

Genesis

Moses

Discussion 5

Genesis 12- God Calls Abraham

Genesis 13- Dealing with Lot

Name: “Genesis” is a Greek word meaning “beginning.” The book tells of the beginning of everything except God who is without beginning or end.

Author: Moses

Date: 1500 BC Moses lived about as far on the other side of Christ as Columbus, who discovered America, lived on this side of Christ.

Outline:

- A. History of the human race (Gen. 1-11)
 - a. Creation
 - b. Fall
 - c. Flood
 - d. Tower of Babel (Nations)
- B. History of the chosen race, the Jews (Gen. 12-50)
 - a. Abraham
 - b. Isaac
 - c. Jacob
 - d. Joseph

	Human Race	Abraham to the Chosen Race
Genesis	Chapter 1 to Chapter 11 (2000 years?)	315 years

ORIGINS OF NATIONS—GENESIS 10-11

Genesis 10- Descendant’s of Noah’s Sons

Shem’s descendants settled chiefly in Central Asia

Ham’s descendants settled chiefly in Africa

Japheth’s descendants settled chiefly in Europe

HISTORY OF THE CHOSEN RACE—GENESIS 12-50

The Plan of Redemption

As the events of the Old Testament start to unfold there is the continuous development of God's plan to bring into the world the Redeemer, through the chosen race, Israel, in the chosen land, Palestine. Notice how the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are all connected with this plan of redemption.

The Purpose of Having One Chosen Race was:

- To keep alive the worship of the one true God.
- to illustrate to other nations, the blessedness of serving the true God.
- To receive and preserve God's Word, the Bible.
- To give Birth to the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The Father of the Chosen Race—Abraham

Date: Abraham lived about 2000 B.C.

Adam	Abraham	Christ	Today
4000 B.C.	2000 B.C.		2000 A.D.

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the beautiful example of Abram who, by faith in Your Word, has become the biblical example of a man who believed in the Word of the Lord and who simply trusted in the promises of God. Help me to listen to Your voice and faithfully obey Your call, to Your praise and glory. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:”
(Genesis 12:1)

1. What happened at the first stop in Canaan at Sichem (or Shechem)? (12:6-7)
_____The Lord appeared to Abram, and said to your offspring I will give this land.” _____
 2. Who traveled with Abram? (12:5) _____His wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the people that they had acquired in Haran.
-

3. How did Abram worship at Bethel? _____ **He built and altar there.** _____
4. Why did Abram go to Egypt? _____ **He went to live there for a while because the famine was severe.** _____
(The great pyramids had been standing for centuries before Abram went to Egypt.)
5. In what way did Abram and Sarai deceive the Egyptians? _____ **Told them that Sarai was his sister so that he was treated well, and that his life would be spared.** _____
6. To what place did Abram return to build an altar and worship? (13:3-4) _____ **He returned to Bethel.** _____
7. Why did Abram and Lot separate? _____ **Because their possessions and number of people had become too great to continue to travel and live together.** _____
-
8. What did Lot choose? (13:11-12) _____ **He chose the whole plain of Jordan.** _____
9. What kind of people lived in Sodom? _____ **Wicked and great sinners.** _____
10. What marvelous promise did God make to Abram? (13:14-17)
 _____ **He promised to Abram that all the land that he could see, would be his and his offspring's forever. He also said that I will be your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count them, then they could be counted.** _____
-
11. In what town did Abram finally settle? (13:18) **Hebron** _____ in the plains of **Mamre** _____.
12. What four kings fought against five kings relative of Abram's was captured? (14:1-16) _____ **Amraphel, Arioch, Kedorlaomer, Tidal.** _____
13. Aside from his confederates, how many in Abram's own army of trained servants went with him to rescue the captives? (14:14) _____ **318 trained, and went pursuit as far as Dan.** _____
14. What did Melchizedek do for Abram? (14:18-20) _____ **He brought bread and wine, and blessed Abram saying "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of Heaven and Earth. And Praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.** _____
15. What did Abram do for Melchizedek? **Tithed** _____, a word which means _____ **paid a tax, or one tenth of yearly earnings** _____.

