

## Genesis 13 and 14 – Abram’s Continued Faithfulness and God’s Everlasting Grace

### ❖ Recap

- Tower of Babel and then the Call of Abram...

### ❖ Introduction

- We are going to go through chapters 13 and 14 today...
  - It breaks up into 7 sections... Our main focus will be on the first and the last... 1 and 7
  - Some parts just kind of set the scene...
    - And there are other parts that really tell you about the Character of Abram
    - And more importantly the character of God.
    - Those moments will be our main focus today... they will be the parts we want to hold on to.

### ❖ 1) Abram Worships

- **Genesis 13:1-4** So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. <sup>2</sup>Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. <sup>3</sup>And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, <sup>4</sup>to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord.
- **Now... this is right after Abram struggled in the land of Egypt.**
  - We saw that He was a man of Faith in following the Lord...
  - But we also saw that Abram was not complete yet...
  - He still saw failure... Although He followed God...
- **The Egyptian King has asked Abram to leave Egypt...**
  - Because Abram had lied about his wife...
  - And this brought a plague on the house of the Egyptian King...
- **As a side not: God watches over His children...**
  - Never forget this... God may allow us to go through some difficult times...
  - Often to test us and to refine our Faith..
  - But there was our Sovereign God... Protecting Sarah...
  - Bringing a plague to the house that took her from her husband...
  - **Even though they didn’t know she was Abram’s wife...**
    - And they should not have ever been in the business of taking multiple women
    - As extra wives or whatever anyway...
- **Here we see Abram returning to Canaan.... And notice his path...**
  - He goes into what is called the Negeb... and this is just the southern part of Israel
  - Which makes sense because He is coming from Egypt...
  - So at this point he is traveling northeast.... Back into the land God told him to go...
- **We also see:**
  - God has greatly blessed Abram... He is a very rich man at this point...
  - He has lots of livestock plus silver and gold...
  - God promised to bless him... and God has done so...
  - And you will see later at the end of Ch. 14 Abram’s attitude toward money and possessions...
- **He heads back to the place He had built an altar... “at the first”**
  - This is b/w two cities called Bethel and Ai... And if you remember back from last week...
  - This is where Abram had built an altar to God... This is where He worshipped God.
- **What is an Altar?**
  - **It was a place of sacrifice and worship... Abram would worship God in this manner...**

- As God likely put in place right after the first sin...
- **Adam and Eve had sinned... and God made them garments of skins...**
  - So we know... an animal of some sort must have died...
  - Of all the details Moses would give us concerned the fall of man and banishment from Eden
  - He tells us about their clothing!
  - Why? Is it because Moses is overly concerned with fashion?
  - Of course not.... It is because of where the clothes came from...
  - An animal had to die... blood had to be shed...
- **This is what was continued with Abel as He sacrificed to the Lord...**
  - What do we know about covering of sin? It required a price....
  - **Hebrews 9:22 ... and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.**
  - And God set that price high on the day of the first sin...
  - And it was to be a reminder throughout all generations that sin costs!!!
- **So... an altar was a place of sacrifice... but as a part of that... it was a place of Worship...**
  - Abram made an offering to the Lord... for his sins...
  - But this wasn't just about the offering he made...
  - It was about his attitude of worship... His heart of worship...
- **Abram isn't simply going through the motions is he?**
  - He has placed this Altar in the middle of a land filled with many pagan people...
  - People who had forsaken the Most High God...
  - Although as we will see later... Not all of them had forsaken the Most High God
- **Notice Abram's attitude**
  - **And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord.**
  - He didn't simply offer an offering... he called upon the name of the Lord
  - He sang out to Him.... He praised Him... He prayed to Him...
  - Abram worshipped....
    - ◆ After his failure in Egypt... He came back to Canaan and worshipped God...
    - ◆ And this would help prepare him for what was coming in His life...

