

# Genesis

The Book of Origins  
Week 1

## Chapters 13-17 The Flesh vs. The Will of God

### **WK 1: Chapter 13 - Lot's choice and Abram's portion**

WKS 2-3: Chapter 14 - Lot's warning and Abram's blessing

WKS 4-5: Chapter 15 - God's Covenant with Abram

This may be an ambitious schedule. If we do not finish, our aim will be to take time to hear what God wants to communicate.

A great opportunity to meditate on something God has been bringing to my heart these last couple months. Living by the strength and guidance of the Spirit by faith or living by the might and guidance of the flesh.

Lot as an illustration of a godly man who lives by the impulse of the flesh and the influence of the world descends gradually to severe consequences and regrets in life.

Abraham as an illustration, not of a man who is perfect, we may get to see some instances when he acts in the flesh, but in general Abraham lives by faith and trusts in God for might and guidance.

## Chapter 13

### **Review of chapter 12**

Outline

Observations

Spiritual Lessons

Here is our plan for today

## Chapter 12 - Review

V1-3 God Calls Abram

V4-9 Abram becomes a pilgrim by faith in God.

V10-20 The famine test, Abram's response from the flesh, and God's rescue.

In chapter 12 we began the account of Abram. A descendant of Shem and the recipient of the plans of God to bring the Shemites to lead the descendants of Ham including the Canaanites who lived at the time in the region where Abram was sojourning. And in the greater picture a continuation of the lineage of Christ.

V1-9 The Call of Abram

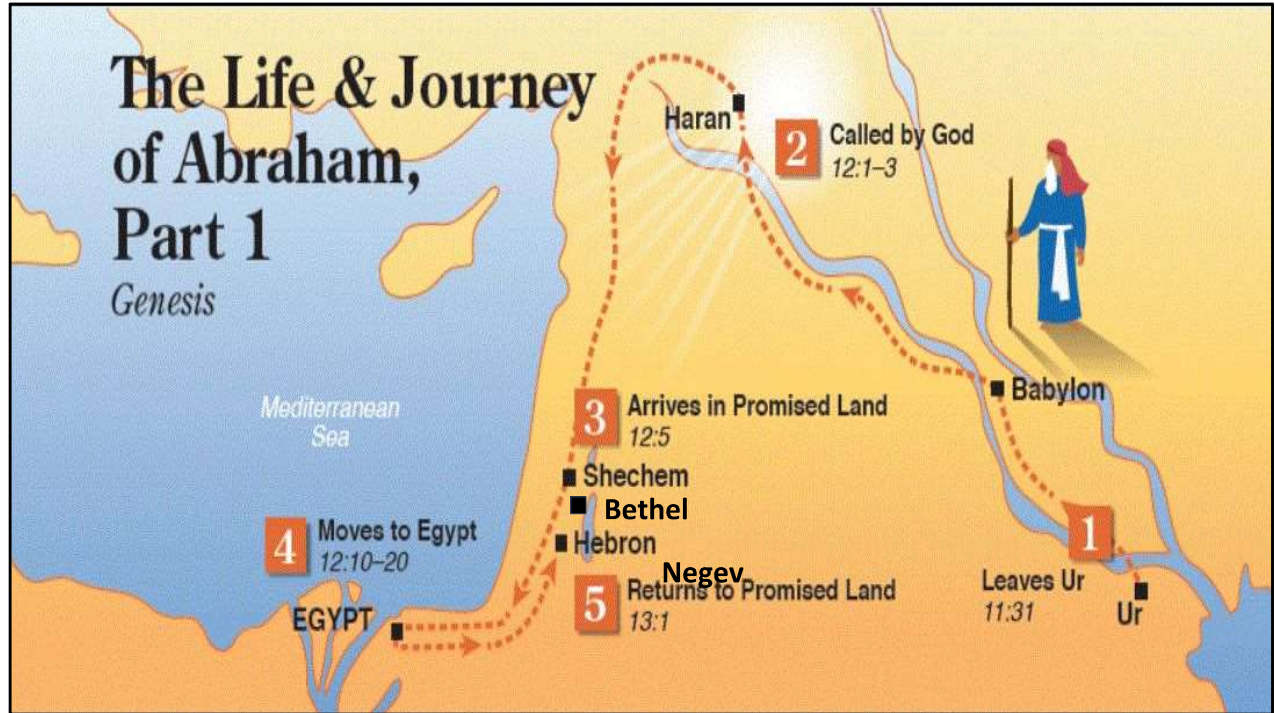
V10- 20 The backslide of Abram

V1-3 - Abram is called as an idolatrous man in Ur of the Chaldees, this call breaks a 400 year silence in Scripture from the last time God spoke to Shem, Ham, and Japhet when they came out of the ark.

