



Faith and Compromise

Genesis 12: 10 -
20



Reminder of the blessing.

1) Tested by trouble...
..... and God's 'silence'.

2) Self-directed compromise.

3) Blessing affirmed.



**"The Lord said to Abram, Go from your country, your people,

Go...and I will bless you and make your name great.

In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

(Gen. 12:1-3)



Go! v. 1 – 3. **God speaks** - “I will bless you And all peoples”
v. 4 Abram went.

Enters Canaan

v.7. **God speaks** - “To your offspring I will give this land”
Abram went

1) Tested by trouble...



Go! v. 1 – 3. **God speaks** - “I will bless you And all peoples”
v. 4 Abram went.

Enters Canaan

v.7. **God speaks** - “To your offspring I will give this land”
Abram went

Famine

Famines today



 154.88

MILLION people
in Crisis or worse
(IPC/CH **Phase 3 or above**)

 275.3

MILLION people
in Stressed
(IPC/CH **Phase 2**)

 129.64

MILLION people
in Crisis
(IPC/CH **Phase 3**)

 24.99

MILLION people
in Emergency
(IPC/CH **Phase 4**)

 0.25

MILLION people
in Catastrophe
(IPC/CH **Phase 5**)





What impact does famine have?

- Encourages compromise.



- challenges human worth.

Can also prompt displays of strength and love.



Why was famine particularly troublesome for Abram?



V1. 'Go from your land, your people and your father's household'.

- Own land offers material safety.
- Family networks crucial for survival.



**JOB
SECURITY**





.... and God's 'silence'.

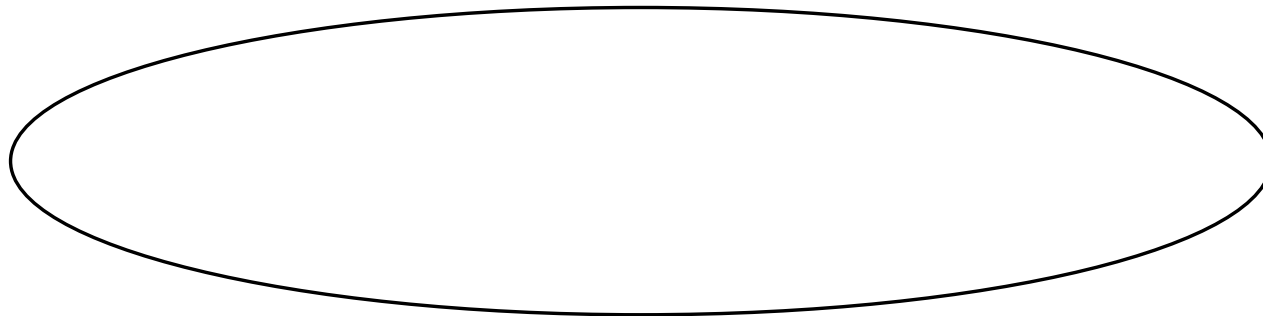


Go! v. 1 – 3. **God speaks** - “I will bless you And all peoples”
v. 4 Abram went.

Enters Canaan

v.7. **God speaks** - “To your offspring I will give this land”
Abram went

Famine



C.S. Lewis – a grief observed.

“Meanwhile, where is God?

C.S. Lewis – a grief observed.

“Meanwhile, where is God?

When you are happy if you remember yourself and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be – or so it feels – welcomed with open arms.

C.S. Lewis – a grief observed.

“Meanwhile, where is God?

When you are happy if you remember yourself and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be – or so it feels – welcomed with open arms.

But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence, you may as well turn away.

C.S. Lewis – a grief observed.

“Meanwhile, where is God?

When you are happy if you remember yourself and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be – or so it feels – welcomed with open arms.


But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence, you may as well turn away.

There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once”.

“Why, O LORD, do you stand far off?

Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?”


(Psalm 10:1).