Closing Prayer:

Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses.
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee,
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed in the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary mother of God,
Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.
Amen

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell; lead all souls to
Heaven, especially those in need of Thy mercy. Amen

Hail Holy Queen, mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do
we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning
and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of
mercy towards us. And after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy
womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy
Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

Heavenly Father, thank You for the many promises that are 'yes' and 'amen' in Christ
Jesus my Lord. I praise and thank You for Your precious promise to deliver me from
all my enemies. Thank You that, like Abram, my faith in Christ is credited as
righteousness and that in Him I have been declared righteous in Your sight. May my

life become a sacrifice of prayer and praise for all Your goodness and grace. This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.

“And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”

(Genesis 14:20)

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Discussion Notes:

GOD CALLS ABRAM

GENESIS 12:1-20

THE CONTEXT

We open our study with a man named Abram. Although at this point, we know very little about him. We know however, that at this point he is 75 years old, lives with his father called Haran, and has a nephew named Lot.

We will discover as we move into our study that he is very determined and destined to become the father to the Jewish people and he will be an important link in the family line of Jesus Himself.

He is introduced as Abram, and his name is later changed to Abraham by telling us that the Lord had already spoken to him in the past. God told him to leave his father's house and travel "to a land that I will show you," (Genesis 12:1). Evidently, Abram did not know where he would be heading or what he would find when he got there. It is little wonder, in human terms, that he was hesitant to leave his family and homeland; indeed, it is a wonder that he had that faith to obey at all. Yet, this is the major characteristic of the man we know as Abraham: he was a man of *faith*.

In Abram's day many different people groups to some extent had already settled the area we know as the Middle East. As of yet, however, there was no group of people known as the Israelites or Jews. Abram himself would be the first to be called a Hebrew (meaning "one who descended from Eber"). There was also no central authority or domineering nation ruling over the region. There were, however, many fortified cities scattered around the area from Haran in the north down at least to the southerly tip of the Dead Sea, which is probably where Sodom and Gomorra were located. The people known as the Philistines, who would one day play a major role in David's life, had already begun to settle in the area we know currently as the Gaza Strip.

Traveling to this region was not like taking a road trip across the United States, where one drives on highways, eats at McDonald's, and stays at comfortable hotels. It could be dangerous business, and one was at risk from bandits and natural hazards. People therefore traveled in groups—merchants used large caravans to carry merchandise from place to place—and such processions usually included armed guards to protect against attack. In the southern regions, water and food were not readily available, so

a traveling party needed to know where they were going, how they would get there and what supplies they would need along the way. Yet, God called Abram to start walking without his extended family, without destination, and without any guarantee except His own promise.

KEYS TO THE TEXT

GOD'S CALL: One day the Lord speaks to Abram, probably in a vision or dream, and commands him to leave his home and his family.

12:1 THE LORD HAD SAID: God had called Abram on a precious occasion and told him to leave his father's house and head south. Abram had obeyed God only partially by moving from Ur (the location) to Haran – along with his father's entire household. It is worth noting that we know nothing about Abram until he began to obey. If he had continued to ignore God's , we would not have become the father of God's chosen nation. It is characteristic of his life, however, that he obeyed God's call, as we see him beginning to do here.

ABRAM: God would not change his to “Abraham” until after he was circumcised. The Lord outlined His entire plan right in from the beginning. He told Abram what the final outcome would be—that he would become a great nation—and then told him what the next step would require. God would reveal His plan for the next step only after Abram obeyed the immediate one.

GET OUT OF YOUR COUNTRY: Abram's first step would be to leave Haran, where he may have lived for a long time, and head south. Again, a destination was not distinguished, he was simply commanded to leave. (“Get Out”)

TO A LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU: This was a big request for Abram. Except for his wife, Sarai, and his nephew, Lot, he knew nobody. During his travels, he would encounter different cultures and various dangers—without knowing his ending destination. This is what God wanted him to experience, uncertainty, because he was destined to become a picture of God's people. He wandered about without making this world his home because he had his heart set on the eternal kingdom that God Himself was building (Hebrew 11).