#### ➤ **What is our Altar?**

- **Hebrews 13:10 "We have an Altar..."**
  - As we continue on from that verse... the author tells us about our Altar...
  - **IN verse 12 he says it is "Jesus".... Then in verse 13 he instructs to "Go to Him"**
    - ◆ Then... notice our instruction in verse 15...
    - ◆ **Hebrews 13:15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.**
- **Do you see our call to worship is the same as Abram's?**
  - I think we learn here exactly what Abram did...
  - A sacrifice of praise... from the lips that acknowledge His name...
  - **There is so much we could unpack just from the phrase:**
    - ◆ Acknowledge His name...
    - ◆ **Do you do this? Do you know His Name?**
      - What did Abram do? He called on the name.... the name of the Lord
- **The Altar that Abram build... and all the altars built thereafter...**
  - They were all precursors if you will... they were all foreshadowing....
  - They were all prophetic... they were all pointing to one Altar...
  - The Altar of Jesus Christ... and His one day becoming the true sacrifice of God...
  - The sacrifice to end all shedding of blood sacrifices...

- **Here I think you can see the great Faith of Abram...**
  - He built an altar and he worshipped God... And by building the altar...
  - He was believing in the promises of God to forgive Him of His sins...
  - He was believing on the future coming of Jesus...
  - Even though He did not yet fully understand what God would do
- **Genesis 13:4 And there Abram called on the name of the Lord...**
  - LORD is the Hebrew word for YAHWEH... God's personal name...
  - Abram called on the NAME of YAHWEH... **What is that name?**
  - I think we should ask not what is the name of the LORD.... **But rather.... Who is the name...**
  - There is much more going on here than you realize.... Jesus is being worshipped here...
  - **The Word "name" means "renown" or "reputation"**
    - We might could go as far as saying "glory"
- **The "Name" of Yahweh... I believe... is no doubt Jesus before Jesus becomes a man...**
  - Throughout the Old Testament... the "Name of Yahweh" is personified....
- **And He acts... Consider this...**
  - Isaiah 30:27 "Look! **The name of Yahweh** comes from afar burning with his anger and heaviness of cloud.
  - Psalm 20:1 "May Yahweh answer you in the day of trouble. **May the name of Jacob's God protect you.**"
  - Psalm 20:7 "Some boast in chariots and others in horses, but we boast in **the name of Yahweh, our God.**"
- **We can say so much more.... But time limits us...**
  - Abram called upon the name of Yahweh...
  - He worshipped Jesus in the land of Canaan... and this will prepare him to trust God...

## ❖ 2) Abram Faces Adversity

- Genesis 13:5-7 <sup>5</sup>And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, <sup>6</sup>so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, <sup>7</sup>and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.
- **Lot and Abram were blessed so much... that the land could not hold them...**
  - And there were groups of people dwelling around them as well...
  - So... inevitably some strife began to occur....
  - Not enough food and water for all of their herds...
  - Their workers were having problems with each other over this...
  - Which could have led to a problem b/w this uncle and nephew relationship...

## ❖ 3) Abram Trusts in God

- Genesis 13:8-13 <sup>8</sup>Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. <sup>9</sup>Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." <sup>10</sup>And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) <sup>11</sup>So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup>Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup>Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.
- **So... what does Abram do.... He tells Lot... Look around you...**

- I do not want strife between us...
- You go your way.... Choose any way you want... and Ill go the other way...
- **So... Lot... who was a follower of Yahweh... yet had his eye on the world too much...**
  - He chose what looked like the good land...
  - It looked so good that the Bible described it as being “like the garden of the Lord”
  - And this was to the east of where Abram was located...
  - And Lot left... and He made his dwelling place in Sodom....
- **And the this section ends like this:**
  - **Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.**
- **Lot chose by sight!.... He chose by what looked good and enticing....**
  - Abram chose by Faith...
  - He trusted in God’s promises to bless him... He knew God would take care of him...
  - And Abram treated his nephew generously.... It was his right as Lot’s elder to choose first
  - But Abram let Lot choose... And Lot gravitated toward the worldly people of Sodom...
  - And this would hurt him in the future... as well all know...
- **And God continues His work of separating Abram from his family...**
  - Even the next verse makes sure to say... “After lot separated from him”
  - God is wanting to make sure we understand that our call to follow Him...
  - Is a calling to set ourselves apart... to separate from the World around us...