A woman with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing an orange short-sleeved shirt and light grey pants, is walking away from the camera. She is carrying a white tote bag over her right shoulder. The background consists of large, leafy green trees, suggesting an outdoor setting like a park or campus. The lighting is bright, indicating daytime.

**Are you
listening?**

Genesis 28 –
“Surely the
Lord is in this
place, and I
was never
aware of it”.

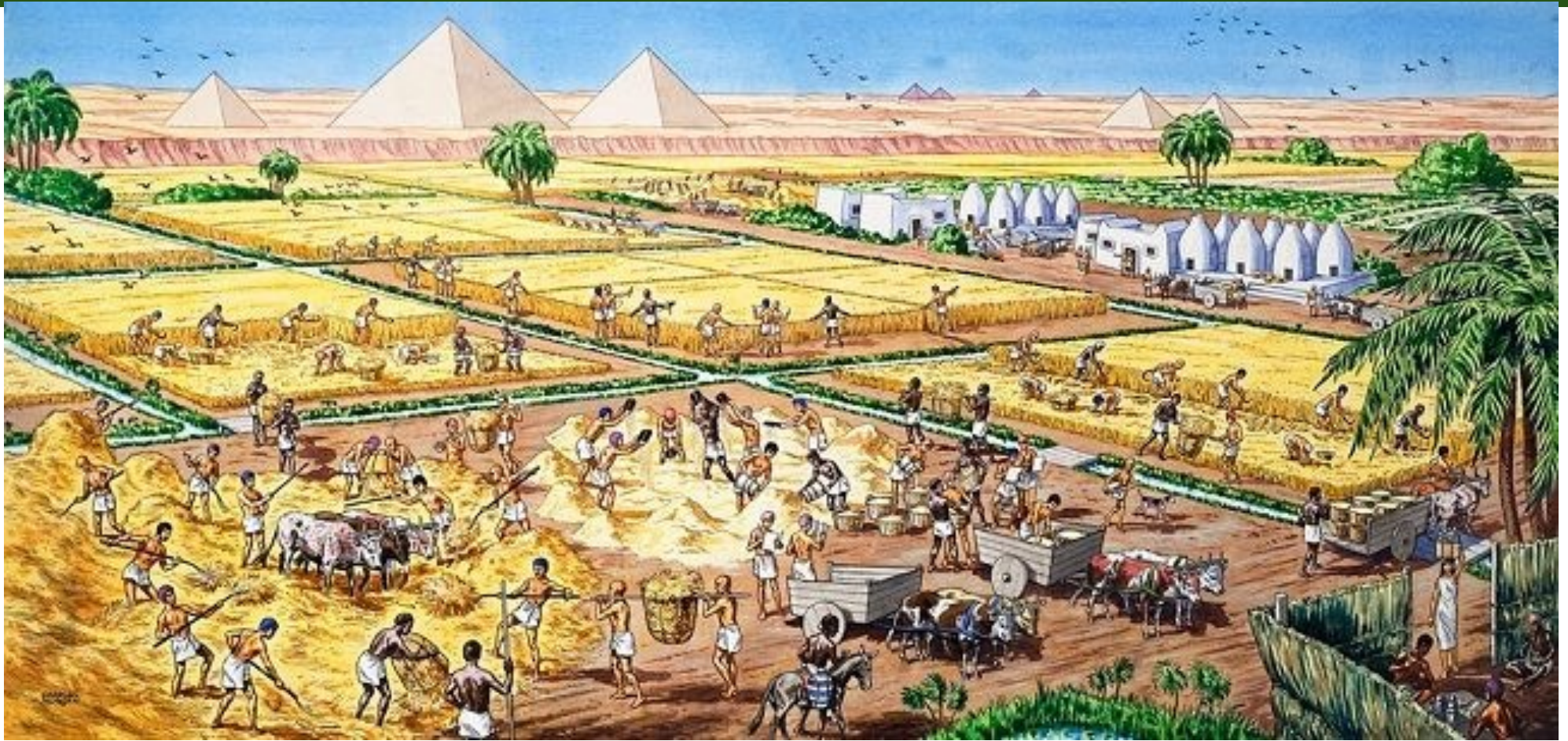


A dirt path winds through a field of yellow wildflowers towards a misty forest. The path is made of reddish-brown earth and is surrounded by tall green grass and numerous small yellow flowers. In the background, a dense forest of green trees is partially obscured by a soft, white mist or fog. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**“What matters
is not that He
speaks, but
that He has
spoken”.**

Pickering, Jordan, “Divine
Silence”, *Scriptura 113* (2014)

2) Self-directed compromise





Egypt made human sense.