2. I WILL MAKE YOU A GREAT NATION: this is the first time that God promised to make Abram into a great nation. He was destined to be the father of the Israelites, and through him would come Messiah, Jesus the Christ, whose death and resurrection would one day provide salvation for the entire human race. Abram was

already 75 years old when God made this promise—and he had not children!! This element of God’s promise would prove to be the most difficult for Abram, and ultimately it would be the greatest test that Abram would face—especially when God called him to sacrifice his only son. But right from the beginning, Abram obeyed God and believed in His promises—even though they seemed ridiculously impossible.

3. IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED: God’s prophecies of blessing would begin to come true within Abram’s lifetime. The great fulfillment would come when God Himself entered the world through Abram’s descendants in the person of Jesus Christ.

ABRAM’S OBEDIENCE: Abram obeys God’s call, after some apparent delay, and leaves his home in Haran.

4. SO ABRAM DEPARTED: It seems to have taken Abram a while to obey God’s call to leave Haran, but he eventually did. God demonstrated His patience and grace toward Abram frequently, and Abram demonstrated his own desire to please God by obeying His commands. Nevertheless, Abram was still a human being, and there were times when he fell far short of perfection.

LOT WENT WITH HIM: Lot was Abram’s nephew, and he would cause real problems for Abram in the future. His presence with Abram would have an impact on the people who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah.

ABRAM WAS SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD: It is true that people lived much longer in Abram’s day than in modern times, yet seventy-five was still old! It was no small thing to ask a man in his mid-seventies to pack-up and move away from his homeland where he had lived most of his life. Imagine how difficult it must have been to Abram to set forth on an exciting adventure at such an advanced age.

5. SARAI HIS WIFE: In the future, God would change her name to Sarah. (Abraham and Sarah).

THE PEOPLE WHOM THEY HAD ACQUIRED IN HARAN: It is possible that this refers to the household servants rather than slaves. We will later find out that Abram and Lot were wealthy and their households were quite large. As we further study Abram and his household we will discover his entourage included a large amount of livestock, and a large number of household servants.

ARRIVING IN CANNAN: Abram arrives in Canaan around 2090 BC. Various groups of people (known as the Canaanites) already occupy the land.

SO THEY CAME TO THE LAND OF CANAAN: The “land of Canaan” indicates that the descendants of Canaan (Ham’s son) had settled a large portion of the land that God was planning to give Abram’s descendants. Moses wrote the book of Genesis when the people of Israel—the descendants of Abram—were preparing to enter the Promised Land. The region was filled with people the Israelites would have to fight to take possession of the land, and many of these people were descended from Ham (Genesis 9:20-25).

6. **SHECHEM:** Shechem is about halfway through the land of Canaan in the area known as the Fertile Crescent.

The CANAANITES WERE THEN IN THE LAND: God called you to travel to an undefined location, with the understanding that He is going to give you many descendants and make your family into a great nation. But when you arrive, you find that the land is already occupied or populated--- by people who are likely to be hostile to you! Most people would have balked at this point and wondered whether they had made a mistake. However, Abram stepped out in faith, and God faithfully honored him for it.

GOD ENCOURAGED ABRAM’S FAITH: Abram had obeyed God’s command to leave Haran. Now the Lord comes to him to encourage his faith—and to tell him something new.

7. **THEN THE LORD APPEARED TO ABRAM:** God bolstered Abram’s faith by reiterating His promise—and by adding some new information to it. In the future, the Lord would appear to often to Abram to reiterate His promise and reveal some new details—by only *after* Abram obeyed God. Here, he finally heeds God’s call, he finally obeys God’s command to travel to Canaan, so God encouraged his faith.

TO YOUR DESCENDANTS I WILL GIVE THIS LAND: This is a new piece of information. Prior to this, God had only told Abram that he would become a great nation, but here God told Abram that his descendants would inherit the entire land of Canaan. He was encouraged to trust God and His word, despite appearances and circumstances. Even though the land was already settled and populated, God insisted that He would one day give the entire land to Abram’s descendants. Circumstances

made that promise seem impossible, yet Abram continued to place his faith in God's word.

HE BUILT AN ALTAR TO THE LORD: This act chose to believe God even when His promise seemed impossible. Everywhere Abram travelled, he built an altar to the Lord and proclaimed His name to the people around him.

