

Genesis, Chapter 12

Old JPS Translation

¹ Now the LORD said unto Abram: 'Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto the land that I will show thee.' ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and be thou a blessing. ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and him that curseth thee will I curse; and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' ⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him; and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. ⁶ And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Shechem, unto the terebinth of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. ⁷ And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said: 'Unto thy seed will I give this land'; and he builded there an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. ⁸ And he removed from thence unto the mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west, and Ai on the east; and he builded there an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹ And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South. ¹⁰ And there was a famine in the land; and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was sore in the land. ¹¹ And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife: 'Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon. ¹² And it will come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they will say: This is his wife; and they will kill me, but thee they will keep alive. ¹³ Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister; that it may be well with me for thy sake, and that my soul may live because of thee.' ¹⁴ And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. ¹⁵ And the princes of Pharaoh saw her, and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶ And he dealt well with Abram for her sake; and he had sheep, and oxen, and he-asses, and men-servants, and maid-servants, and she-asses, and camels. ¹⁷ And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife. ¹⁸ And Pharaoh called Abram, and said: 'What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? ¹⁹ Why saidst thou: She is my sister? so that I took her to be my wife; now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.' ²⁰ And Pharaoh gave men charge concerning him; and they brought him on the way, and his wife, and all that he had.

Genesis, Chapter 12

New JPS Translation

¹ The Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you.

² I will make of you a great nation,

And I will bless you;

I will make your name great,

And you shall be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you

And curse him that curses you;

And all the families of the earth

Shall bless themselves by you."

⁴ Abram went forth as the Lord had commanded him, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the wealth that they had amassed, and the persons that they had acquired in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in the land of Canaan,

⁶ Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, at the terebinth of Moreh. The Canaanites were then in the land.

⁷ The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I will assign this land to your offspring." And he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and he built there an altar to the Lord and invoked the Lord by name. ⁹ Then Abram journeyed by stages toward the Negeb.

¹⁰ There was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹ As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. ¹² If the Egyptians see you, and think, 'She is his wife,' they will kill me and let you live. ¹³ Please say that you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may remain alive thanks to you."

¹⁴ When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw how very beautiful the woman was.

¹⁵ Pharaoh's courtiers saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's palace. ¹⁶ And because of her, it went well with Abram; he acquired sheep, oxen, asses, male and female slaves, she-asses, and camels.

¹⁷ But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his household with mighty plagues on account of Sarai, the wife of Abram. ¹⁸ Pharaoh sent for Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me! Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her as my wife? Now, here is your wife; take her and begone!" ²⁰ And Pharaoh put men in charge of him, and they sent him off with his wife and all that he possessed.

Genesis, Chapter 12

Robert Alter

And the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your land and your birthplace and your father's house to the land I will show you. ² And I will make you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing. ³ And I will bless those who bless you, and those who damn you I will curse, and all the clans of the earth through you shall be blessed." ⁴ And Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him and Lot went forth with him, Abram being 75 years old when he left Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew and all the goods they had gotten and the folk they had bought in Haran, and they set out on the way to the land of Canaan, and they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ And Abram crossed through the land to the site of Shechem, to the Terebinth of Moreh. The Canaanite was then in the land. ⁷ And the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your seed I will give this land." And he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. ⁸ And he pulled up his stakes from there for the high country east of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east, and he built there an altar to the LORD, and he invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹ And Abram journeyed onward by stages to the Negeb.

¹⁰ And there was a famine in the land and Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was grave in the land. And it happened as he drew near to the border of Egypt that he said to Sarai his wife, ¹² "Look, I know you are a beautiful woman, and so when the Egyptians see you and say, 'She is his wife,' they will kill me while you they will let live. ¹³ Say, please, that you are my sister, so that it will go well with me on your count and I shall stay alive because of you." ¹⁴ And it happened when Abram came into Egypt that the Egyptians saw the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵ And Pharaoh's courtiers saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶ And it went well with Abram on her count, and he had sheep and cattle and donkeys and male and female slaves and she-asses and camels. ¹⁷ And the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his household with terrible plagues because of Sarai the wife of Abram. ¹⁸ And Pharaoh summoned Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to me as wife? Now, here is your wife. Take her and get out!" ²⁰ And Pharaoh appointed men over him and they sent him out, with his wife and all he had.

