

Learning of Faith

📖 Genesis 13,14

Beginnings

A Study of Genesis

Time to separate, 13:1-13

- ✓ **Back to God**, Isa 55:7

- ✓ **Learning to trust**, Prov 3:5,6; Jam 4:7-10

- ✓ **The eye trap**, 1Jn 2:16

Time to see, 13:14-18

- ✓ **Land/Offspring/Blessing**

- ✓ **Fix your eyes**, 2Cor 4:16-18; 5:7; Heb 12:2

- ✓ **Inheritance**, Luke 12:32-34; 1Pet 1:1-3

Time to trust, 14:1-24

- ✓ **Melchizedek, King & Priest**, Heb 5:10, 7:1-19

- ✓ **Wholeness of devotion**, Ps 73:23-26; Mat 6:33

Learning of Faith: The Story of Lot & Abram

📖 Genesis 13 & 14

1. Time to separate, 13:1-13

13:1-4 ⇒ ABRAM HEADS BACK TO GOD

Abram heads back to the Land of Promise and back to a walk of faith. HE IS LEARNING.

LOT Can be seen as an illegitimate burden that God Commanded to AVOID.

📖 Genesis 12:1-4

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

LOT ⇒ SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING ⇒ A beautiful picture of UNWARRANTED ENCUMBRANCE aimed at SELF PRESERVATION. One that is added because it is the safe thing to do despite God's PROMISE. One that is added to hedge against God's lack of provision, where Abram likely sees him as a descendent to carry on the family name [remember, Lot's father, Abraham's brother Haran died]. This is a HEDGING AGAINST GOD'S PROMISE, because God's Promise seems so unlikely, improbable, impossible.

What are the 'LOT'S' in our lives?

Q: What are the things that we build into our lives that 'hedge' against God's promises of care? On this earth, wisdom and planning are needed (Prov 16:3, 20:18, 21:5), but we can move and plan in a way that hedges against God's care. Do You Trust God?

- Fear that gridlocks behavior (unwilling to risk)
- Worry that derails dependence upon God; consumes energy, time
- Over saving to the detriment of giving to Kingdom work and love of people

📖 Isaiah 55:7

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

13:5-9 ⇒ ABRAM LEARNS TO TRUST: HE LET'S LOT CHOOSE

Renewal of Obedience ⇒ Abram's renewed vision and focus upon God is evident. God has just saved him in Egypt, despite that which he deserved. He is learning to trust and he is learning to walk/live in faith and dependence.

v. 8 may well be a beautiful move of faith on Abram's part, and yet it seems culturally inappropriate that Lot would have the choice (which he does not hesitate to take and take the best from Uncle Abram).

Q: What are the lessons in your life that have been trust-learning lessons?

Trust lessons are most often learned when we choose to take a path of humility.

📖 James 4:7-10

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

13:10-13 THE EYE TRAP

There is something subtle and telling in what transpires with Lot's choice and how he gets there:

📖 Gen 13:10,11

¹⁰*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.)* ¹¹*So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.*

And then there is the lesson of where he went... toward Sodom where those lived who were 'great sinners against the Lord'. The implication is not that his motivation was to be a light in darkness, but a chasing of that which is attractive to the flesh.

Q: What are you staring at?

- One of the most beautiful things said about Abraham in Scripture is that he knew how to move and wait for that which was promised, Heb 11:8-10. He did not get even a 'foot's length' as Stephen says it in Acts 7:5, just the promise of what was yet to come.
- What does it look like to 'wait' in this life?
- 2Cor 4:16-18 Do we really understand that this life will bring things that cause us, if we allow it, to lose heart? How what is God's remedy for not losing heart?

📖 Hebrews 11:8-10

⁸*By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.*

📖 1John 2:16

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

2. Time to see, 13:14-18

What a contrast to Lot 'seeing' and taking! Now God ask Abraham to 'see' what is yet to come.

LAND/OFFSPRING/BLESSING God's Promise repeated (with more clarity):

The 'center point' of the Promised Land ➡ the central alter near Bethel. Look around, North, South, East, West. The southern alter is built at Hebron where Abram settles down. Shechem/Bethel/Hebron [North/Central/South]

We learn to **FIX OUR EYES** on the unseen

📖 2Cor 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart... ...as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

📖 2Cor 5:7

... for we walk by faith, not by sight.

We are waiting for an **INHERITANCE** that is not here

📖 Luke 12:32-34

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

📖 1Peter 1:3-5

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded nthrough faith for a salvation oready to be revealed in the last time.

Watch God's providence in Lot's Selection: Lot's selfishness is used by God to accomplish God's will for Abram.

**Q: Have you ever not received what you thought was 'best' and God turned it into blessing?
Or closer yet: Has what you thought was best ever been taken from you and God later made that which you received the better path?**

- We ought always be aware that 'God has our back' in the midst of life.

3. Time to trust, 14:1-24

14:1-16 A battle that results in Lot's capture and rescue by Abram.

MELCHIZEDEK: He is KING & PRIEST

14: 18 Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) This mysterious figure who is not seen again, is a pre-figuring of Jesus Christ. His name means 'King of Righteousness' and he is the 'King of Peace'.

Read  Hebrews 7 for a better understanding.

He is a different kind of priest than those who would come under the Law given through Moses. That would be fathered by Aaron the Levite; the Aaronic priesthood that mediates under the Law.

Jesus Christ would fulfill the Law and be a MEDIATOR like that of the line of Melchizedek. BEFORE the LAW. This was the COVENANT of FAITH before the LAW.

Jesus, Son of God comes as a Priest in the Order/Likeness of Melchizedek. He mediates, not under the Law, but Mediates on the Promise of Love Made by God.

God Most High ⇒ COMPOUND TITLE OF GOD

EL ELYON ⇒ literally: God Upper Most; Most Supreme; Most High

ABRAM'S WHOLENESS OF DEVOTION

Abram Worships God through giving of his possessions, while at the same time he refuses the payment of the King from Sodom (where wickedness against the Lord was great).

Q: Do you see your giving of time and money to kingdom work as worship?

- Read this passage: What does this look like in your life? **BE PRACTICAL**

 Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.