

## “A ‘Perfect’ Plan”

Genesis 12:10-20

### **A FAMINE IN THE LAND. v.10-13**

**1. A famine occurred in the land of Canaan. v.10** Ref. ch. 26 (Isaac’s time), chs. 41-47 (Joseph’s time)

- The fact that Abram went ‘to sojourn’ there shows his intent not to stay—but just to survive the famine.

**2. Abram had a dilemma. v.11-13**

- His PROBLEM: “I have a beautiful wife.” **v.11**
- His FEAR: “The Egyptians will kill me and take her.” **v.12**
- His PLAN: “Sin will get me out of this situation.” **v.13**
- His METHOD: Deception: “Say you are my sister...”
- His RATIONALE: “that it may go well with me because of you”  
“that my life may be spared for your sake”

→ Abram’s rationale shows that he was deceived in his deception!

### **ABRAM’S PLAN FAILS. v.14-16**

**1. The Egyptians did find Sarai very beautiful. v.14**

**2. The princes of Pharaoh praised her—and Sarai was taken into his royal harem! v.15**

- NOTE: The danger to Abram, Sarai—and their offspring—was real. Abram jeopardized it with his plan!

**3. To complicate matters, Abram received a generous dowry for his “sister.” v.16**

- Indeed, it “went well” for him for her sake (Ref. v.13)—but not in the way Abram planned!
- There is an added layer of obligation now b/c it appears Pharaoh is acting rightly—he even paid a dowry!

### **THE LORD’S PERFECT PLAN SUCCEEDS. v.17-20**

**1. The LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his household with plagues. v.17**

- Lit. The LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with plagues.

**2. Pharaoh somehow discovers Abram’s deceit and confronts him. v.18-19**

- “What is this you have done to me?” **v.18** Ref. Genesis 3:13
- Why did you deceive me? **v.19**
- Pharaoh gave orders (essentially protecting Abram and Sarai) and sent them away with the dowry. **v.20**

→ The one who jeopardized the future was Abram himself (by lying, he risked his wife to save his life).

→ This story shows God’s preservation of Abram, Sarai and their offspring for the sake of God’s promise.

### **SOME APPLICATIONS...**

**1. Trust the LORD even when the circumstances don’t line up. Romans 8:28**

**2. Beware of “the Egyptian Option” in your life. Ref. Isaiah 30:1-2; 31:1; 36:6**

→ What is your ‘Plan B’ for when obeying the LORD doesn’t seem to work?

**3. Consider the audience to whom Moses was writing.**

- Moses wrote Genesis to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation of Israel preparing to enter Canaan after 40 years in the desert.

	<b>Abram (2000 BC)</b>	<b>Nation of Israel (1400 BC)</b>
Famine in the land	Gen. 12:10	Gen. 43:1; 47:4
Travel to Egypt	12:10	Gen. 47:4
Threat to kill male (s)	12:11-13	Ex. 1:16
Bondage to Pharaoh	12:14-15	Ex. 1:11-14
Gain great wealth	12:16	Ex. 12:36
Plagues on Pharaoh/Egypt	12:17	Ex. 7-11
Pharaoh: Go!	12:19-20	Ex. 12:32

## Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

### 1 Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

- A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

### 2 Q. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

- A. Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are;  
second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery;  
third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

In the Old Testament, Israel was repeatedly warned about “the Egyptian option”. Here are a few from Isaiah:

- Isaiah 30:1-2: “Ah, stubborn children,” declares the Lord, “who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit that they may add sin to sin; who set out to go down to Egypt, without asking for my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!
- Isaiah 31:1: Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord!
- Isaiah 36:6: Behold, you are trusting in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.

→ What is your Plan B (‘going back to Egypt’) for when obeying the LORD doesn’t seem to work?

## Various quotations from Saints and Sinners...

“God does not need your strength. He has more than enough power of His own. He asks for your weakness. He has none of that, Himself”.  
-Charles Spurgeon

“Leadership is not glorious, but it is necessary.” -Danny Hanlon

If we have the Spirit without the Word, we will blow up. If we have the Word without the Spirit, we will dry up. If we have the Word and the Spirit, we will grow up.