V4-9 We read about Abraham beginning his journey as a pilgrim on this earth following God by faith. Having as sufficient means God's

Words and His blessing. (see next 2 slides).

Let us review some of the Spiritual lessons we learned



We notice a few patterns, Abram lives in tents, he has the habit of worship wherever he goes.

## What can we learn from the call of Abraham?

### God's call is:

1. A call of Sovereign election
2. A call that involves a cost
3. A call to live by faith
4. A call to separation from the world and sin
5. A persistent call
6. A call with great promises
7. A call to pilgrimage
8. A call to worship
9. A call to bless others

(Gregory Brown) Abram's call is a prototype of our call

1. Abraham could not claim any merits nor can we. We are secured in the work of Christ, in The Father's election, and in the indwelling pledge of The Holy Spirit.
2. Abraham had to leave country, relatives, and immediate family. He goes on a venture investing all in following God. Some may have questioned him.
3. Abram goes when God tells him to go trusting His word because of who God is. Abraham learned to live in dependance of God and His promises.
4. Abraham left the gods and the people of Ur
5. God called Abraham many times, even after failing. God can pick you up.
6. We looked at the promises Abraham received, but our promises are greater.

*Hebrews 11:40 NKJV*

*God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.*

1. Abram was considered as a foreigner in the land, he lived pitching tents. His homeland affections, national pride, and "success dream" were not on this earth. We are not home.
2. Abram built altars and worshipped God as a habit. He worshipped God as best He knew from God's word. A principle here, wherever the Lord leads you seek a place to worship Him as best as He has made you know how to.
3. Abram was called to bless others, so are we sharing the Gospel.



## Chapter 12 - Review

V1-3 God Calls Abram

V4-9 Abram becomes a pilgrim by faith in God.

V10-20 The famine test, Abram's response from the flesh, and God's rescue.

V10-20- The famine test that was common to Abram, Isaac, and Jacob strikes the land and Abram responds in the flesh. This ends with God's rescue.

See the next slide

## Symptoms of acting in the flesh / backsliding

V11 Acting upon your own fears/ predictions/ desires

V12-13 Self reliance and deception

V14 - 15 Slavery

V16 - Reaping the empty benefits of Sin

V18-19 A pagan rebuke

V20 Disgrace

This symptoms are common in multiple backslides we read in Scripture - David, etc. These are worse and more accurate than the Covid Symptoms - Do you see any of them in your life?

V11 -Notice Abraham is afraid- Abraham fears for his property and his life. What is the temptation? to act in the flesh...

V12-13 In his plans Abraham begins to trust his wits and not God, he begins to lie, maybe he thought that as her brother he would be able to oppose anyone who came after Sarai. But ultimately in his plans he became willing to trade his wife for his life. "I can handle this, I can figure this one out."

V14 - 15 READ THESE How many times we include sin in our plans and we think we can handle it? Then we end up in a foothold with serious consequences. Now Abram can't recover his wife nor return to the promised land.

V16 - How do you think Abram felt receiving all this wealth in exchange for his wife? Do you think Abraham felt blessed or miserable?

V18-19 - Abram is rebuked by a pagan king This is a major sign of backsliding. When your behavior makes the world look righteous there is a problem. When someone who doesn't follow God is appalled at your sinful behavior this is a symptom of backsliding.

V20 Abram is exiled in disgrace, Abram did not worship in Egypt, Abraham could not say a word to witness to Pharaoh.

In chapter 13:1 Abraham is restored to the promised land = Because God is faithful

Can you relate to any of these symptoms?  
Believers CAN go through phases of declension and we more or less experience the same symptoms.

If you see any of these symptoms you must act - next slide

## Chapter 13

Review of chapter 12

### **Outline**

Observations

Spiritual Lessons

## Outline of Genesis 13

V1- 4 Abrams' restoration

V5 - 7 Conflict between herdsmen

V8- 13 Lot's choice

V14- 18- Abram's portion

Read chapter

## Chapter 13

Review of chapter 12

Outline

**Observations**

Spiritual Lessons

## V 1-4 Abrams restoration

V1 - Abram goes up from Egypt

V2 -3 Abram returns to the beginning

V 4 Abram calls on the name of the Lord

V1 Abram is going up. After he was escorted out of Egypt he made a decision to return up towards Canaan and this “up” can be a symbol of the beginning of his restoration. Abram had experienced a famine in Canaan, this was not a thing in Ur. **What would I have done?** He could have returned (Hebrews 11:15) but he is still seeking the will of God by faith. Abram is guided once again by The will of God through faith and not the circumstances through the flesh.

