

Genesis: Chapters 13 and 14

Opening Question: What does the reader learn about Abram's understanding of blessing from this scene and why would Israel need to know this?

Key Takeaways:

1. The language of the story including “saw” and “journeyed eastward” alert the reader that Lot's choice to separate from Abram was wrong.
2. Lot should have stayed with Abram, the carrier of the promise, rather than separating from him in pursuit of material blessing.
3. Abram gets involved in the war between the kings solely to rescue his nephew Lot and is learning his role as mediator.
4. This scene introduces Melchizedek, whose name means “King of Righteousness.” Melchizedek is the king of Salem and the priest of God Most High to whom Abram makes an offering.
5. Melchizedek is a type of Christ, superior to Abram, who blesses Abram.
6. Abram's seed is referred to as the “dust of the earth” in this scene which will be referenced in Daniel 12 and has been introduced in the story in Genesis 3.
7. Abram is learning not to take things out of the land and to seek blessing from the LORD, not from the kings of the nations.
8. These lessons to Abram will be necessary for Israel to know as they take the land and operate in while relating to the possessions and the people there.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read together chapters 13 and 14 and write down all the dialogue in these chapters. What does the reader learn from what the characters are saying in this scene?
2. What new information is given to the reader in this scene and what established language is being used that the reader should recognize?
3. How do the responses of the different characters in this scene work to inform the original audience of their role as the LORD's nation?

Practical Application:

1. Reread Genesis 13–14 and list any new information you find there.
2. What is the point of this scene, which spans both chapters, and how did it inform the original audience, Israel, as they prepared to enter the Promised Land?
3. What does the reader learn about Abram and about Lot as they follow along through this scene?

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for Your promise to send the true image-bearer to remove the curses on creation. We marvel at Your unfolding story and anxiously await the fulfilment of all that You have revealed in Your Word. Amen.