8. HE MOVED FROM THERE: Abram's life would be characterized by his constant mobbing from one place to another. He was to never settle permanently in any one location, and he would spend the remainder of his days living in tents rather than in a permanent house. (It is possible that he and his family lived in a house rather than in tents when they lived in Haran.)

CALLED ON THE NAME OF THE LORD: The Hebrew word translated "called" means to "cry out" or "to proclaim." Abram worshiped God in a public manner, proclaiming His character to the people around him. Remember that there were many people traveling with Abram as part of his household, and there were many traveling in Lot's household as well. In proclaiming God publicly. Abram was already beginning to fulfill his role as a blessing to the nations.

FAMINE: Abram has been wandering about in the land of Canaan, living in a tent and pasturing his flocks. Then along comes trouble...

10. THERE WAS A FAMINE IN THE LAND: Famine and the land of Egypt figured prominently in the history of Israel, right up to the time of their exodus from Egypt. God uses the circumstances of our lives—both good and the bad, the blessing and the trials—to lead us in His will. This particular famine would lead Abram to a time of testing in Egypt, just as it would someday lead to a time of blessing in Egypt for Abram's descendants (Genesis 47:27).

FEAR: Abram begins to fear what will happen to him in Egypt, and he talks himself into fearing the worst. This lack of trust will end up having long-term consequences for him, his family and the entire world.

11. YOU ARE A WOMAN OF BEAUTIFUL COUNTENANCE: Sarai was sixty-five when Abram (aged seventy-five) left Haran. It is unclear how much time had passed, but she was at least in her late sixties.

12. IT WILL HAPPEN: Here we see Abram struggling with a lack of faith in God's promises. He had convinced himself in fear that bad things were going to happen—

though they never did. Fear leads God's people to doubt, not faith. The Lord Himself commands us frequently in the Bible to "be of good courage" and "fear not."

THE WILL KILL ME: Abram was made of the same flesh that we are, which is encouraging news. Here he lapsed from his great faith in God's promises. If he had clung to them, he would have realized that the Egyptians *couldn't* kill him, because he was destined to become a great nation—even though he didn't have any children yet. His own logic could have reassured him that he had to live at least enough to have offspring, but fear blinded both his logic and his faith.

13. **SAY YOU ARE MY SISTER:** This was partially true, for Sarai was Abram's half-sister' they share the same father but different mothers. Nevertheless, a half-truth is still a lie, and it got Abram and his wife into trouble—more than once! What is worse, Abram encouraging his wife—and probably the rest of his household—to sin.

15. **THE WOMAN WAS TAKEN TO PHAROAH'S HOUSE:** This statement is loaded with significance because it implies that Abram did nothing to prevent it. Abram had effectively allowed another man to take his wife, with the intention of making her part of his harem. Fear had driven Abram so far from being a man of faith that he had sold out his own wife.

HE TREATED ABRAM WELL FOR HER SAKE: Now we discover that Abram was even making a *profit* from the situation, like a pimp with his prostitute. This is a low point in Abram's walk with God.

MALE AND FEMALE SERVANTS: Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts, including "male and female servants." It is quite possible that Hagar was one of these female servants. She would bring further trouble to Abram in the future.

GOD INTERVENES: Abram's lack of faith endangers God's plans for the coming Messiah. But God will not permit man's actions to interfere with His plans.

17. **THE LORD PLAGUED PHAROAH AND HIS HOUSE WITH GREAT PLAGUES BECAUSE OF SARAI:** This significance of Abram's action is much deeper than lying about his wife. God intended to bring His Redeemer through Abram's seed, and He would later make it clear that He meant to bring about His chosen people (and His Chosen One) through the offspring of Abram and Sarai. Yet here was Abram offering his wife to another man, with the very real possibility that

Sarai would have the man's child. For this reason—and because Sarai was the one in real peril from a human perspective—God intervened to protect her from becoming one of Pharaoh's wives.

