



BEGINNINGS

A Study of the Book of Genesis

Sanctuary Bible Studies – Woodbury Lutheran Church

Session 10, “Abram and Lot” (Genesis, Chapter 13-14)

Abram had gone to Egypt to escape a famine, but God engineered circumstances to bring Abram back to the Promised Land. Deceptively he escaped death in Egypt. Let's see what happens to Abram in the next two chapters.

1. Journey Back to the Promised Land

- God's promises are already beginning to be fulfilled
 - v. 13:2 – “became very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold”
- Settled in Bethel
 - Only Jerusalem is mentioned more in the OT
 - Ex. 28:10-22; 35:1-8; 1 Kings 12:26-29
 - Continued to seek the Lord (v. 4)

2. “When Herdsmen Collide”

- v. 6 – “land could not support them”
- Conflict Resolution
 - Abram attacks the problem at its root
 - Abram gives Lot the choice
- Lot chooses plain of the Jordan
 - For selfish and economic reasons Lot chooses the eastern plains of the Jordan
 - Lot left the promised land
 - Southeast side of Jordan – Num 34:1-11
 - “Toward the east” – away from God
 - (3:24; 4:16; 11:2)
- A Lesson in Temptation
 - Near Sodom – known for sin

3. God's Guidance

- God's promise v. 14-17 – God calls Abram to look over the land that he and Lot just looked at.
 - All land north, south, east, and west
 - Descendants will be like dust – NEW language
 - Land will be Abrams – New language
 - It will be their land forever – New Language
- Therefore, God the Father is a God of 2nd chances
- God's used various problems or tragedies to begin fulfilling His promises to Abram
 - God's promise was to Abram not to Lot

4. Trouble in the Neighborhood

- Lot was captured by 5 kings of the east

- Shinar – Southern Mesopotamian Plains or Babylonia
- Ellasar – Assyria or Larsa a city-state in Mesopotamia
- Elam – region from Caspian Sea to Persian Gulf (Iran)
- Goiim – most vague – with Hittites
- Tar pits – common in this dead sea area, which is rich in bitumen that large amounts survive
- Abram rescues Lot
 - Abram turned from gentle farmer to general
 - Kings theoretically had control of Canaan, but God uses this victory/rescue to give land back to Abram

5. Greetings from the Kings

- King of Sodom – a selfish king
 - Abram did not accept his offer
 - Because Abram made an Oath to God
 - No one can say “I made Abram wealthy”
- King of Salem – a giving king
 - Blessed Abram with nourishment
 - Blessed Abram by praising “God most high”
 - In response Abram gives him a tithe (Heb 4: 14)
- Who is Melchizedek
 - Psalm 110: 4 – David is identified as also having priestly credentials “in the order of Melchizedek.”
 - Hebrew 7: 1-4
 - Christ had a legitimate priestly function based on the precedent of Melchizedek
 - 7: 15-16
 - Basis of priesthood was an indestructible life – Psalm 110: 4: Hebrews 7: 20-25
 - Oath to be a priest “forever”
 - Unconditional Promise!!
 - That priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood
 - Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”
 - “King of Salem” means king of peace
- Melchizedek is a type of Christ
 - Hebrews 7: 21-26
 - Jesus is the perfect High Priest
 - Jesus sacrificed Himself once for all
 - Jesus now intercedes for us

Take Home Truths

Wealth does not equal contentment.
 God uses tragedy for His glory.
 Following God’s will takes patience.
 God the Father is a God of 2nd chances.
 Jesus is the ultimate High Priest who sacrificed Himself for our sins once
 for all.