### Genesis

## Chapter 12

1Then Jehovah said to Abram:  
  
 ‘Leave this land, as well as your family and your father’s home, and go to a land that I’ll show you, 2because I’m going to make a great nation of you. I will bless you, make your name famous, and you’ll become a blessing [to others].  
  
 3‘I will bless those who praise you and curse those who curse you… All the tribes will be blest because of you.’  
  
4So Abram did just as Jehovah told him… And Lot went with him.  
  
  
Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran, 5taking along his wife Sara, his nephew Lot, all the many things that they owned, and all the souls that they had accumulated in Haran, as they traveled to the land of CanaAn. 6Abram traveled down through the land to a place called SheChem, where there was a tall tree. And at the time, the CanaAnites were living in the land.  
  
7Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said:  
  
 ‘I will give this land to your offspring.’  
  
So Abram built an altar there to the Lord that had appeared to him.  
  
8Then he moved on from there to a mountain that was east of BethEl, and he camped near BethEl, close to the sea, east of AgGai. There he built an altar to Jehovah and started calling on the Name of the Lord.  
  
9Thereafter, Abram left that place and camped in the desert.  
  
  
10Well, there came a famine in the land, so Abram went down to Egypt to stay, because the famine had devastated the land. 11And as Abram was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sara:  
  
 ‘You’re a beautiful woman, 12[and I’m afraid] that when the Egyptians see you they’ll say, ‘[Look at] his wife!’, and they’ll kill me… But they’ll let you live.  
  
 13‘So tell people that you’re my sister. That way, things will go well for me because of you, and my life will be safe because of you.’  
  
14And that’s what happened. When Abram entered Egypt and the Egyptians saw how beautiful his woman was, 15one of PharaOh’s princes praised her to PharaOh [possibly Pepi II] and brought her into PharaOh’s [Palace].  
  
16And because of her, PharaOh treated Abram very well. So he accumulated [many] sheep, calves, burros, male and female servants, mules, and camels.  
  
17However, God cursed PharaOh and his house with some very serious and difficult problems because of Sara (Abram’s wife).  
  
18So PharaOh called Abram and asked:  
  
 ‘What have you done to me? You didn’t tell me that she’s your wife. 19Why did you tell us that she’s your sister? Look, I’ve already taken her as mine!  
  
 ‘Now, there’s your wife standing before you… She’s yours, so take her and leave quickly!’  
  
20Then PharaOh gave his men instructions about Abram, telling them to accompany him and his wife on their way, along with all the things that they owned.