

Genesis

The Book of Origins
Week 3

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

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

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

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

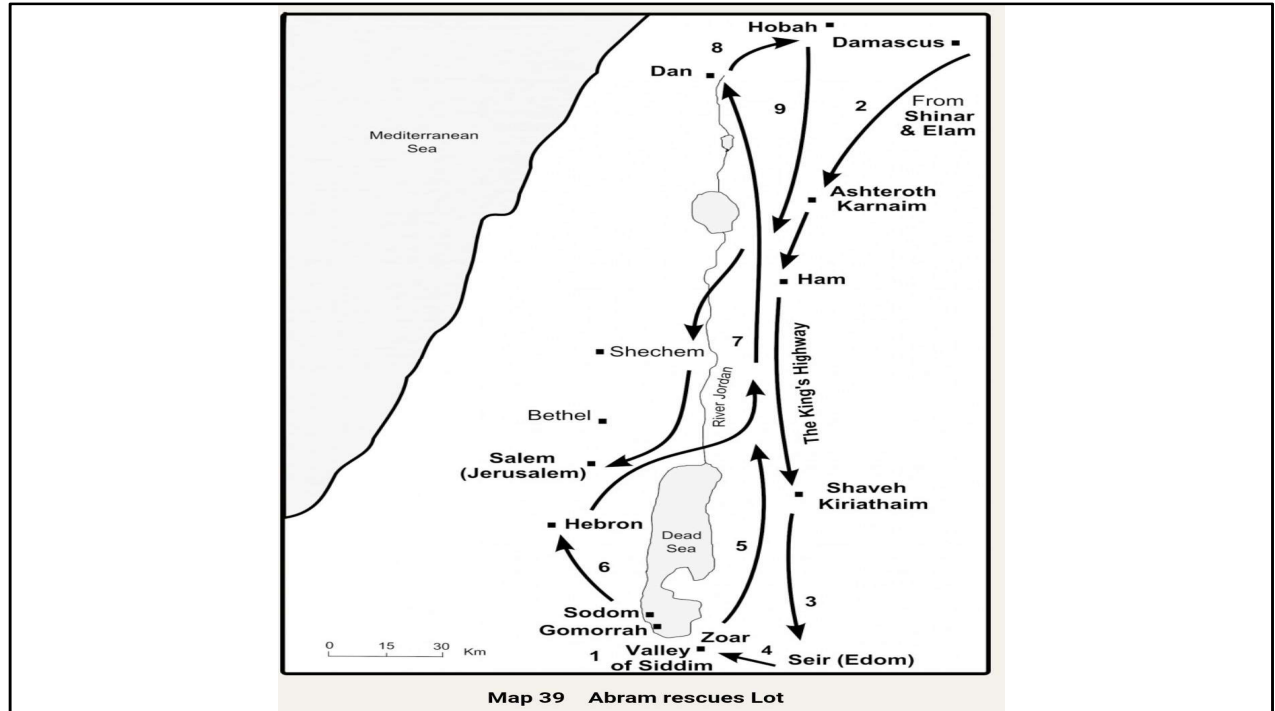
Review 13:1-16 - Lot's Warning

V1-11 The affairs of Sodom and Gomorrah

V12 - Lot's involvement

V13-16 - Abraham to the rescue

Read outline



V1-11 This map will help us understand better this account. An international war between 9 kingdoms. 5 kings against 4. The 4 kings lead by Chedorlaomer made an incursion to attack the lands east of the Jordan River (2-3). The 5 kings including the king of Sodom refused to continue paying tribute to Chedorlaomer and the war broke out. The 5 kings suffered a nasty defeat with some falling into tar pits as they fled at the valley of Siddim (4). Sodom was captured and with it Lot and his family.

Lot's capture was a consequence of his close association with Sodom. This warning to Lot is also a warning to us:

Like Lot, when we choose the world and we make decisions that entangle us to it we end up falling captive by this association.

This is a study that I have been struggling with a lot. Sometimes I struggle because I don't understand well what I am reading and sometimes I struggle because I understand a little too well and it is convicting. This is the case here. Getting acquainted with the account of Lot has been painful because if I look

carefully I find a lot of Lot in me. Like in this passage, in many episodes of my life I have been entangled in the troubles of this world because of my association with it.

Let me give you some examples.