#### ❖ 4) God Continues His Promises to Abram

- **Genesis 13:14-18** <sup>14</sup> The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, <sup>15</sup> for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. <sup>16</sup> I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. <sup>17</sup> Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.” <sup>18</sup> So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.
- **In the last section of Genesis 13... The Lord renews and adds more details to His promises**
  - He tells Abram to look around... In all directions...
  - And I will give your offspring this land forever... and I will make them like the dust of the earth...
  - SO that if one could count the dust of the earth.... They could count your offspring...
- **Then He tells Abram to go for a walk... a long walk... and walk the length and width of the land...**
  - And that God would give all of that to Abram’s offspring...
- **And this chapter ends where it began... with worship...**
  - Abram moves his tent and settles by a guy named Mamre.... And he owned some land with oaks
  - And Abram settles by the oaks of this man Mamre who would become his ally...
- **And there He built an Altar to the Lord... (Look at verse 18)**
  - Continuing to worship... continuing to set himself apart from his previous idol worshipping family
  - Continuing to serve as an ambassador for the name of God in a foreign Land...
  - Abram sets up an altar and worships the Lord God... And He is a light for those around him...

#### ❖ 5) Abram Faces More Adversity

- **Genesis 14:1-12** In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, <sup>2</sup> these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). <sup>3</sup> And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). <sup>4</sup> Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. <sup>5</sup> In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the

Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, <sup>6</sup> and the Horites in their hill country of Seir as far as El-paran on the border of the wilderness. <sup>7</sup> Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh) and defeated all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazon-tamar. <sup>8</sup> Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they joined battle in the Valley of Siddim <sup>9</sup> with Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against five. <sup>10</sup> Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country. <sup>11</sup> So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. <sup>12</sup> They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.

➤ **We won't read this entire section... I'll just give you a summary of what happens...**

- And it is a really neat section of scripture... I just love it... I love what Abram is about to do...
- This section just really sets the scene for us to see Abram's Faith continue to grow...

➤ **Kings are about to go to war... And Lot had just moved in!**

- Lot was living in a land where there were a group of what could be called...
- Client Kings... or almost like Governors of the land... And these kings were from this land...
- But they were subject to greater kings that were foreign to this land...
- These greater kings had probably come in for the natural resources of the land...
- And these subject kings had to fall under their authority...
- The main King they were subject to was a guy named Chedorlaomer
  - <sup>4</sup>Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.
  - But... they had had enough...

➤ **So 5 kings decided to start a rebellion....**

- Kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar rebelled against Chedorlaomer King of Elam
- So the King of Elam... who was a descendent of Elam... who was the Son of Shem... Son of Noah...
  - Interestingly... Abram also came from Shem... but a different son named Arpachshad...
- So the King of Elam came in with three other Kings... of Shinar, Ellasar, and Goiim...
- 4 Kings and against 5.... Gathered in the Valley of Siddim... And these four won the war...

➤ **And this is what it says in Genesis 14:11-12**

- <sup>11</sup>So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. <sup>12</sup>They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.
- Poor ol Lot.... Thought he had picked a great spot... but He didn't!!!!
- Good thing His uncle loved him...

❖ **6) Abram Responds in Faith**

- Genesis 14:13-16 <sup>13</sup> Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram. <sup>14</sup> When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. <sup>15</sup> And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. <sup>16</sup> Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.

➤ **So... Abram... sprang into Action.... And He got his buddy Mamre the Amorite...**

- Who had a couple brothers.... Eshcol and Aner... and they were allies of Abram...

➤ **Abram had 318 trained men who had been born in his house...**

- Meaning from all the people that served him...
- And I assume the other guys had men as well...
- So we don't know for sure how many men Abram took with him...

- **And Abram shows great military strategy and divides up his forces during the night...**
  - And they go into battle... and they went in and defeated these kings....
  - And he also got back all of the possessions...
  - Along with his nephew Lot... and the women and the people taken captive...
- **Abram responded in great Faith and with great bravery...**
  - Unlike Abram's fearful behavior in Egypt... He responds differently here...
  - And as you will see God is going to reward him... and you see one of God's promises occurring...
  - He hasn't been given the land yet... He is still a nomad essentially...
  - He hasn't been given the promised Son...
  - But God is making Abram's name great isn't He?
- **In stark contrast to the people of Babel...**
  - Who wanted to make a name for themselves... so they dishonored and disobeyed God
  - And God scattered them...
  - **Here... Abram trusts God... and God rewards Him in making Abram's name great...**
    - The man who went and defeated 4 great kings with just his men and allies...
    - Yet Abram continues to make the name of God great... and not his own...

