

**Pharaoh and Sister Sarai:
Fear for His Life almost Lost Abram His Wife
(Genesis 12:10–20)
Grace Chapel May 13, 2009 Dr. John Niemelä**

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

12:1–9 After Terah's death in Haran, God told Abram to leave his father's house & household; God would make him a great nation & bless him so that he would bless others, so Abram went to Canaan where the Lord revealed Himself again and gave the land to Abram, who then built altars to the Lord and worshipped Him throughout the land that the Lord gave him (claiming that land for the Lord)

NEW EXPOSITION:

ABRAM GOES TO EGYPT & TELLS SARAI TO SAY SHE IS HIS SISTER (12:10–13)

(12:10) A severe famine caused Abram to sojourn in Egypt

The word translated *dwell* means to sojourn temporarily in a place

(12:11–12) As Abram entered Egypt, he told Sarai that her beauty would cause Egyptians to kill him, but to spare her alive

(12:13) Abram told her to say that she was his sister, so that he would be blessed (because of her) and live (because of her)

SARAI IS TAKEN BY PHARAOH & ABRAM IS ENRICHED (12:14–16)

(12:14–15) Egyptian princes reported Sarai's beauty to Pharaoh and she was taken into his house

(12:16) Pharaoh blessed Abram for her sake: bestowing a great dowry upon him

GOD RESCUES SARAI & PHARAOH REBUKES & EXPELS ABRAM (12:17–20)
(12:17) Pharaoh’s whole household (other than Sarai) became quite sick

(12:18–19a) Pharaoh rebukes Abram for evil upon Pharaoh [and upon Sarai] for not saying that she was his wife and for saying that she is his sister, because it created the possibility that intimacy could have occurred

(12:19b) Pharaoh gave Sarai back and gave a deportation order to Abram

(12:20) Pharaoh commanded his men, who made sure that Abram, Sarai, and all that belonged to Abram left Egypt

POINTS OF CONTACT BETWEEN ABRAM AND ISRAEL IN MOSES’ DAY

	Abram	Israel
Severe famine in the land	Gen 12:10	Gen 43:1; 47:4
Sojourn in Egypt	Gen 12:10	Gen 47:4
Killing of the males	Gen 12:11–13	Exod 1:16
Bondage	Gen 12:14–15	Exod 1:11–14
Great wealth	Gen 12:16	Exod 12:36
Plagues on Egypt	Gen 12:17	Exod 7–11 (cf. 11:1)
Summons: “Take. . . go”	Gen 12:19	Exod 12:32
Sending away	Gen 12:20	Exod “Let My people go”

CONCLUSION

Abram goes to Egypt & tells Sarai to say she is his sister (12:10–13)

Sarai is taken by Pharaoh & Abram is enriched (12:14–16)

God rescues Sarai & pharaoh rebukes & expels abram (12:17–20)