

## Bible Study Guide

# Problems, Peace, and Promises Part 3

Text: Genesis 13



**Bible Study Focus:** Genesis 13 reminds us that although believers cannot avoid problems, they can pursue peace while trusting God's promises. Abram demonstrates that obedience is never a loss when God's promises are involved.

**Key verses:** *The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever."*— **Genesis 13:14,15 (NASB)**

- **Big Idea:** Internal conflict becomes especially dangerous when external enemies exist.

Read Genesis 13:1-18

## • Problems Are Inevitable (Genesis 13:5-7)

- **Genesis 13:7** – Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land.
  - Scripture intentionally informs us that the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living nearby. Why? Because:
    - Internal conflict becomes especially dangerous when external enemies exist.
    - Abram's household was divided while surrounded by pagan nations. Division weakened their witness.
- **Matthew 12:25** – Jesus said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and no city or house divided against itself will stand." – this is divine kingdom principle.
  - Jesus goes on to explain that Satan does not even do this as a part of his own kingdom strategy: "And if Satan is casting out Satan, he has become divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?" – **Matthew 12:26**
- **Ephesians 4:26,27** – Be angry and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.
  - **Opportunity** – *topos* – a designated place or space;
- **1 Peter 5:8** – Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
  - **Seeking** – *zeteo* – to search for something with the intention of finding it.

- **Galatians 5:13-15** – For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh but serve one another through love. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” But if you **bite** and **devour** one another, take care that you are not **consumed** by one another.
  - **Bite** – *dakno* – to chew with your teeth
  - **Devour** – *katesthio* – to consume by eating – the entire **process** of eating and digesting
  - **Consume** – *analisko* – to **use** up or destroy; to spend all the money until there is **nothing** left.
    - Small consistent bites from each other will eventually result in total destruction from within.
- **James 3:13-18** – Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have **bitter jealousy** and **selfish ambition** in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is **earthly, natural, demonic**. For where **jealousy** and **selfish ambition** exist, there is **disorder and every evil thing**. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free of hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- **Wisdom** – *sophia* – **experience**; how one uses knowledge

**\*\*Anti-Christ wisdom: not from above; not of the Spirit of God**

- **Jealousy** – *zelos* – zeal; fervor of spirit
- **Selfish ambition** – *eritheia* – politics; engineering for office or position

**\*\*Divine wisdom: from above; of the Spirit of God**

- **Pure** – *hagnos* – sacred; without stain or blemish
- **Peace-loving (peaceable)** – *eirenikos* – embracing peace; peace is with you and **follows** you
- **Gentle** – *epieikes* – mild, fair, the opposite of **spicy**
- **Reasonable** – *eupeithes* – compliant; easily obeying
- **Merciful** – *eleos* – **kindness** or good will
- **Impartial** – *adiakritos* – without ambiguity or uncertainty; consistent and fair
- **Free of hypocrisy** – *anypokritos* – undisguised; unfeigned; **sincere**
- **Good fruits** – *agathos karpos* – positive results of life

- And the fruit of righteousness is **sown in peace** by those who make peace.
- Question: What does it mean to sow the fruit of righteousness? What does it mean to sow the fruit of righteousness in peace?