18. **WHAT IS THIS YOU HAVE DONE TO ME:** Abram's lack of faith also placed Pharaoh and his entire household in jeopardy. It is a principle of sin that one man's sin will often endanger many others. Pharaoh had not done anything to threaten Abram; but he had been generous in giving him gifts. The whole problem arose because Abram was afraid and failed to place his trust in God's protection. This entire sad episode would be repeated when Abraham met Abimelech, another kind (Genesis 20).

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DEALING WITH LOT

Genesis 13-14

THE CONTEXT

Genesis 13 begins with Abram and his household leaving that country. His nephew Lot is still with him.

As the story opens, Abram and Lot are standing on a high mountainous area, looking out over all of Canaan. Below them, to the east, was one of the few truly level areas in Canaan—a fertile valley watered by the Jordan River. Not far to the south, at the mouth of that valley, lay what we call today the Dead Sea or the Salt Sea. When Abram and Lot looked out on that sea, it appeared very different that it does today, if it existed at all. Where the southern end of the Dead Sea lies today, Abram and Lot looked on several thriving and prosperous cities, including Sodom, and Gomorrah.

Lot would now separate from Abram, and evidently, he would continue to live as a nomad for a time. As he traveled, however, he moved closer and closer to the city of Sodom, eventually giving up his nomadic ways and settling into a comfortable urban lifestyle. This choice came with an immediate price when the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah rebelled against their overlord. Lot was carried into captivity, forcing Abram to come to his rescue, yet even then he did not desert the city. In fact, when we meet him again, he will be sitting in the seat of a city elder, acting as a significant leader in Sodom. Lot will have walked, stood and finally sat down with the wicked.

KEYS TO THE TEXT

LEAVING EGYPT: Abram has finished his time in Egypt and is not heading north into Canaan. HE will ultimately stop at Bethel.

13:1. ABRAM WENT UP FROM EGYPT: Thinking back, Abram had been staying in Egypt, and during this time he had told Pharaoh that his wife, Sarai, was only his sister (Genesis 12).

AND LOT WITH HIM: Abram's nephew Lot traveled with him, as he had done since the pair left Haran.

TO THE SOUTH: Abram and company were not traveling southward; they were actually heading northeast toward Canaan. However, they were entering the southern section of Canaan, which was known as the Negev. The sense here is that they traveled to the southern sections of Canaan.

2. ABRAM WAS VERY RICH: Abram also had a great many people traveling with him in his household, as we see as we read further. Lot evidently had similar wealth.

3. BETHEL: Bethel is in the hills overlooking the Jordan River valley, which was the most level and fertile area in Canaan. (pg. 36 Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible).

4. ABRAM CALLED ON THE NAME OF THE LORD: Here we see man depending on God in his daily life as we do similarly all through out Scripture. This was the pattern wherever Abram went.

TOO MUCH STUFF: Because of Abram and Lot's great wealth, the land can no longer support them both. This wealth will prove to be a trap for Lot.

5. Lot... HAD FLOCKS AND HERDS AND TENTS: Like Abram, Lot probably had a large number of servants and hired help. Each of these people had a family, tent, and household possessions, and many probably had livestock of their own.

6. THE LAND WAS NOT ABLE TO SUPPORT THEM: A conservative estimate of Abram's traveling household would be at least one thousand people. He also had flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, and the people who worked for him almost certainly had possessions of their own. Add to this the household of Lot, and we realize that Abram had an enormous number of people moving around with him. It

would have been difficult for him to navigate such a large group, and finding suitable grazing and living space would have been a logistical nightmare.

THEIR POSSESSIONS WERE SO GREAT THAT THEY COULD NOT DWELL TOGETHER: Due to the extent of their wealth, it was no longer possible for Abram and Lot to continue travelling together. Here is a tragic fact of our world—even close kin are driven apart by possessions. We are told, however, that Abram’s focus was on the things of eternity rather than the things of this temporal world (Hebrews 11:9-10). Lot, on the other hand, was more interested in temporal gain. His selfish choices would eventually lead him to Sodom and, consequently, into great spiritual peril.

7. THE CANAANITES AND THE PERIZZITES THEN DWELT IN THE LAND: this statement here, is a bit odd, and slightly difficult to answer. Abram’s herdsmen were fighting with Lot’s herdsmen. The implication is that the world around Abram was watching, and his strife with Lot was producing a poor testimony.

