

Genesis Ch. 13

Proverbs 24:16a “For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again,…”

V: 1 They went up from Egypt, “to the South” – of Canaan / Israel.

The Hebrew word for South is “Negev”.

V: 2 Abram was a wealthy and prosperous man.

V: 3-4 Abram returns to the place of blessing, to the place where he last heard the Word of God.

Jesus warns the church of Ephesus:

Revelation 2:5a “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works…”

- No doubt Abram experienced the truth of what we read in **1 John 1:9**

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- Back between the “House of God” and the “dump”
- Abram returns to the last place where he heard God’s voice – the place of worship and devotion.
- At that place, Abram calls on the name of the Lord.

Psalm 116:12-13 “¹²What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? ¹³I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

Psalm 116:16-17 “¹⁶O Lord, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; You have loosed my bonds. ¹⁷I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.”

- Bethel was a place of renewal and restoration for Abram, a new beginning.
- Abram has taken heed to the call of God on his life.

Isaiah 30:15 “For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”

Psalm 37:23-24 “²³The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. ²⁴Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand.”

V: 5 Lot is still with Abram, but appears to be “self-sufficient”.

V: 6-7 Between the two of them, they have more livestock than the geography can sustain.

- Speculative: there wasn't strife between any of them until after they had gone down to Egypt and had come away with all this great wealth – gone were the simple days of simple things.
- The Canaanites & Perizzites were in the land witnessing, watching – no doubt judging.

John 13:35 “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

8-9 In a conciliatory gesture, Abram seeks to defuse any tension between himself and Lot, and their herdsmen.

- Abram has learned from his experience in Egypt and he deals with Lot in a very direct and straightforward manner.

“... for we are brethren.” There are issues as times that will divide us, possibly for the benefit of all, but we need to remember that there are more issues that unite us.

- Abram trusts God to bless him wherever he goes, so by faith he leaves it up to Lot, “you choose.”

George Washington: *“When there is an elder man and a younger man in the same room, the elder man should never mention it, but the younger man should never forget it.”*

V: 10-11 Lot chose based on his observations – well watered like the Garden of Eden – Abram's / Moses' perspective. Lot saw that it was like Egypt – the place that he had just come from – oh the leeks and onions!

- Abram made choice based on faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

- Thus far there is no mention of Lot calling out to God, or of building an altar, or of God speaking to Lot.
- Lot went towards what was attractive, pleasing to the eye, good for business, but a bad place to raise kids. Abram lived in the land that God gave him.

V: 12 Lot goes East into the Jordan Valley, Abram goes West, towards the land of Canaan, they separate.

Abram has at this point finally done all that God initially asked him to do.

1. He's left the Ur of the Chaldees.
 2. He's left his father's house.
 3. Now he's separated himself from his family.
- Lot pitches his tent as far as Sodom – there was something appealing about this city to Lot.
 - Lot will eventually make a progression:
 1. First he looks towards Sodom.
 2. Then he pitches his tents towards Sodom.
 3. Later he'll be taken captive in Sodom – guilt by association.
 4. Later we find him sitting in the gate, living in the city just prior to it's destruction.

V: 13 The men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord.

Psalm 51:4 “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight – that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.”

Leviticus 1:22 “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.”

Romans 1:27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, and others describe the sinfulness of homosexuality.

- God hates the sin, but He loves the sinner.

Ezekiel 16:49-50 ⁴⁹“Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: she and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. ⁵⁰And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.”

- Bottom line, Sodom is a bad place.

V: 14-15 The Lord speaks to Abram – as he takes another step of obedience and separates from Lot.

- Obedience is such a huge part of our relationship with God.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 ²²Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.”

- God tells Abram – lift up your eyes and look all around you – everything that you see I’m giving to you and your descendants. (Including what Lot took.)
- When I was younger I remember there being some kind of contest and the prize was a 1 hour shopping spree, everything you could grab in 60 minutes was yours.
- God does this in an exponential way – everything you see.

V: 16 Oh but that’s not all!

- “I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth” – beyond your ability to number them.
- God is fulfilling His promise to make Abram a great nation, and to bless all the earth through him.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 ²⁶Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: ²⁷the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; ²⁸and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God,…”

V: 17 Walk through the length and width of the land, I’m giving it all to you.

- In a sense God is telling Abram, take possession of the land, everywhere you go, it’s yours.

Joshua 1:3 “Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.”

Mark 10:28-30 ²⁸Then Peter began to say to Him, see, we have left all and followed You. ²⁹So Jesus answered and said, assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s ³⁰who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions – and in the age to come, eternal life.”

We can’t out give God. 1700 sq. ft – 3,000 sq. ft 3 kids to 40

- God names it, and tells Abram to claim it.

V: 18 Abram moved his tent at God's direction from the last verse.

- He lands between the terebinth trees of Mamre at Hebron.
- It should be noted that all of the places that are mentioned in this account, Shechem, Bethel, Sodom, Haran, Ur, and the rest have all been shown by modern archaeological excavations to have been real cities in existence at the time of Abram.
 - In the next chapter, Abram pursues the kings who kidnapped Lot all the way to the gates of Dan – you can actually go and look at the very same gate – which has been excavated.
- Again Abram builds an altar to worship God, his 3rd thus far.
- As this chapter ends we see Abram living between Mamre which means “richness” and Hebron, which means “communion” – living between “richness” & “communion” with God.
- This is also where Abram is eventually buried – in richness and communion with God.
- By the grace of God that is what I want – to live & die in richness and communion with God!