

# Genesis 12:10-14:24 – 3 October 2019

## “Abraham’s Commitment To God”

### Introduction

Chapter 12 begins with Abraham making a great commitment to God by leaving Ur of the Chaldees and coming into the land of Canaan.

And so too, we as Christians, have made a commitment to God.

But what was Abraham’s commitment? Was it a commitment to come to Canaan? Was it a commitment to try out a lifestyle of following the Lord? Or was it a commitment to a life-long relationship and fellowship with the Creator of the Universe?

**There are 4 parts of Abraham’s commitment to God that we’ll examine today in chapter 12-14.**

# **1<sup>st</sup> thing about Abraham's Commitment to God is that he became resilient (Gen 12:10-13:4)**

1. Read Vs 10
  - a. He's been a wanderer in land of Canaan
  - b. Common to have these famines come
2. Read Vs 11-16
  - a. Abraham feared for life. He has a choice. Trust God or take matters into his own hands.
  - b. He failed trust God & deceived Egyptians.
    - i. Didn't lie, he deceived
    - ii. Read Gen 20:12
    - iii. Deception is just as bad or worse
  - c. Why should he have trusted God to protect?
    - i. God promised (Gen 12:2) – make him into a great nation.
3. Read Vs 17-20
  - a. What a sad reality when the world has more integrity than the Christians.
  - b. Not only time Abraham does this (Gen 20)

4. Read Chap 13:1-4
  - a. The church often struggles to know what to do with those that fall into sin and come back into the church.
  - b. Abraham comes back to Bethel, to his first love, to being a worshipper, to the beginning.
    - i. He could have return to Ur but didn't.
    - ii. Read Heb 11:15-16
  - c. This is a great model for how to help the prodigals that come back.
  - d. Abraham shows great resiliency here
    - i. We have that great ability b/c of God's great grace!!
    - ii. Abraham is demonstrating his commitment to return to God even after very low times.
  - e. Do you believe coming back to the altar, confession and repentance is ALL that it takes?
    - i. Remember your 1<sup>st</sup> love, repent and do the 1<sup>st</sup> works. (Rev 2:4-5)

## **2<sup>nd</sup> thing about Abraham's Commitment to God is that he became a peacemaker (Gen 13:5-18)**

1. Read Vs 5-9
  - a. Although rich, Abraham wasn't seeking riches, he was seeking brotherly peace.
  - b. The flesh settles disputes by asking himself
    - i. What can I get out of this?
    - ii. How can I protect myself thru this dispute?
  - c. The spiritual person settles disputing by asking themselves...
    - i. How can I help everyone come to know God thru this?
    - ii. How can I prevent others from being hindered in their relationship w/ God & the church?
  - d. Abraham's commitment to God made him seek a good spiritual outcome to each situation that he faced.

## 2. Read Vs 10-13

a. So Abraham sought the spiritual goal of peace and Lot sought the fleshly goal of gain.

b. Lot

i. In pursuing personal gain this righteous man, will be vexed by wicked Sodom.

1. Read II Peter 2:7-8

2. Lot literally gives up peace for the pursue of money.

ii. In vs 12 he was willing to “pitch his tent toward Sodom”.

1. The fleshly goals drag you in slowly.

2. Gen 14:12 – Lot dwelling in Sodom.

3. Gen 19:1 – He’s a leader in Sodom.

c. Abraham

i. Are we willing to suffer the wrong, as Abraham was in order to do the right thing?

1. Turn the other cheek (Matt 5:39)

2. Go the extra mile (Matt 5:41)

3. Suffer the wrong in court (I Cor 6:7)

3. Read Vs 14-18

- i. In pursuing the spiritual gain, he also gained the physical blessing of God.
  1. Read Matt 6:33
  2. Psm 37:11
- ii. This is the only piece of earth that has a title deed given right from God.
- iii. We don't read of Abraham having any wars w/ Canaanites. He had confederacy (14:13)
- iv. Lot had the choice land, and it brought war!

**3<sup>rd</sup> thing about Abraham's Commitment to God is that he became loyal to people (Gen 14:1-16)**

1. Read Vs 1-7

- a. All these battles are recorded in history.
- b. These 4 kings from modern Iran begin by attacking all the surrounding nations in vs 5-7

2. Read Vs 8-10

- a. Rockefeller read his Bible then drilled for oil in Saudi Arabia b/c of these tarpits.

### 3. Read Vs 11-15

- a. Gives us an idea of his wealth w/ 318 men.
- b. Dan = upper Galilee at base of Mt Hermon,
- c. About 125 mi. Forced march = 25 mi/day
- d. Surprised them at night & pursued them 45 more miles to Damascus into a boxed canyon.

### 4. Read Vs 16

- a. Abraham could have been bitter at Lot for choosing the best land, but he wasn't.
- b. Abraham's commitment to God had a by-product of him being committed to all the people around him.
  - i. He had confederacy w/ Canaanites (vs 13)
  - ii. He had a large household of people (vs 14)
  - iii. He had enough loyalty for Lot that he was willing to fight.
- c. Are you loyal & faithful to people in your life? Do we have urge to always move around?
  - i. Disloyalty=mark of end times evil (Matt 24:10)
  - ii. Commitment to God=commitment to His body

## **4<sup>th</sup> thing about Abraham's Commitment to God is that he became a city on a hill (Gen 14:17-24)**

1. Read Vs 17-24
  - a. As Abraham's fame spread b/c of his deeds, he was sure to return the praise/glory to God.
  - b. Turn to Matt 5:14-16
  - c. Abraham wouldn't take anything from the redeemed kings, b/c he wanted it known that God had provided all that he needed.
  - d. He possessed lots, but owed nothing to any man.
  - e. Abraham wanted only that God would get the glory.



## **Now let's deal with this mysterious character Melchizedek in vs 18-20**

1. Vs 18 – Bread and wine
  - a. Only used here and in communion
  - b. Symbols of the Word and the Spirit
2. Vs 18 – Priest of the most high God
  - a. This priesthood is superior to the Aaronic
    - i. The lesser person is always blessed of the greater person.
      1. Turn to Heb 7:1-7
      2. This isn't Shem IAW vs 6
    - ii. Levi pays tithes to Melchizedek while in the loins of Abraham.
      1. Turn to Heb 7:8-10
  - b. Jesus was a priest in the line of or after the order of Melchizedek and not after Aaron.
    - i. Read Psm 110:4
    - ii. Read Heb 7:17
3. Whole Bible fits together (Gen, Psm, Heb)

## Conclusion –

### **Today we've seen 4 parts of Abraham's commitment to God**

1. He became resilient
  - a. Come back to your 1<sup>st</sup> love & 1<sup>st</sup> works
2. He became a peacemaker
  - a. Seek spiritual goals of peace/love & God will provide the rest
3. He became loyal to people
  - a. Faithfulness to God shows up as faithfulness to the people in your life
4. He became a city on a hill
  - a. When glory comes, we're able to give it to God