- Nile-fed, irrigated farms.



Egypt made human sense.

- Nile-fed, irrigated farms.
- Political stability.



Egypt made human sense.

- Nile-fed, irrigated farms.
- Political stability.
- Foreigners welcomed for last 60 years.

Go! v. 1 – 3. **God speaks** - “I will bless you And all peoples”
v. 4 Abram went.

Enters Canaan

v.7. **God speaks** - “To your offspring I will give this land”
Abram went

Famine

Enters Egypt

v.11 **Abram speaks** - “Say you are my sister”
Sarai went

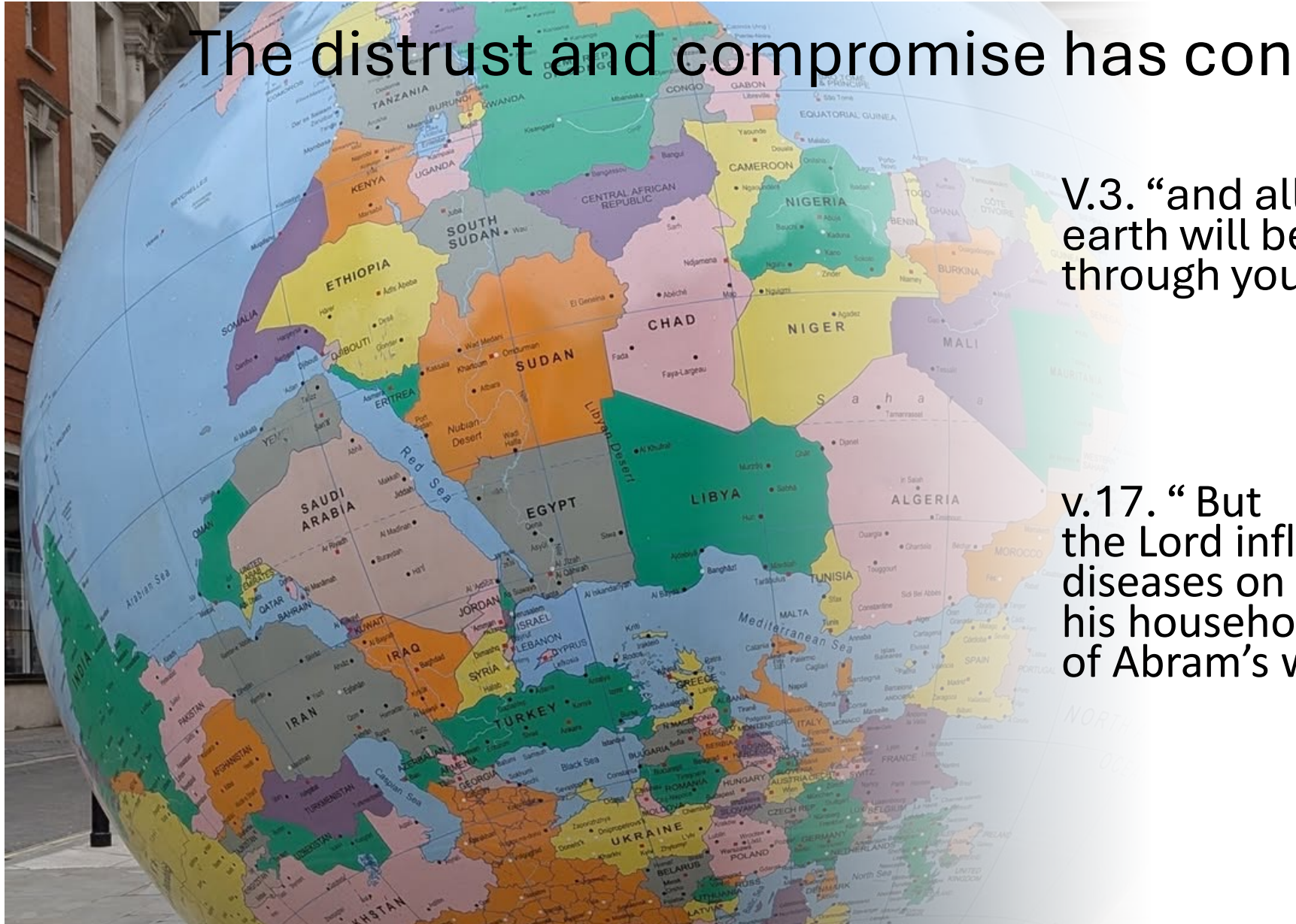


Spiraling distrust
and distrust of
the world

The distrust and compromise has consequences

V.3. “and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”.

v.17. “ But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram’s wife Sarai”



3) Blessing affirmed



Go! v. 1 – 3. **God speaks** - “I will bless you And all peoples”
v. 4 Abram went.

Enters Canaan