PARTING COMPANY AT LAST: After years of traveling together, Abram and Lot part company. Abram’s path will be marked by divine protection, while Lot’s will be characterized by temptation and compromise.

9. PLEASE SEPARATE FROM ME: After having dwelt together for so long, Abram separated from Lot more by compulsion than by choice. Yet God was using these circumstances to providentially divide the two—and send Abram in the opposite direction from the evil influences of Sodom and Gomorrah.

IF YOU TAKE THE LEFT, THEN I WILL GO RIGHT: Abram demonstrated great humility and generosity. He had the perfect right to choose for himself first: he was older, he was Lot’s uncle, he was head of the household and so forth. Yet he deferred to his nephew and allowed him to choose where to settle.

10. LOT LIFTED HIS EYES: This phrase is one that recurs frequently in Genesis. What was seen when each person lifted their eyes is important to note, because it allows us to see what was in each person’s heart. Here, Lot lifted his eyes and saw what he most wanted: choice land and wealth.

THE PLAIN OF JORDAN: This is the valley where the Jordan River flows, running between the Dead Sea (or Salt Sea) and the Sea of Galilee. The land was fertile and flat, which are two important qualities in the land of Canaan. This would have been

equivalent to the choicest and most expensive real estate in the entire region. Lot's eyes fell on the area where the wealthy dwelled.

BEFORE THE LORD DESTROYED SODOM AND GOMORRAH: The Dead Sea may not have existed yet, or was extensively smaller at this point in history. Sodom probably stood at the south end of what is now the Dead Sea.

LOT'S CHOICE: Lot looks out on the fertile Jordan River valley below him, and wealth and comfort beckon him. He will follow this desire all the way to Sodom.

11. **LOT CHOSE FOR HIMSELF:** Abram had just shown a great deference toward Lot, and the proper response would have been for Lot to return it back to his uncle, insisting that Abram choose first—as was right. Instead, Lot chose for himself, looking out for his own interests and satisfying his own desires.

12. **ABRAM DWELT IN THE LAND OF CANAAN:** In tents, as we have described earlier. This was in stark contrast to the future urban lifestyle of his nephew.

LOT DWELT IN THE CITIES OF THE PLAIN: The cities of Canaan (and beyond) represented a constant threat in the life of Abram. Whenever he went to the city, trouble followed. This pattern also held true for his nephew Lot. The cities of the plain were probably fortified with large walls and standing armies. They were without a doubt wealthy and comfortable, but they were also characterized by great wickedness.

PITCHED HIS TENT EVEN AS FAR AS SODOM: This may have been written figuratively, as Lot was living within the walls of Sodom in a house. However, he may have remained a nomad for a time after leaving Abram and gradually moved south until he came to Sodom, where he settled permanently—or so he thought. The allure of worldly pleasures and comfort frequently work this way, moving us a little at a time until one day we find ourselves entrenched in the world's system.

13. **THE MEN OF SODOM WERE EXCEEDINGLY WICKED:** Lot would have known that the people of Sodom were wicked before he even moved into that city. Lot himself was a righteous man, as the New Testament testifies (2 Peter 2:7), and one would think that he would have been unwilling to live in a city that was renowned for its

wickedness. Yet this only serves to demonstrate the deadly power that wealth and comfort can exert on us—even on those who belong to the God’s family.

PROMISED LAND: Now that Abram has parted company with his nephew Lot, God is ready to appear to him with further information concerning His promise.

14. **THE PLACE WHERE YOU ARE:** Abram was encamped near Bethel, which is roughly at the center of the area that would come to be known as Palestine.

15. **ALL THE LAND:** The land of Canaan. If you recall, Moses wrote the book of Genesis during the time when the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness, and perhaps just prior to the time when they would enter the land of Canaan and claim it as their own. But the Israelites had already surveyed the Promised Land on a previous occasion and discovered that the people who dwelled there were “strong” and that their cities were “fortified and very large” (Numbers 13:28).

I GIVE TO YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS FOREVER: It was important for the Israelites to understand *why* they were claiming the Promised Land, because they had list heart on the verge of entering it. Moses reminded them in this passage that God had promised Canaan to Abram’s descendants, and they could therefore trust Him to protect them as they entered it.

