

Genesis Chapter 13

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

- The Bible is honest about it's hero's - Abram had surely stumbled, he failed in some respects, but that is not the end of the story.
- We will do the same thing, none of us is perfect, we're all going to stumble at some point, but as the proverb points out, we will rise again...
- We stumble, then we confess our sins and repent, we're restored, and we move on.

1 John 1:8-9 “⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

V: 1 Abram, Sarai, Lot, and all their household went up from Egypt, “to the South” – of Canaan / Israel.

[Travel-log:](#)

- The Hebrew word for South is “Negev”.



(pictures removed)

Genesis 21:33 “Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.” (El-Olam)

Genesis 23:4 “I am a stranger / foreigner and a sojourner (visitor) among you...”

V: 2 Abram was a wealthy and prosperous man, blessed of God.

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

- Obviously God has blessed Abram, and the blessing of God are not necessarily dependent upon his or our performance. God has already said He was going to bless Abram and He is - the grace of God being manifest, now it's more about God's performance than that of Abram.

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

[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 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 again 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.”

- There is still an issue that has to be dealt with in order to say that he’s been fully obedient to what the Lord has called him to do, and that is to separate himself from the remainder of his family, meaning he needs to separate himself from Lot.

Genesis 12:1 “Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family, and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.”

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

- God allows circumstances that will motivate Abram to separate from his nephew, something that he might not have done had God not brought it to bear.
- 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.

Hebrews 12:1 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

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

V: 8-9 Abram doesn't want there to be strife between them.

Psalm 133:1 “Oh how good and how pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity!”

“In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love.”

Romans 12:18 “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

- 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 at times that may divide us, possibly for the benefit of all, (Paul & Barnabus) but we need to remember that there are more issues that unite us. “We're brethren..., we're family.”

- 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 what he could see – well watered like the Garden of Eden. Lot saw that it was like Egypt – the place that he had just come from – oh the leeks and onions!

- Abram made his choice based on faith, trusting God to guide and direct him.
- 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.
 4. He's in the land of Canaan to which God has called him.
- Abram moves away from Sodom, Lot moves closer.

Psalm 26:5 "I have hated the assembly of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked."

Psalm 1:1 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;"

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

Proverbs 12:26 "The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray."

1 Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good habits."

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

All good reasons to steer clear:

Proverbs 13:20 "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed."

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.”

- When we sin, it is primarily against the Lord, there may be other collateral victims, but the primary offense is always against God Himself.

Exceeding wicked and sinful:

Leviticus 18:22 “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.”

Romans 1:27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5, and others describe the sinfulness of homosexuality.

- God hates the sin, but He loves the sinner. As much as God disapproves of homosexuality, that was not the main reason Sodom & Gomorrah were destroyed.

Ezekiel 16:49-50 “⁴⁹Look, 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. Probably best to steer clear vs: draw close.

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.”

John 14:21 “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

- Abram had the commandment of God and did it, and God manifested Himself to Abram by speaking to him, He manifested Himself through His Word, His spoken Word.
- 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: 15 *“For all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.”*

- There are no conditions attached to this promise from God. If you’re good and deserving then.... As long as no one else wants it then.... As long as you’re in good standing with the UN then.... If President Trump approves then...
- This is an unconditional promise from God that is repeated over and over again in God’s Word.
- How long is it good for? *“Forever!”*

Genesis 12:7

Genesis 15:18 “On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.”

God repeats the same promise to Isaac & Jacob:

Genesis 26:3 “³Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.

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,...

- As I look at the descendants of Abram today, which would include Ishmael /Arabs / Muslims along with the Jews, then if you also include the spiritual descendants

of Abram to include Christian believers it gets to looking pretty much like the dust of the earth, the sand on the sea shore, and the stars of the sky.

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 / plain of Mamre at Hebron.
(great / oak)
- Hebron / disappointment / romanticized: (richness & communion)
(pictures removed)
- 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.
- Abram is worshipping God, whilst dwelling in richness & communion with God.
- As this chapter ends we see Abram living between Mamre which means "richness" and Hebron, which means "communion" – living between "richness" & "communion" with God.
- God will again appear to Abram and speak to him from this location:

Genesis 18:1 “Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.”

- Both Abraham & Sarah were buried in Hebron, in the cave of Machpelah, the tomb of the patriarchs – in richness and communion with God.

Genesis 23:2 “So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba that is Hebron in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.”

Genesis 24:9 “And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, ...”

- Isaac lived in the same place.

Genesis 35:27 “Then Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had dwelt.”

- By the grace of God that is what I want – to live and to abide in richness and communion with God!

Psalms 16:8 “I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.”

“Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.”