v.7. **God speaks** - “To your offspring I will give this land”
Abram went

Famine

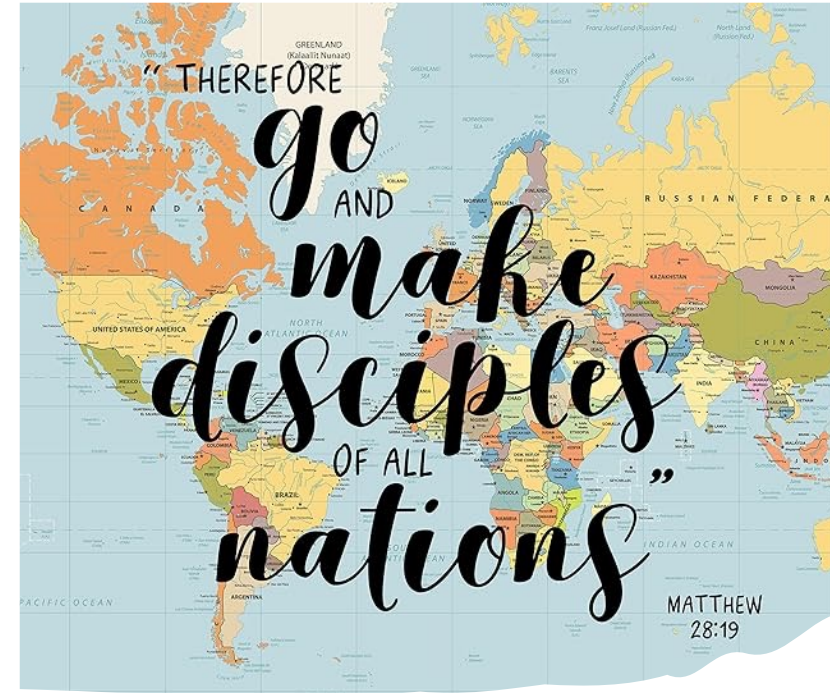
Enters Egypt

v.11 **Abram speaks** - “Say you are my sister”
Sarai went

Go! v.19 **Pharoah speaks** – “Go”
Abram went







Blessing the nations

“Then the owner of the **vineyard** said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my **son**, whom I love’” (Luke 20).





- What troubles and silences have challenged your trust in God's blessings and call?
- What blessing and call do you need to hear God reaffirming?



- What troubles and silences have challenged your trust in God's blessings and call?
- What blessing and call do you need to hear God reaffirming?

“Never doubt in the dark what
God has told you in the light”.

What matters is not that He speaks, but that He has
spoken”. Pickering, Jordan, “Divine Silence”,
Scriptura 113 (2014)