I heard about Christ from a young age. I believed in Him when I was younger. But during my teenage years my life was a lot like Lot's. I knew Christ but I also loved this world. My friends from this world were my best friends, I loved many things they loved, I hated many things they hated, I went to the same places they went, and did the things they did. They knew I was a Christian because I told them but for them I was just like them and many times worse in some areas. Like Lot my association with them lead me to join in many of the consequences of loving this world. Twice a man pulled a gun on us just because we were out late, in the wrong place, and in the wrong business. One time we were drinking beer in a corner of my neighborhood next to one of my friend's cars and while we were drinking and listening to music the police came. That night we could have been taken to jail and that would have been a terrible testimony, except one of the cops that showed up was a brother who had recently come to know the Lord in our church. He recognized me right away and let us off the hook. What an awful testimony! to this day he makes fun of me for that incident, and it is embarrassing.

I may say, being worldly is part of that past but...Sometimes... I still get entangled with this world in more subtle ways. I will just say that It is a shame that some people know more about my travels, my tastes, my worldly experiences, my political views, the shows I watch, than they know about my Lord. This is why getting acquainted with Lot has been painful **because he shows us who we can all become!** One area I observe Christians get entangled with the world these days is with politics. Christians sometimes become too proudly associated with political groups and candidates. When these groups or politicians fall in disrepute and you have been a declared fan, everyone forgets you are a Christian and associates you with these groups problems. Easy example, yesterday I was running and saw that a neighbor had a candidate's sign on their lawn. I won't tell you which candidate because you would miss the point. I have never met my neighbor who lives in that house but I thought that when that neighbor comes out to mow their lawn and I say hi then first thing in my mind is that my neighbor really likes a certain candidate. And, by association I will think that everything that is true about

this candidate is something my neighbor stands for. The good and the ugly. What if my neighbor turns out to be a Christian? I would not know it from this sign. I would be confused about his Christianity, simply because of the sign on his lawn.

What is it that is most known about you? You know... In Scripture we actually learn more about Lot's experiences with Sodom and the disgraceful consequences of his life than his faith in God. Was it not for Peter I would be wondering if he was a man of God. If we are not avoiding of our associations with this world those outside end up thinking we are of this world too and have confusion about our faith.

Lot has made this passage a lot more difficult... I will have to come to grips with Lot again later in Genesis but let's leave it here for now and heed this warning that when we love and associate with this world our witness becomes invisible and eventually you will get caught with the problems of this world.

Let's continue with our review...

V12-16 Abram comes to the rescue. In #6 in your map a fugitive reaches Abram in Hebron and tells him Lot has been captured.

Abram organizes an expedition and pursues as far as Hobah...see 7 and 8 and there with 318 trained men he defeats the 4 kings and rescues his Nephew Lot.

Notice that Abram in this rescue was forced to walk through the land as far as Dan. This was important because at the end of chapter 13 God told Abram to sojourn the land to make claim of it with his feet and apparently at that point he just settled in Hebron. God understood that Abraham would choose the comfortable life so He put this together for him to make him sojourn the land.

We learned a number of lessons from this rescue... see next slide

Spiritual Lessons

How far would you go to rescue a captive brother?

Did Lot deserve to be rescued?

When can a brother be rescued?

There is blessing in rescuing a brother.

How far would you go to rescue a captured brother?

Abram used his resources

Risked his life

Went with faith

Went even though Lot didn't move out. Future promises of repentance are not a condition to rescue a brother.

Our responsibility to rescue: Galatians 6:1 - We also have a responsibility to rescue a lost brother.

Did Lot deserve to be rescued?

If you were here I would ask you to raise your hand.

But... How did Abram handle this? The way he handled it is an example of handling things with love and faith in God.

No pride... Abraham never said... "It serves him well". How many of you feel like saying this when we read what happened to Lot?

No personal gain... In this account he actually ended up giving more than what he took

Dependance on God ... this is the only way to go into battle.

When can a brother be rescued? or if you are such person in trouble how much more do you need to sink before accepting rescue?

Galatians tells us to be careful... "Considering yourselves, lest you also be tempted"

We must acknowledge that a brother sometimes need to be sunk before they can be rescued. Sometimes we need to experience God's discipline. In our account, before taken captive Lot could not be rescued.

We also learn that rescuing someone is a work of God. So before you try to play hero and go on your own, make sure you are being guided and depend on God.

There was no "I told you so" lecture recorded after the rescue

In this account Abram was blessed by Melchizedek. There is always a blessing for rescuing a brother - see James slide

Abraham as a pilgrim not only rescued Lot he became the emancipator of the land he would later receive.

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

James 5:19-20

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

V17-24 Melchizedek and the King of Sodom

V17 Meeting at the valley of Shaveh

V18-20 Abram and Melchizedek

V21-24 Abram and the king of Sodom

Let's continue with our passage for today...

Read verses with outline

V17 - See next slide

Valley of Shaveh



Here is the location of the valley of Shaveh where Abraham met Melchizedek and the king of Sodom

Abram and Melchizedek V18-20

What we learn about Melchizedek from these verses:

King of righteousness (Melchizedek)

King of peace (Salem)

Comforts, has fellowship, and communion with Abram

Priest of God most high

Blessed Abram

Blessed God

Received a tithe from Abram

These two meetings are very important to us but lets go over some basic observations first. Read slide...

