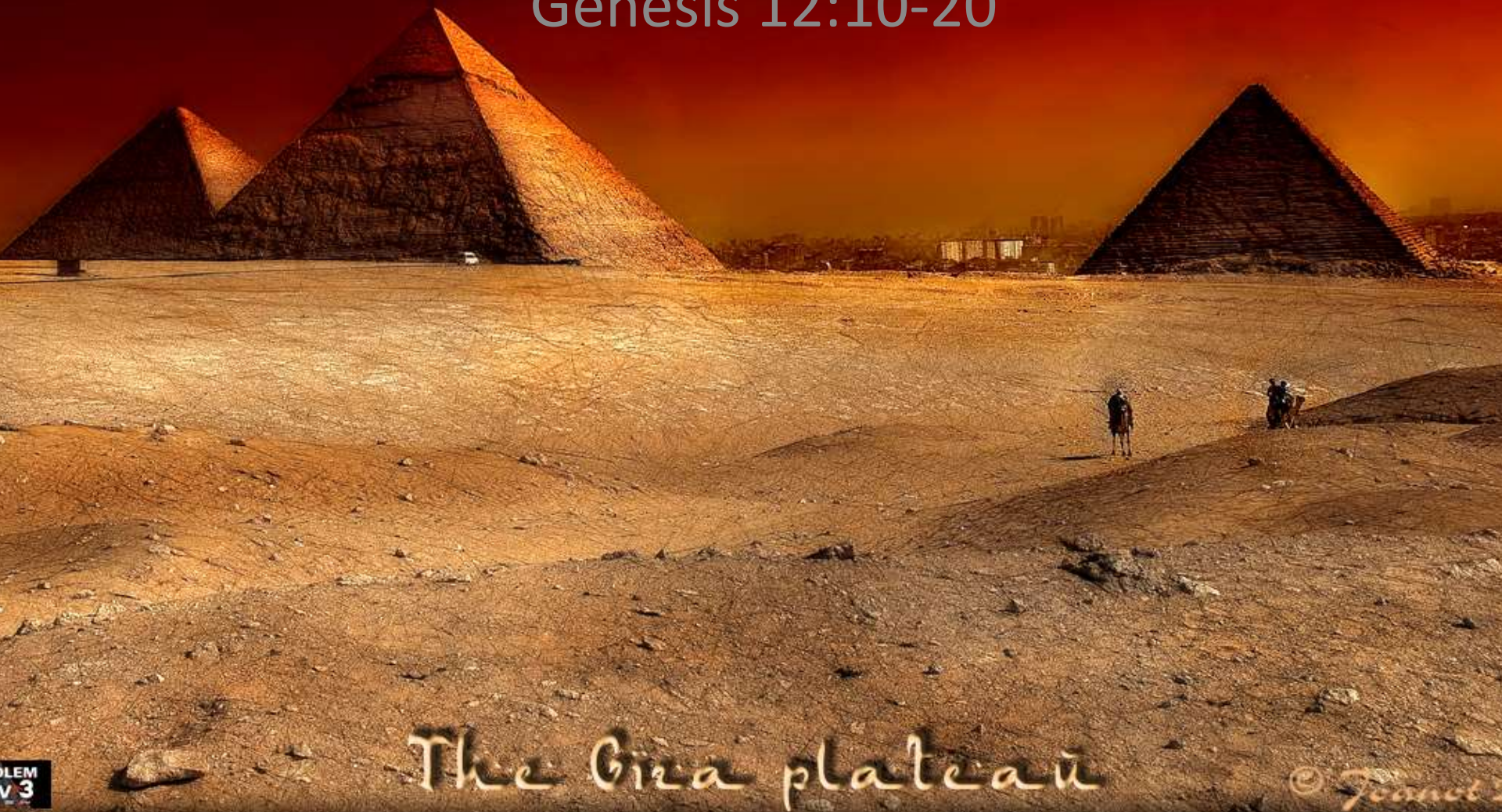


Abram's Faith Falters

Genesis 12:10-20



The Giza plateau

© Jonathan

Genesis 12:10–20 (NIV)

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. ¹¹ As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are. ¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”



Genesis 12:10–20

¹⁴ When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that she was a very beautiful woman. ¹⁵ And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. ¹⁶ He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, menservants and maidservants, and camels.



Genesis 12:10–20

¹⁷ But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. ¹⁸ So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife?" ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!" ²⁰ Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.



God's Children are not Exempt to Hardship

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.



Better to go to Egypt than back to Ur
Precursor to Jacobs famine and flight to Egypt
Jesus would go to Egypt with his family

Compliment: What's the Motive?

¹¹ As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are.”



The Faithful Can Succumb to Fear

¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live.



Trusting a Scheme instead of God

¹³ Say you are my sister,
so that I will be
treated well for your
sake and my life will
be spared because of



Genesis 20:9 Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said, “What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should not be done.”

Genesis 26:7 When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” He thought, “The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.”

Threat to God's Promises

- ¹⁴ When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that she was a very beautiful woman.
- ¹⁵ And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace.



