

Gracious God of Spectacular Stumblers ◻◻ **Genesis 12:10-20**

Main Idea: **Believers stumble in their faith, but God's grace overrules our weakness and remaining sin.**

Introduction: Abram the hope (so far) of Genesis 3, and model of Galatians 3

1. Abram's Spectacular Stumble

- a. Doubting God's ability to care for him
- b. Leaving the promised land
- c. Trusting himself to save his own life (when he hadn't trusted God)
- d. Masterminding the sister-lie
- e. Exposing his wife to danger from God and Egypt
- f. Highlighted by being rebuked by Pharaoh of all people!
- g. What are you doing to keep vigilant from stumbling?

2. God's Greater Grace

- a. Provision: sheep, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels... livestock, silver, and gold
- b. Protection: plaguing Pharaoh for Abram's wife's sake
- c. Foretaste of the Exodus: God plagues Pharaoh with great plagues and gets Pharaoh to load His people up with the prosperity of Egypt and send them away. Sound familiar? Yes, Abram's faith is a template for ours, but it is God Himself who is the star of this text, of the whole Bible, and indeed of all history and redemption
- d. Foretaste of Christ: "out of Egypt, I have called My Son" ... Christ the only righteousness any of us have. But Christ also a sure righteousness and salvation—even for stumblers like Abram. Even for stumblers like you.

Conclusion: God is the star of your life. He is on record as treating believers according to the worthiness of Christ, not the consistency of their faith. Those who believe in Christ like Abraham believed also stumble spectacularly like Abram stumbled. But this is the nature of grace. In God's willingness to bless, He has provided Christ, and in His ability to bless He rules and overrules all things for our good. Does this excuse stumbling? Absolutely not! That response is exactly the opposite of repentance and faith. But what it does for the one who stumbles in his repenting and stumbles in his believing is to take his focus off of his stumbling and redirect it back to his gracious God. Dear stumbling believer, let this passage redirect your focus to the God whose grace is for stumbling believers!