

## **“Abram Rescues Lot”**

Genesis 13:1-14:24

For the week of January 10, 2021

### **Earthly Wealth**

Read Genesis 13:1-7. Both Abram and Lot had great wealth. Does God condemn anyone for having riches? Why or why not? Is having earthly wealth as sign of God's blessing? Why or why not? What do the following passages say about wealth?

- 1 Chronicles 29:12
- Mark 10:23
- 1 Timothy 6:17

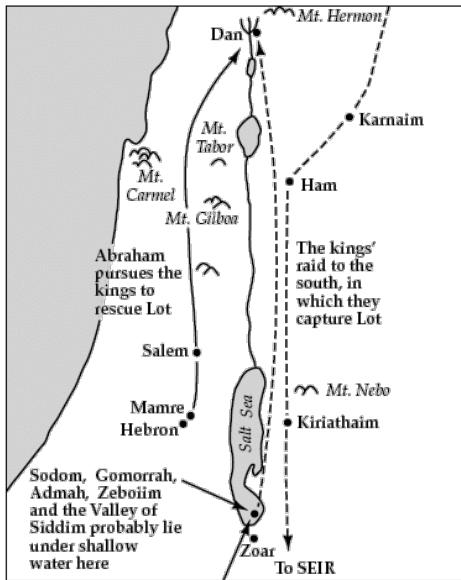
### **Choices Have Consequences**

Read Genesis 13:8-18. Discuss the choices made by Abram and Lot. One chose well; the other didn't. What are the lessons learned from their choices?

### **Four Truths of Choices Made**

Lot's poor decision is reflected in four truths listed below. Discuss each one in your group.

1. Always look beyond the immediate results. Lot failed to do this in his selection of Sodom, and we often blow it in similar ways. We often want what we want right now and fail to look at the consequences.
2. Never underestimate the impact of a permanent consequence. Lot looked and saw how green the valley was, how much water was there, and how good it would be for his cattle. Did he ever ask how this move would impact his family? No.
3. Forget about pleasing only yourself. Lot focused on what he thought was good for himself only. A decision made today will impact not only you, but others as well.
4. Remember that if the decision is going to hamper your walk with God, it is the wrong decision. Lot didn't think how his decision was going to impact his walk with God. Lot only thought about getting rich. He didn't consider the sinful cities near where he relocated. How much do you consider how your walk with God might be impacted by the decisions you make?



### Abram's Response

Read Genesis 14:1-13. When Abram heard of Lot's troubles, he could have responded with the following:

- "Big deal, so what?"
- "I've got my own problems to deal with here"
- "He finally got what he deserved"
- "I'm not surprised...I warned him this would happen"

Why is it so easy to give one of the above four responses? Is there ever a situation where one of these responses is appropriate? Explain.

So how did Abram respond? What did Abram's response tell you about Abram? How can this apply to you today in how you respond to a situation?

### Giving God Credit

Read Genesis 14:14-20. Some might think Abram won the battle because he had 318 trained men to fight (verse 14) or he won because he had a surprise nighttime attack (verse 15). However, the reason for Abram's success is given in verses 19-20. What is it?

Look inward at the success you have achieved in your life. Has this been a result of your efforts or others? What was God's role? Explain and give an example!

## **Time, Talents, Treasures**

Read Genesis 14:19-24. Abram gave the High Priest Melchizedek a tenth of the spoils of the battle to honor God. Abram's giving was an act of worship to God. Then Abram publicly declares that his blessings are from God and he will not allow the king of Sodom to claim otherwise. He refuses to keep anything belonging to the Sodomites so that they cannot claim that their possessions made Abram rich.

Do you acknowledge God with your possessions and money? In what ways do you, or can you, acknowledge God with the following:

- Your time
- Your talents
- Your treasures

## **The Mystery of Melchizedek**

This chapter gives us one of the most puzzling mysteries of the Bible. Who is Melchizedek? Where did he come from? How is he a priest of God Most High? Who is he related to? The Bible mentions him only a couple more times. Once in Psalms, David speaks of Christ prophetically and says that Jesus will be high priest in the order of Melchizedek. Then in Hebrews, Jesus is said to be appointed by God to be the High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. In chapter 14 we do learn the following about Melchizedek:

- King of Salem
- Priest of the Most High God
- He receives tithes from Abram
- He has no recorded birth or death
- He gives Abram bread and wine

By receiving the tithe, he establishes himself as the only person Abram recognized as a spiritual superior. Many biblical scholars see this as a "theophany," which is an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ!

Read Psalm 110 where David presents Melchizedek as a type of Christ. Now read Hebrews 7:1-10. Finally, read Hebrews 6:20. So are Melchizedek and Jesus the same person? A case can be made either way. What say you?!

## **Do you have Abram's Characteristics of Greatness?**

As we read about Abram in Genesis 13-14, we see someone who had the qualities of greatness. Let's look at these characteristics and as you do so, assess whether you have these same qualities.

Genuine unselfishness – A great person will not hold tightly to their possessions. They exhibit open generosity, and selfless motives in making decisions. This person gives things away showing an unselfish attitude. Read Genesis 13:9. How did Abram show this quality? What are ways a person can show unselfishness today? Give examples and discuss.

Willingness to sacrifice for others – A great person gives themselves to others. They will step in and help others in need, often to the point of sacrifice, without waiting to be asked. Read Genesis 14:13-14. How did Abram show this characteristic? How have you helped others? Be specific.

Pure motives – Another way of saying this is lack of greed. A great person doesn't have a hidden agenda. They are not driven by the desire of money or fame. How did Abram show this characteristic in Genesis 14:23? How do you determine if a person has pure motives or is motivated by greed?

Restraint of power – Great people who have authority don't use their authority to threaten or control people. Instead, they are willing to let others make the decision when appropriate. They will acknowledge the dignity of others. Maybe the best term for this is humility. How does Abram exhibit humility in Genesis 14:24? Now take a moment to think of someone whom you believe has shown humility in their life. Describe this person and why you selected the person.