Abram Profits by Deception

¹⁶ He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, menservants and maidservants, and camels.



One of the servants He acquires is Hagar the Egyptian Servant

God Drastically Intervenes

¹⁷ But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai.



God would not let Abram's lack of Faith interfere with His promise

Abram's behavior caused extreme hardship on Pharaoh's Family

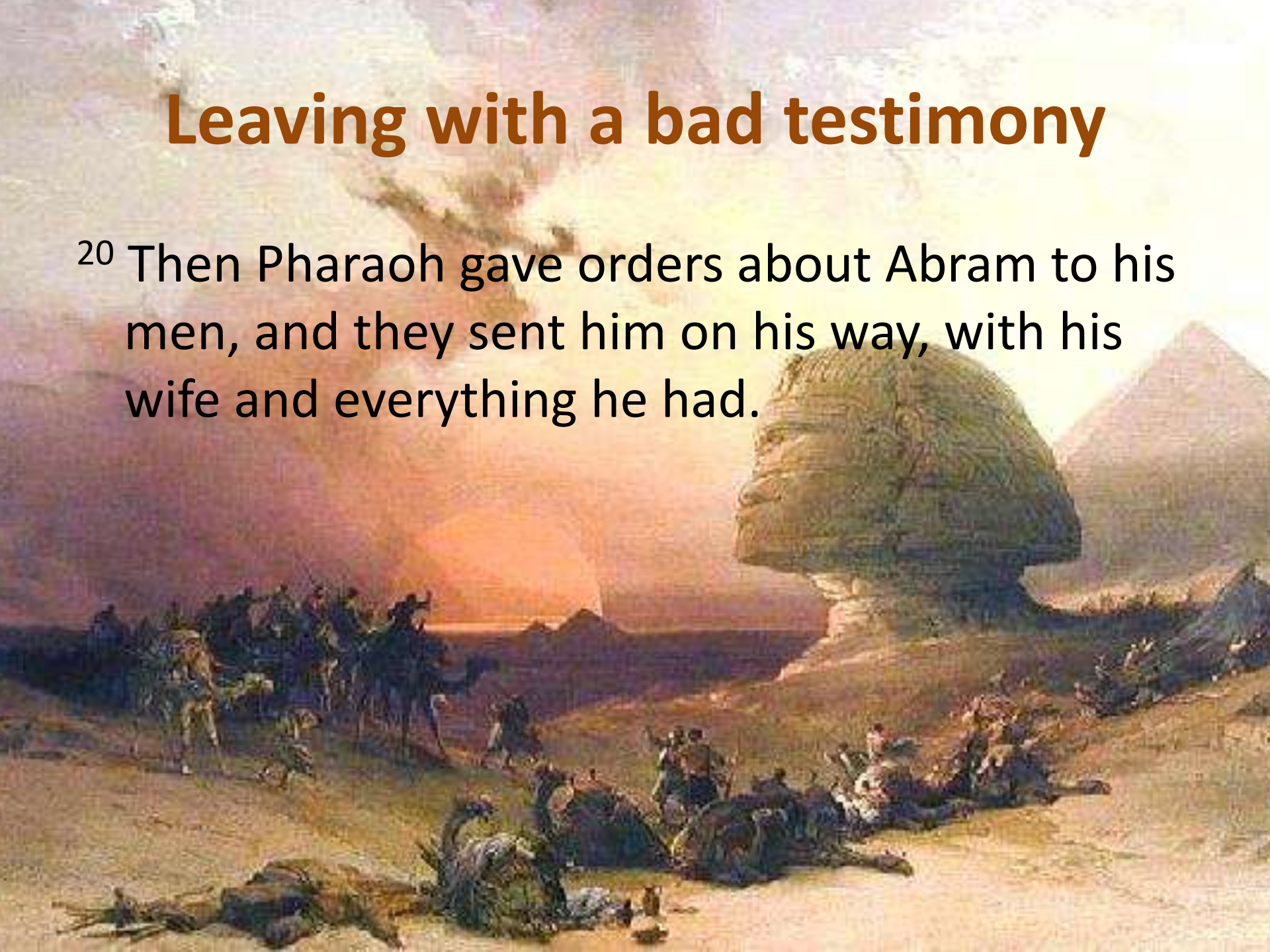
God's Servant Rebuked

¹⁸ So Pharaoh summoned Abram. “What have you done to me?” he said. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!”



Leaving with a bad testimony

²⁰ Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.



Lessons

- God's chosen are not exempt from hard times. Trials test our faith.
- When God promises the 'ends,' He also provides the means.
- Faith fails because our God is too small.
- Situation ethics is wrong because it refuses to believe in the sovereignty of God.
- Our lapse of faith will be imitated by our children (Abram's half-truth was Isaac's lie).
- When we think we've profited by a deception, there is usually a glitch (Hagar).
- A believer's deception can bring great pain to others.
- It's tragic for a believer to be rebuked by an unbeliever.
- Our testimony of God's goodness/greatness is hurt by our deceptions.
- When our faith fails, God doesn't.