## ❖ 7) Abram Seeks God as His Reward (Read this)

- Genesis 14:17-24 <sup>17</sup> After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). <sup>18</sup> And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. <sup>21</sup> And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself." <sup>22</sup> But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, <sup>23</sup> that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.' <sup>24</sup> I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share."
- **Notice the two kings that come to Abram**
  - The King of Sodom
  - King Melchizedek King of Salem... who was also a priest of God Most High
  - His name meant King of Righteousness
  - **And He was King of a place called Salem... which is actually Jerusalem...**
    - It is first called Salem but later changed to Jerusalem...
    - And Salem means peace...
    - So Melchizedek is King of Righteousness... King of Peace...
- **And we see it says.... He was a priest of God Most High...**
  - He worshipped the Most High God... El Elyon... This highest God
  - And He did this in the land of Canaan... he did this in the midst of people worshipping little gods...
  - Lesser gods that were not gods to begin with...
  - And part of me wonders if God send Abram here to Canaan in part...
    - To meet Melchizedek and to grow in his faith through this man...
- **Notice what Melchizedek brought...**
  - Bread and wine...
  - And the way the text is written we are supposed to see a connection...
    - He brought bread and wine.... FOR... (He was a priest of God Most High)
- **Melchizedek is what is called a type of Christ... a Picture of Christ...**

- He is a King and He is a priest just like Jesus was...
- And He brings the bread and the wine... which are the elements of the Lord's Supper...
- Interestingly... long before the covenant of the law God makes with Israel...
- **You see a priest with the same covenant elements that Jesus uses at the Lord's Supper...**
  - You think this is an accident? It is not an accident...
  - Jesus is being pictured even here in Genesis 14...
- **Melchizedek blesses Abram with the bread and the wine....**
  - And with His words He says... **"<sup>19</sup>And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;**
  - This King is making much of God.... Much of the name of God... and God's position
  - He is the God Most High... the Possessor of heaven and earth...
- **How Does Abram respond?**
  - Again it is with worship.... And with giving....
  - Abram gives a tenth of everything to this Priest...
  - And here is where the tithe begins in the Bible...
  - And this is why I think that the tithe is not an Old Testament law for the nation of Israel
  - **Rather... it is an example given to us by our Father in the Faith...**
    - Abram... as to how we are to give...
    - This comes before the law... this comes as Abram has responded in Faith to God...
    - And part of his faith... is to give a tenth of all he has...
    - To the priest of God Most High...
- **Notice... Abram had another opportunity...**
  - Maybe you could say... A better business opportunity... or maybe a better religious opportunity
  - He also had the King of Sodom there...
  - And the King of Sodom.... His name was Bera the King of Sodom...
  - He tells Abram he can have all of the spoil... all of the goods he recovered...
  - Just give the people back...
- **Abram has before him two roads... a worldly road that takes the spoil...**
  - And he has the godly road that gives generously a tenth of what he has to God...
- **Abram responds in Faith...**
  - He gives a tenth to the priest of God.... And he returns everything to the King of Sodom...
  - And he does this making a point.... And what is the point?
- **In Faith He Chooses God Most High....**
  - He says I have promised to God I will take nothing... not even a sandal strap...
  - Lest you say you have made Abram rich....
  - **You see:**
    - God had promised to bless Abram... And it would be God that Abram would trust in...
- **Application:**
  - You have the world before you promising you many pleasures... just like it did to Lot...
  - And you have God promising you eternal Life...
  - Many of God's promises to Abraham were not seen in his lifetime...
  - But he sits before God today having received ALL of the Promises forevermore

## ❖ Invitation

- Will you choose by Faith the Lord Jesus Christ this morning?
- Chapter 13 began with Abram worshipping.... It ends with Abram worshipping...
  - Then we see His continued worship with the King of Salem... the priest of the Most High God...
  - Does your life look like this?