V2 Abraham is very rich in 3 areas

V3 Abraham returns to the place where he begun- Bethel - meaning house of God was the place where God had lead him to build an altar in Canaan. Same principle for us in Christ - We must return to Him (Revelation 2:4 *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love*). This is something God has been laying on my heart. Remember when you first trusted in Christ? How much of that has been replaced by apathy or intellectualism? The miracle of our salvation, that first love that we embraced with faith in God like children. Is it still there of have I grown too distant from it? The church in Ephesus was backsliding from its first love and just like Abram had to return to Bethel we must return to Christ.

V4 Abraham returns to the place He worshiped first. Restoration is all about returning to Christ. Returning to His grace and giving Him all our sin and our loads.



## V5-7 Lot and a conflict between herdsman

V5 The root of the conflict

V6 The solution to the conflict

V7 The conflict and the local witness

V5- Introduce Lot - "Lot went with Abram"- Peter identifies Lot as a righteous man (*2 Peter 2:7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless*) But Lot is also a man who doesn't have an independent faith. He is always spiritually dependant on Abram. Lot is a man whose adherence to the will of God depends on the close influence of Abraham. Every disciple to some extent is dependant on the person who is witnessing to them but the test of a disciple comes when he must walk by himself apart from the influence of a mentor. Here I am particularly concerned for our youth. Am I discerning God's will through a mentor or do I have faith to follow God's will on my own? Think of someone who was or is a Spiritual mentor to you. What is going to happen when they are not around?

One day my children and anyone else who God has called me to disciple will leave my close influence and will have to make decisions to follow the will of God. I have to think of them with this in mind. I have to let them probe into the reality of their own faith. Once they leave they will be responsible for their own choices before God.

Lot is the case of a righteous man seduced by the world and the flesh. The account of Lot will be told in episodes. Each showing greater compromise in the flesh.

V5-6 This dispute was not solvable. We see that wealth can divide. However, in this case God had a plan to separate Abram from Lot.

V7- The conflict in the ranch was a poor witness to the locals. This is also true in the church, we should be known for loving one another and when there is conflict there is a poor witness.

Genesis 13:7

*"The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land."*

V7 The issue had to be resolved because the Canaanite and Perizzite were watching.

## V8-13 Lot's choice

V8-9 - Abram's faith

V10-11 Lot's choice

V12-13 A contrast of choices between Abram and Lot's

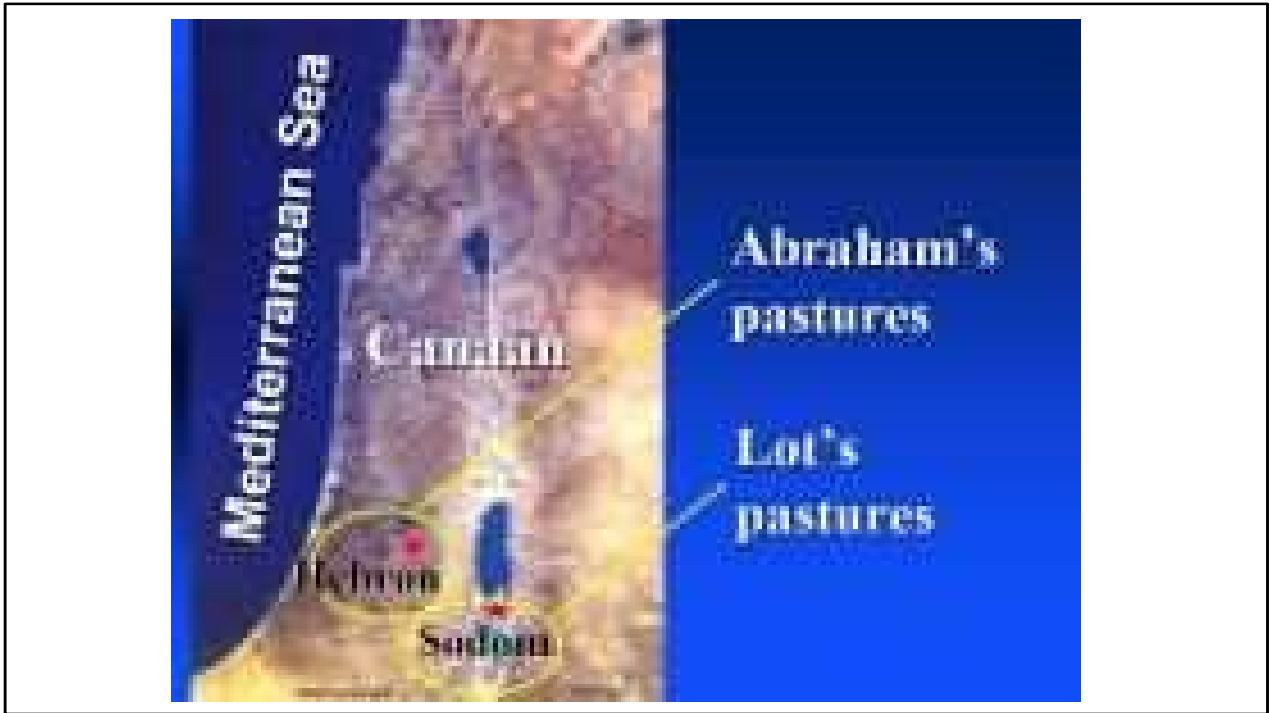
V8-9 Abram is an example of how Christians should handle disputes with one another: Abram's faith demonstrated by giving his nephew preference and advantage. Notice that the conflict is resolved without animosity and later we will also see that on Abram's side there was always love for Lot.

