

Genesis 12 Abram and Sarai in Egypt

Three ways to read this strange account of the Patriarch

Recapitulation of the Fall

- One man and one woman
- Central act is a lie which is a half truth
- The man is held accountable to the lie
- God sends curses on the one who comes between the man and his wife

Prefiguring Israel in Egypt

- Patriarch went to Egypt because of famine
- Became captive to Pharaoh because of excellence
- God intervenes with plagues on Pharaoh's house
- Pharaoh sets captive free
- Pharaoh sends the captive back to Promised Land enriched

Theme of Salvation History

- Man is enslaved to sin
Abram's lie
Sarai's captivity
- God's promise alone is not enough to undo the sin
- Therefore, God intervenes in the history of human affairs
- Man is freed from slavery and enriched

The great problem of this story is how to deal with the lie of the great patriarch of the people of God , founder of the Old Testament Church.
(Compare this with Peter's betrayal

The great value of the story is to show that God will overcome every attempt to thwart his plan, both internal and external, both of satanic and of sinful men.