

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
GENESIS 13 - ABRAHAM AND LOT, 14 - HISTORY

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our story of Abraham.

Genesis 13

Say - The story of Abraham, which means "Father of a multitude", is a story of Faith in God; while most people ignored and still do the Laws of God, Abraham, the Bible tells us, "obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws (God's Torah) which is the totality of all the teachings of God with many divisions such as the priesthood, clean and unclean foods and all of this was long before Mt. Sinai. Genesis 26:5.

Say - Also we will study and add more to the covenant God made with Abraham for we do not want to forget this very important covenant for it has affected the entire world we will see as we continue our study. Remember in the last lesson "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: ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" Genesis 12:1-3.

¹And Abram (original name of Abraham) went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south (Lot was Abraham's nephew).

²And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold (scarce in Canaan but plentiful in Egypt. Abraham's silver and gold probably came from the sale of his produce in Egypt but also remember God said He would "bless him" for his obedience, Genesis 12:2.).

³ (Abraham moved slowly with his cattle and flocks because he needed to camp where there was pasture for them and water) And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning ("Tent" shows Abraham to be a stranger to the area), between Bethel and Hai (Commentaries say this was a hill of olive groves which would give shade for the tent of Abraham and the altar to give thanks to God);

⁴Unto the place of the altar, which he had make there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD (Abraham knew God and wanted His guidance for the beginning of his trip to Canaan and offered the usual sacrifices to God).

⁵And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents (for the dwellers).

⁶And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together (meaning Lot and Abraham, read on for why): for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together (not enough land and water for their flocks).

⁷And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle (this was the first step downward for Lot. Make note of Lot's downward trend, vs. 7 "strife", vs. 10, "beheld" vs. 11, "chose", vs. 12, "pitched toward", Genesis 14:12, "dwelt in", Genesis 19:1, "sat in its gate" as a ruler and citizen); and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

⁸And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren (were relatives also remember Abraham lived "The Way" of God. Remember God tells us, ¹⁰Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; ¹⁸If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" Romans 12:10, 18.).

⁹Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left (Abraham was respectful to God and knew how to get along plus God was directing all things in Abraham's life).

¹⁰And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where (great contrast to Canaan after the famine and likened more to be like the fertility of Egypt), before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD (Garden of Eden), like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

¹¹Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other (See how Lot made up his own mind and made his own choice without consulting God; he made up his mind from a worldly point of view but it was not in Lot's best interests to live in Sodom).

¹²Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan (This is exactly how God wanted it), and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom (means flaming, burning and that is what happened to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah).

Say - Here is what God said through His Prophet Ezekiel about Sodom, ⁴⁹Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

⁵⁰And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good. Ezekiel 16:49-50.

¹³But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly (Shows the nature of Lot's choice).

¹⁴And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward (Abraham is in the midst of the Land of Promise, Canaan, where Abraham would make a mighty nation like the "dust of the earth in number and all the families of the earth would be blessed" Genesis 28:14. Canaan is spiritually symbolic of the coming Kingdom of God and unless we leave Babylon physically and spiritually as Abraham did we will not be in God's Kingdom as we studied in the previous lesson.):

Say - Now we will add more to the Covenant God made with Abraham in the following verses. We will be talking about this covenant a great deal in our studies because this covenant has affected history down through the ages and will continue until the time of Christ's return and after in His soon coming Kingdom. None of us want to miss the study of God's covenant with Abraham for it is very interesting and very important for God's people today for the people God has called down through the ages and is still calling, is a part of this covenant for we are His Bride!

¹⁵For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed (descendants) for ever (This was repeated and passed on to Isaac, Genesis 26:3 and Jacob, Genesis 28:13, 35:12 and Jacob's grandchildren from Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, Genesis 48:11-16. Therefore Israel, the twelve tribes, is an everlasting nation, Isaiah 44:7.).

¹⁶And I will make thy seed (descendants) as the dust of the earth (In Genesis 15:5 says "stars"): so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed (descendants) also be numbered.

¹⁷Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee (God is telling Abraham, go take a look, it is all yours for eternity in the future resurrection).

¹⁸Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD (Even though Abraham came from a wealthy family, he lived in tents to exemplify his state of mind for he knew this life is temporary and looked to God for the future permanent dwelling place, the ultimate Heavenly Jerusalem).

Genesis 14

Say - I have recorded Genesis 14 as a history chapter and it shows how involved God is with Abraham in all things.