PROMISE OF DESCENDANTS: God has already promised to Abram that he will have children, but here He reveals that Abrams descendants will be innumerable.

16. **I WILL MAKE YOUR DESCENDANTS AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH:** This promise was fulfilled literally in the physical descendants of Abram. In Solomon’s day, “Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude” (1 Kings 4:20). Yet it was also fulfilled in a much larger sense when we add in the countless multitudes that have accepted Christ and, spiritually speaking, become “the seed of Abraham.” In Galatians 3:29, the apostle Paul says “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

18. **ABRAM MOVED HIS TENT:** This, as we have seen, was the pattern for the remainder of Abram’s life: he never stayed in one place for an extended period. Genesis reminds us of his unsettled life repeatedly, and the New Testament tells us

that Abraham is an example for God's people to follow. We are called to be "strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13), always focusing our eyes on eternity.

BUILT AN ALTAR THERE TO THE LORD: this was also a pattern in Abram's life: wherever he went, he built an altar and called on the name of the Lord. Building a altar in Abram's culture was a public statement of what god a person worshiped. Abram's household consisted of a great many people, so when he built an altar and offered a sacrifice, he was leading many hundreds of people—perhaps more than a thousand—in worshipping the Lord.

LOT'S CAPTURE: Lot finds that his choice of residence in Sodom has led to the first of many negative consequences to come.

14:4. **IN THE THIRTEENTH YEAR THEY REBELLED:** Raiding, conquering, and making other kings and city-states subservient vassals were all part of the world of the Fertile Crescent in Abraham's day. When vassal states thought they could throw off the yoke of their conquerors, they rebelled by not paying the assessed tribute and waited for any military response.

5. **IN THE FOURTHTEENTH YEAR CHEDORLAOMER AND THE KINGS THAT WERE WITH HIM ATTACKED:** This time the vassal states' rebellion evoked a major military response by Chedorlaomer and his allies. Sodom and Gomorrah lost, and Lot, by then a resident of Sodom, was taken captive.

10. **VALLEY OF SIDDIM:** Perhaps this was the large peninsula that comes out into the Dead Sea from the eastern shore. In Abram's time, it may have come all the way across to the western shore (near Masada), so the southern one-third of the current Dead Sea formed this dry valley.

13. **ONE WHO HAD ESCAPED:** One of the survivors fled from the invaders and located Lot's uncle. One as wealthy as Abram would not be hard to find, and obviously they thought he could do something about the crisis.

THE HEBREW: For the first time in biblical record, this ethnic appellation, "descended from Eber," is attributed to Abram. Foreigners used it for the Israelites, and the Israelites used it for themselves in the presence of the foreigners.

LOT'S RESCUE: When Abram hears of Lot's capture, he immediately gathers his forces to go in pursuit of his nephew.

14. TRIANED SERVANTS: Abram's private militia—318 members of his extended family—were highly skilled bodyguards and the protective force to his possessions. Abram mustered this force, along with the trained men of his allies, and set off in pursuit of the military kidnappers to prevent captives from being taken away to the east, to Shinar (the early name for Mesopotamia) or further east, to Elam.

15. HIS SERVANTS ATTACKED THEM AND PURSUED THEM: A battle-wise Abram, was no stranger to military strategy, pursued the enemy for more than 150 miles and defeated the marauding consortium.

17. THE VALLEY OF SHAVEH: The liberated king of Sodom went to meet Abram near Jerusalem.

Closing Prayer:

**Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses.
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee,
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed in the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary mother of God,
Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.
Amen**

**Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in need of Thy mercy. Amen

Hail Holy Queen, mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us. And after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

Heavenly Father, thank You for the many promises that are 'yes' and 'amen' in Christ Jesus my Lord. I praise and thank You for Your precious promise to deliver me from all my enemies. Thank You that, like Abram, my faith in Christ is credited as righteousness and that in Him I have been declared righteous in Your sight. May my life become a sacrifice of prayer and praise for all Your goodness and grace. This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.

“And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”
(Genesis 14:20)