Melchizedek in Scripture

A king priest

Psalm 110 - The future king

A type of Christ

- Superior to Abram

- Received a tithe from Him

- Not bound to time

- Not bound to the levitical priesthood

- Both my Lord and my Priest

There is a lot to learn from Melchizedek in Scripture, but that can be another study, let us summarize for now.

Read points in slide first

King priest makes him a unique figure. There were kings and priests with no overlaps. But not king priests

Psalm 110 "The Lord said to My Lord, seat at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"

Melchizedek helps us understand better the king-priest ministry of Christ towards us:

As king He is sovereign and all powerful - When we come to Him He

is able to rescue

As priest He comes from a different order, able to relate to our humanity but without the Levitical limitations - A sympathetic priest

The order of Melchizedek points to an everlasting office - My priest does not grow weary

Comforts Abram with bread and wine - A priest who comforts, and enjoys fellowship and communion with us through His table

V21-24 Abram and the king of Sodom

Abram

Is offered a handsome spoil

Rejects it from the hand of the king of Sodom

Gives credit to God for this victory

Trusts in God for His provision

Allows what is fair for his men

Allows others to claim their spoil - Acts on personal conviction

Read verses and slide

Chapter 14

Review of chapter 13

Outline

Observations

Spiritual Lessons

Spiritual Lessons

The King of Peace or the prince of this world?

Abram's interaction with the King of Peace involves...

communion

fellowship

reverence

comfort

priestly mediation

Abraham meets with two kings in the valley of Shaveh. We have seen that Melchizedek is a type of Christ. In reference to Christ the author of Hebrews quotes Psalms 110: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek". On the other hand the king of Sodom can represent the prince of this world. It is important for us as Christians to observe and learn from the way in which Abram interacts with these two kings. This is the way we should interact with The Lord and the world.

The King of Peace (King of Salem) has fellowship with Abraham, comforts him, gives him words of blessing from God, has communion with him, Abram pays him a tithe with reverence, offers Abram bread and wine. This may be a shadow of the Lord Supper. There is no direct reference in

Scripture that would tell us that Abram was the first who took the Lord's Supper because the Lord had not died at the cross yet. However, anyone who reads the Bible would read these verses and make a connection. We can simply say that Melchizedek sought communion with Abram with the bread and the wine just as our Lord seeks communion with us. We learn from Abram's meeting with Melchizedek many of the basis of our communion with God: We receive blessing, comfort, communion, He is our priest who mediates to us before God, and we pay him homage recognizing His majesty. **Before we move into the interaction with the king of Sodom we have to notice that the intention of Abram with the king of Sodom is to witness to Him of who the true God is. Witness is also part of the Christian's interaction between God and this world.**

The King of Peace or the prince of this world?

In exchange for: credit, false witness, debt

Are you able to reject the gifts of this world?

We need: Discernment /Personal conviction/Faith in God's provision

Gifts of this world = Damaged testimony

Which would do you serve?

The king of Sodom offers Abram a handsome gift. In exchange for...

Abram receiving credit to himself

Giving the king of Sodom the false impression that he could purchase the rescue of God

The most pernicious... Making Abram a perpetual debtor to him.

Christ offers peace, blessing, comfort, sustenance, and graciously allows us to serve Him.

The prince of this world offers self exaltation, riches, and a false impression of God's rescue as our own and a perpetual

debt.

Are you able to reject the gifts of this world?

Not easy... Notice it takes...

discernment, Abram can read between the lines of what the king of Sodom is offering. His discernment comes with knowing God, knowing His word, and experiences of faith.

Personal conviction: Others in this expedition did not have the same conviction of Abram. In fact Abram lets them take their portion.

Faith in God's provision: Abram would not let the king of Sodom make him rich. He is better off living by faith trusting in God than becoming immediately rich.

What are some examples of gifts from this world?

Illicit money

Support for ministry from non believers - an example in the Bible:

3 *John 7* *It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. 8* *We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.*

When Elisha's servant decided to take the money from Naaman after God healed him.

The principle with the non believer should always be that God does not want their money! It is a great distortion when the non-believer thinks he can pay something for the rescue of his lost soul. The Gospel is Free!!!

Mention example of churches that take money on a credit card through their website

What about the televangelist that for a sum of money will pray for you?

This is a disgrace!

What about money in exchange for your testimony with your family or at the assembly? When money can buy all your family and church time it ends up buying your testimony too.

The King of Peace or the prince of this world? Do you know how to interact with each and which one will you serve?