

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

## Review of Message from September 4, 2016

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*Hear Sunday Sermons at [www.SunriseTC.org](http://www.SunriseTC.org)*

### ***Genesis 12:10***

*"Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land."*

I'm glad that the Bible is not a fairy tale, but a true-to-life book. If it were a fairy tale, we would read of heroes of the faith like Abraham, how they responded to God's call and never stumbled after that. They always trusted God, they never sinned, they overcame every hardship. But I couldn't relate to that, because that's not how my walk with God has gone. But thankfully, the Bible is written honestly, to show the faults even of the greats, like Abraham.



Abram came from a pagan background, but he responded to God's call. By faith he left his home in Ur and headed for Canaan. He got as far as Haran and stopped for a few years. Then the Lord called him again, and Abram moved out toward Canaan, not knowing exactly where he was going or what he would find when he got there. But Canaan wasn't a lush, uninhabited paradise, just waiting for Abram and his family to move in. There was a severe famine in the Promised Land! Abram had always lived in Ur and Haran, which are both on the banks of the Euphrates River. They never lacked for water. But now he sets out by faith to the land of promise, and the first thing he encounters is a severe famine. Can't you hear the critics in his household grumbling, "So this is the land of promise, huh? Nice, really nice! Are you sure God told you to come here, Abram?"

To survive, Abram journeyed down to Egypt. There was nothing wrong, per se, with going to Egypt. On at least two occasions God directed His people to Egypt for temporary protection. The text says that he went to "sojourn," not to settle, there. The problem was, there is no indication that Abram sought the Lord's guidance in this situation. It never seemed to occur to him that God was sovereign over the famine and that he needed to seek His direction. Abram built altars in Canaan, but there were no altars built in Egypt. Instead, we find him scheming about how to protect himself from the Egyptians who might kill him and take his wife. He falls into a desperate situation where Pharaoh takes Sarai into his harem. At this point, God's promise to make a great nation out of Abram and to give the land of Canaan to his descendants hangs by a thread, humanly speaking.

But shining through the whole story is God's faithfulness. Even though Abram was faithless, God was faithful. A recurring theme begins here and runs throughout Genesis, where God's promise to Abram (12:1-3) is threatened by someone's sin. But in every case, God overrules man's failure to bring about His sovereign purpose, to show us that God's promises and purpose do not depend on fickle man, but on the faithful God.

**Sunrise Community Church**  
*Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst*  
**EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.**