Genesis, Chapter 12 (Go!)

Richard Elliott Friedman

¹And YHWH said to Abram, "Go from your land and from your birthplace and from your father's house to the land that I'll show you. ²And I'll make you into a big nation, and I'll bless you and make your name great. And be a blessing! ³And I'll bless those who bless you, and those who affront you I'll curse. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you." ⁴And Abram went as YHWH had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was 75 years old when he went out from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai, his wife, and Lot, his brother's son, and all their property that they had accumulated and the persons whom they had gotten in Haran; and they went out to go to the land of Canaan.

And they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶And Abram passed through the land as far as the place of Shechem, as far as the oak of Moreh. And the Canaanite was in the land then.

⁷And YHWH appeared to Abram and said, "I'll give this land to your seed." And he built an altar there to YHWH who had appeared to him. ⁸And he moved on from there to the hill country east of Beth-El and pitched his tent—Beth-El to the west and Ai to the east—and he built an altar there to YHWH and invoked the name YHWH. ⁹And Abram traveled on, going to the Negeb.

¹⁰And there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to reside there because the famine was heavy in the land. ¹¹And it was when he was close to coming to Egypt: and he said to Sarai, his wife, "Here, I know that you're a beautiful woman. ¹²And it will be when the Egyptians see you that they'll say, This is his wife, and they'll kill me and keep you alive. ¹³Say you're my sister so it will be good for me on your account and I'll stay alive because of you." ¹⁴And it was as Abram came to Egypt, and the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. ¹⁵And Pharaoh's officers saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, and the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶And he was good to Abram on her account, and he had a flock and oxen and he-asses and servants and maids and she-asses and camels. ¹⁷And YHWH plagued Pharaoh and his house, big plagues, over the matter of Sarai, Abram's wife.

¹⁸And Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you've done to me? Why didn't you tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, 'She's my sister,' so I took her for a wife for myself! And now, here's your wife. Take her and go." ²⁰And Pharaoh commanded people over him, and they let him and his wife and all he had go.

Genesis, Chapter 12

Chaim Stern in Plaut, The Torah: A modern commentary

12:1] The Eternal One said to Abram, "Go forth from your land, your birthplace, your father's house, to the land that I will show you. 2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and it shall be a blessing. 3] I will bless those who bless you, and I will pronounce doom on those who curse you; through you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4] So Abram went forth as the Eternal had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. 5] Abram took his wife Sarai, his brother's son Lot, all the possessions they had amassed, and the people they had acquired in Haran. They set forth for the land of Canaan, and they arrived in the land of Canaan. 6] Abram then traversed the land as far as the sacred site of Shechem, as far as the Oak of Moreh. (At that time the Canaanites were present in the land.)

7] The Eternal now appeared to Abram and said, "I am giving this land to your descendants." Abram then built an altar there to the Eternal who had appeared to him. 8] From there he moved on to the hill country east of Beth El. He pitched his tent between Beth El on the west and Ai on the east. There he built another altar to the Eternal and called upon the Name of the Eternal. 9] And then Abram continued his journey-toward the Negev.

10] There was a famine in the land, and because the famine in the land was severe, Abram went down to stay in Egypt. 11] When he had almost reached Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "Look, now I know what a beautiful woman you are! 12] So when the Egyptians see you, and say: 'This is his wife,' they may kill me; but you they shall keep alive. 13] Please say then that you are my sister, so that on your account it may go well for me, and that my life may be spared because of you."

14] And, indeed, when Abram arrived in Egypt the Egyptians saw how exceptionally beautiful the woman was; 15] when Pharaoh's ministers saw her, they lauded her to Pharaoh, and the woman was taken to Pharaoh's palace. 16] Through her it did go well for Abram, as he acquired sheep, cattle, and asses, male and female slaves, she-asses and camels. 17] The Eternal then struck Pharaoh and his household with severe afflictions because of Sarai, Abram's wife. 18] Pharaoh now summoned Abram and said, "What have you done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19] Why did you say that she was your sister, so that I took her as a wife for myself? Look, now that it turns out that she is your wife: take [her] and begone!" 20] Pharaoh then issued orders and they drove him away, with his wife and all that he owned.