¹And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar (Babylon), Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations (Shinar or Ur or Babylon is where Abraham came from. King Amraphel is usually associated with Hammarabi, a king highly enlightened in truth and error. He codified all the laws available at that time and it is called the Code of Hammarabi and included in this "code" were the Laws of God so when this was excavated some said this is where Moses got the Laws but that is not so, Moses got the Laws from the Most High God);

²That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar.

³All these were joined together (allies) in the vale of Siddim (Valley of the Salt Sea), which is the salt sea. ⁴Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

⁵And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that were with him, and smote the Rephaims (land of huge people, giants) in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim, ⁶And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto Elparan, which is by the wilderness.

⁷And they returned, and came to Enmishpat (means place of Judgment), which is Kadesh, and smote all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Hazezontamar.

⁸And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim;

⁹With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings with five.

¹⁰And the vale of Siddim was full of slimepits (all white salt and would get stuck in it); and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain.

¹¹And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way.

¹²And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom ((by adoption when Lot's father, Haran, died), and his goods, and departed.

¹³And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew (First time the Hebrew word is use because Abram or Abraham came from over the river and all called Hebrews); for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.

¹⁴And when Abram heard that his brother (nephew actually) was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house (probably all instructed on the worship of God as the "servants" were treated as part of his family), three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan (was no Dan at this time but probably added by Ezra when codified).

¹⁵And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus ("by night" means they waited until all were fast asleep and then struck the tents and there was very little loss on either side).

¹⁶And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people (God gave Abraham total victory, a few against the many. This is something we should remember for with God the amount against us means nothing for when we follow God He is the leader and in perfect love there is no fear).

¹⁷And the king of Sodom went out to meet him (Abraham) after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.

¹⁸And Melchizedek (Jesus) king of Salem ("Salem" means Jerusalem, King of Righteousness, Jesus Christ, Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 7:1-3) brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God (Jesus Christ celebrates victory with Abraham).

¹⁹And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

²⁰And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he (Abraham) gave him (Melchizedek, Jesus Christ) tithes of all (in thanksgiving for Abraham was taught to "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" Proverbs 3:9-10).

²¹And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself (Abraham was not interested in the riches of the King of Sodem meaning the riches of the world; Abraham knew the riches of God who was the giver of victory.).

²²And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD (means I swear unto the LORD), the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, ²³That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take

any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say (the King of Sodom), I have made Abram rich:

²⁴Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

MEMORY VERSE

Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife between me and thee...for we be brethren.

Genesis 13:8

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS BELOW

ABRAHAM AND LOT

ABRAHAM MEANS "FATHER OF A MULTITUDE" AND THAT IS SURELY WHAT HE WAS TO BE FOR GOD SAID, "I WILL MAKE YOUR SEED AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH"; "FOR A GREAT NATION I WILL MAKE OF YOU" GOD SAID, "AND THROUGH YOU BLESSED WILL BE ALL THE EARTH".

ABRAHAM HAD A NEPHEW NAMED LOT, AND SOON, HARAN, LOT'S FATHER DIED, SO ABRAHAM TOOK HIM AS HIS SON;
TOGETHER THEY HAD MANY CATTLE AND GREAT FLOCKS AND WERE RICH IN SILVER AND GOLD FROM ALL GOD FOR THEM HAD DONE.

BUT THE TIME HAD COME FOR ABRAHAM AND LOT TO PART FOR THE LAND, THEIR ANIMALS, IT COULD NOT SUPPORT;
STRIFE BEGAN BETWEEN THE SHEPHERDS OF ABRAHAM AND LOT BUT ABRAHAM SAID TO LOT, "LET THERE BE NO STRIFE FOR WE ARE BRETHREN" AND WE MUST LIVE THE LAWS OF OUR LORD.

"CHOOSE THE LAND YOU WANT" ABRAHAM SAID TO LOT.
LOT CHOSE THE LAND OF THE PLAINS OF JORDAN AND SET UP HIS TENT IN SODOM, THE LAND OF WICKEDNESS;
ABRAHAM, DIRECTED BY GOD, DWELLED IN CANAAN FOR IT WAS THE PROMISED LAND AND IS SYMBOLIC OF THE SOON COMING KINGDOM OF GOD; A KINGDOM OF KINDNESS.

*ABRAM SAID UNTO LOT, LET THERE BE NO STRIFE
BETWEEN ME AND THEE...*

*ABRAHAM
DWELLED IN THE
LAND OF CANAAN...
GENESIS 13:12*

*LOT DWELLED
IN THE CITIES OF THE
PLAIN... TOWARDS
SODOM.
GENESIS 13:12*



*FOR WE BE BRETHREN.
GENESIS 13:8*