

## Abraham was Promised a Seed and some Land

### I. Introduction

#### A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. Lot Wanted the Best for Himself (Genesis 13:5-12)
2. God Promised Abraham Two Things (Genesis 13:14-17 and Genesis 22:1-19)
3. Jesus Taught Christians to have Abraham's Attitude (Matthew 20:20-28)
4. Love God above All and your Neighbor as Yourself (Matthew 22:37-39)
5. Righteousness by Obedient Faith (Romans 4:1-3 and James 2:21-23)

**Question:** What two promises did the Lord make to Abraham?

B. The Lord promised him a seed and land (Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 13:14-16).

C. Abraham was very rich.

1. Abraham was a rich man when he left Egypt.
2. *Some might say that his riches had been gained unethically, and they might be correct.*
3. *Some might say that he had sold his wife for some sheep, oxen, and servants, and they might be correct.*
4. Genesis 12:16 says, "And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels."

D. Abraham made some serious mistakes as Abram and as Abraham.

1. Genesis 12:11-20 with Pharaoh and Sarai.
2. Genesis 15:2 says, "And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and *the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?*"
3. Genesis 16:4 says, "And *he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived:* and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes."
4. Genesis 20:2-7 with King Abimelech and Sarah.

E. *But Abraham was doing what a lot of people try to do.*

1. He was trying to help God fulfill the promises made to him in Genesis 12:1-3.
2. He was fixated on the promise of a seed.
3. With Pharaoh and King Abimelech, he was trying to keep Sarah and himself alive long enough to have the seed that God had promised.
4. With Eliezer, he was complaining to the Lord that he was still childless. At that point, his possessions would have gone to Eliezer.
5. With Hagar, he was trying to use his own devices to have the promised seed.
6. After the promises were first given, he might have even thought that Lot was the chosen seed, which in Genesis 12:5 would explain why he took Lot with him from Haran.

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**Question:** How did Lot show his true attitude? What happened to his family and him in the end? Do you believe that Lot was saved?

- II. Abraham was a better uncle to Lot than Lot was a nephew to Abraham.
- A. Lot failed to live up to the promises of the promised seed.
1. In Genesis 13:5-13, he did the politically incorrect thing.
  2. He took the better land for himself.
  3. Genesis 13:10-11 says, "And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. **Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan;** and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other."
  4. Lot's gesture would have gone against that culture.
  5. When they separated themselves, Abraham knew that Lot was not the promised seed.
- B. Lot suffered the consequences in the end.
1. He ended up in the wicked land of Sodom (from which we get sodomy)
  2. When the angels removed him from Sodom, he had no influence on his sons-in-law (Genesis 19:14).
  3. He lost his wife (Genesis 19:26).
  4. He had sons by his two daughters (Genesis 19:35-38).
  5. But despite these things, ***he was justified before God (II Peter 2:7).***
- C. Why did Lot's wife turn to salt? What was the significance?
1. Genesis 19:25-26 says, "And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."
  2. Lot and his family lacked salt in their lives.
  3. Matthew 5:13 says, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but ***if the salt have lost his savour***, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth ***good for nothing***, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."
  4. Mark 9:50 says, "Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? ***Have salt in yourselves***, and have peace one with another."
  5. Salt (***halas***) - wisdom and grace exhibited in speech.
- D. Lot's daughters had learned sexual perversion from where the people where they had lived.
1. Genesis 19:37-38 says, "And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the ***father of the Moabites*** unto this day. And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the ***father of the children of Ammon*** unto this day."
  2. The Moabites were enemies of Israel.

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- a. In Numbers 22:3-5, King Balak of Moab consulted with Balaam about how to curse Israel.
- b. Moab was put under a curse for rising up against the Lord (II Kings 3:26, II Chronicles 20:22-24, Jeremiah 48:42 and Amos 2:1-3).
- c. They were involved in idolatry (Judges 10:6).
3. The Ammonites were also enemies of Israel.
  - a. Ammon also rose up against Israel (II Chronicles 20:22-24).
  - b. They were involved in idolatry (Judges 10:6).
- E. Nevertheless, saved people will see Lot in heaven.
  1. II Peter 2:6-8 says, "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And **delivered just Lot**, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For **that righteous man dwelling among them**, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds)"
  2. Righteous (**dikaios**) - approved of or acceptable of God.
  3. Lot was badly tarnished, but he was still counted among those right with the Lord.

**Question:** How does one attain greatness in God's eyes? How would you describe the relationship between holiness and having a servant's attitude? What did James write about Abraham in James 2:21-23? What did the Apostle Paul write about Abraham in Romans 4:1-3? In Matthew 22:37-39, what are the two commandments that Jesus gave to His listeners?

### III. Attitudes that make the Lord happy.

- A. How to be a person be a hero of the Faith.
  1. **Have Faith in the Lord:** Hebrews 11:6 says, "But **without faith it is impossible to please him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
  2. **Go where He leads without question or hesitation:** Hebrews 11:7 says, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, **moved** with fear, **prepared** an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."
  3. **Blind obedience in all things:** Hebrews 11:8 says, "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, **obeyed**; and he went out, **not knowing** whither he went."
  4. **Be a person of genuine integrity:** Hebrews 11:24 says, "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, **refused** to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;"

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5. ***Be Christ-centered in all areas of your life:*** Of Moses, Hebrews 11:26 says, "Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."
- B. Holiness and being a servant.
  1. A person can be holy without being a servant.
  2. A person will become holy as he or she becomes a better servant.
  3. Matthew 20:26-27 says, "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:"
  4. Jesus associated greatness with serving others, not with being holy.
- C. The Epistle of James was not immediately accepted into the Canon.
  1. It was one of the seven antilegomena.
  2. ***The other heavily scrutinized books are Hebrews, II John, III John, II Peter, Jude, and Revelation.***
  2. Church fathers initially thought that James' message contradicted the Apostle Paul.
  3. James 2:21-23 says, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, ***Abraham believed God***, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."
- D. Romans 4:1-3 says, "What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? ***Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.***"
  1. Believed (*pisteuo*) – to think to be true or to be persuaded.
  2. Through his many experiences, Abraham learned to trust the Lord more and more every day.
- E. The Commandments of Christ
  1. Matthew 22:37-38 says, "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."
  2. Matthew 22:39-40 says, "And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

## **Abraham was Promised a Seed and some Land**

Next week's lesson: "Abraham Took Matters into his Own Hands"

### Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 13:1
Tuesday:	Genesis 15:1-6 and Genesis 16:1-5
Wednesday:	Genesis 16:13 and Genesis 21:1-7
Thursday:	Genesis 22:1-14
Friday:	Exodus 3:1-14

### Study questions:

1. What two promises were made to Abraham?
2. How did God reveal Himself to Abraham when Isaac was to be offered? In that episode, how did Isaac compare to Jesus on the cross?
3. What two ways did Abraham get ahead of God concerning his promised seed?
4. Who was Hagar, what was her son's name, and what people have descended from her? How did Abraham treat Hagar? How did the Lord reveal Himself to Hagar? What does Jehovah Rohi mean, and why was that significant to Hagar?
5. Who was Jehovahjireh, and when was that name given? What does Jehovah mean?
6. In Exodus 3:13-14, Moses asked God His name so that the Egyptians and Jews would know Him? What did that name mean? Why was that name new to the Jews since it frequently appears in the Book of Genesis? By what name did Abraham know God? See Exodus 6:3.