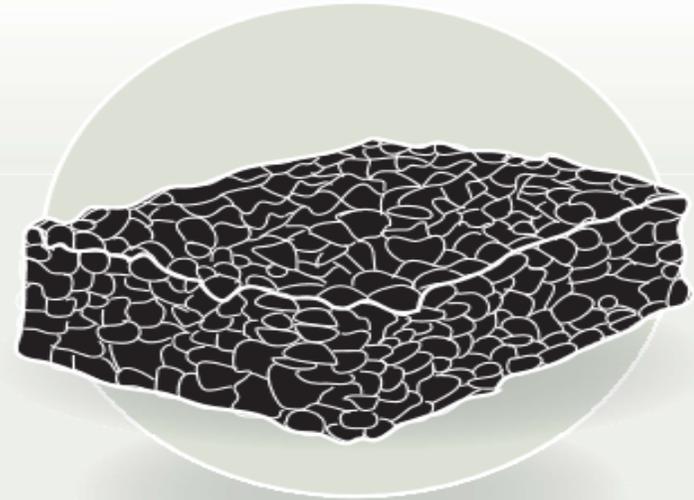
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“I wonder how many believers today realize that faith is not merely believing that Christ died for our sins. Faith is also being confident that His way is better than sin. His will is more wise. His help is more sure. His promises more precious. And His reward more satisfying. Faith begins with a backward look at the cross, but it lives with a forward look at the promises.”

John Piper

The Life of Abraham

Circa 2000 BC



Terah becomes the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran in Ur.



Haran becomes the father of Lot.



God appears to Abram and promises to give the land of Canaan to his offspring.



God calls Abram to move to Canaan. Abram is 75 years old.

Abram moves to the oak of Moreh at Shechem.

Abram builds an altar.

Abram pitches his tent between Bethel and Ai, and builds an altar.



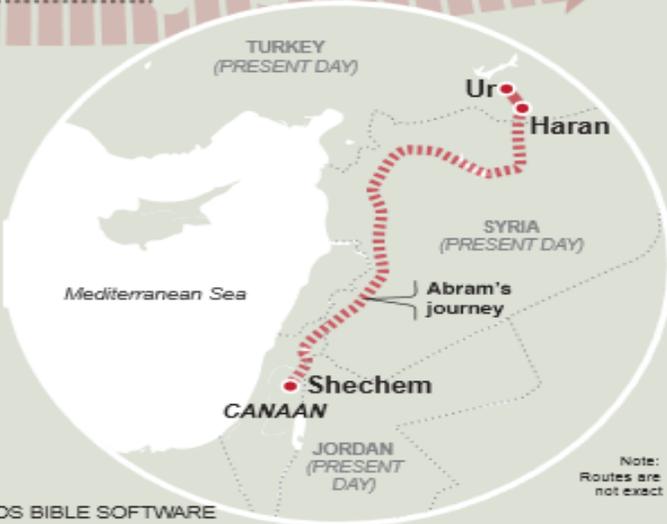
Haran dies.

Abram and Nahor take wives, Sarai and Milcah.

Terah moves to Haran.



Terah dies in Haran.



Note: Routes are not exact

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