V10 Lot "lifted up his eyes" and made this **first** step to follow the world. He followed "the lust of his eyes". He used his eyes to see instead of his faith. He could see what he could get right there and then but not the tragic implications of following his eyes. One must first consult with God. We walk not by sight but by faith.

V11- See map on next slide

V12-13 Lot approached Sodom (**second** step to follow the world). Sodom had an obvious fatal flaw and Lot's choice involved embracing this flaw. The wickedness of this place would bring Lot great vexation (2 Peter 2:7).

Abraham was pleased to settle for the less appealing land of Canaan because He had faith in God's word while Lot had faith in his eyes.



Possible site of Sodom and Gomorrah.

[Return to previous slide](#)

## V14 -18 Abram's portion

V14 - God tells Abram to lift up his eyes from Canaan

V15 - Abram's portion would include Lot's choice

V16 - Abram's portion is in the word of God

V 17 - Abram receives instructions how to live

V 18 - Abram settles near the great trees of Mamre

V14-18 God was pleased with the humble way Abraham handled this dispute. Furthermore Abraham remained true to his mission to go to Canaan. God gave Abraham the land including Lot's portion. The land is a literal promise for him and his offspring. Abraham lived in an area with great trees (see next slide ).

V16 Notice "I will" . More details about the covenant

V18 - Notice Lot does not worship in all these accounts and notice that Abram does worship but does not go immediately to walk through the Land as instructed. In the next chapter God will bring circumstances that will cause to walk to new places.



This is a picture of the area that is traditionally considered former Hebron or Mamre. This might have been the appearance of this area.

## Chapter 13

Review of chapter 12

Outline

Observations

**Spiritual Lessons**

## Spiritual Lessons

- A) Restoration is available and the steps are simple
- B) Wealth and other issues can cause conflicts but these conflicts should never become feuds- Humbleness before God and one another solves conflicts.
- C) Conflicts between brethren should be resolved quickly, graciously, and from a disadvantage point
- D) When is separation necessary?
- E) Lot's choice or Abram's portion - Which one is yours?
- F) Dare to live as a pilgrim by faith

- A) Notice that the main step is to return to the beginning. God is able to restore you into fellowship and a life for His glory.
- B) We must guard ourselves from feuds. A simple conflict when it is neglected can fester into bitterness and turn to a lasting feud. This is a terrible witness for any assembly.
- C) Notice the humbleness of Abram to be willing to part toward the land of Canaan, notice that Abram gives an advantage to Lot, And notice that there was no animosity after parting from Abram side.

*1 Corinthians 6:7*

*7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?*

- D) When is separation necessary? A biblical perspective is important to answer this question.

When there is an unequal yoke or sin is involved - 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

**14** *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15* *And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16* *And what agreement has the*



*temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:*

*"I will dwell in them*

*And walk among them.*

*I will be their God,*

*And they shall be My people."*

**17** *Therefore*

*"Come out from among them*

*And be separate, says the Lord.*

*Do not touch what is unclean,*

*And I will receive you."*

**18**

*"I will be a Father to you,*

*And you shall be My sons and daughters,*

*Says the Lord Almighty."*

Not in marriage, -*Matthew 19:6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man **separate.**"* , Unless the non believer chooses to separate from the Christian:

1 Corinthians 7:10-16

*10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.*

*12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. 15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. 16*

*15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

- A) Like Abraham in Canaan, this is not our home - Why should I live as a pilgrim?  
Because of who God is. Because He is faithful to His word and to His children.  
Because this world is not our home.