

How to Find G-d during Tough Times

"Say that You Are My Sister"

Genesis Chapter 12

"Get out from your country and from your family and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great and you shall be a blessing."
Avraham has been commanded to leave his homeland and journey to this unknown land where he will be blessed.



"So Abram departed, as G-d had spoken to him and Lot went with him and Abram was seventy five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son and all the possessions that they had gathered and the souls that they had gotten in Haran and they went forth to go to the land of Canaan, and to the land of Canaan they came."

It was here in the holy land of Canaan that Avraham has a vision and G-d communicates with Him directly, promising him to inherit this blessed land.

"And G-d appeared to Abram and said, 'To your seed will I give this land' and there he built an altar to G-d who appeared to him..."

Avraham is communicating with G-d and is experiencing a profound and direct closeness in his relationship as the text continues, "and there he built an altar to the L-rd and called upon the name of G-d."

But, as happens often in our lives, there is something stopping this connection. A challenge appears on the horizon, and he has a test in his life that he needs to confront.

"And there was a famine in the land and Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there for the famine was severe in the land.

"And it came to pass when he came near to the enter to Egypt that he said to Sarai, his wife, Behold, I know that you are a pretty woman, It shall come to pass when the Egyptians shall see you that they shall say 'this is his wife', they will desire *you* because of your beauty and they will kill *me*, but you they will keep alive.

"Therefore please **say that you are my sister** so that they will benefit **me** because of **you**, and **my life shall be spared because of you.**"

Let's Review:



- **Canaan** means **merchant** and **wealth**.

- **Mitzrayim** means **constraints** and **limitations**.

- **Canaan** represents a level of **spiritual bounty and closeness to G-d**.

- **Mitzrayim** represents a level of **limited spirituality** with severe boundaries holding us back.

- **Canaan** represents a time when our spiritual relationship with G-d is at the level of spouse, a developed relationship where we feel passionately in love with G-d.

- **Mitzrayim** represents how even in difficult times, our relationship with G-d exists at the level of sister, where the innate love, although not as passionate, is still present.

Something to Think About:

- What personal journey did you have in your life and how did the various times reflect your relationship with G-d?
- When do you feel like a spouse and when do you feel like a sibling?

Video: www.chabad.org/2084920