

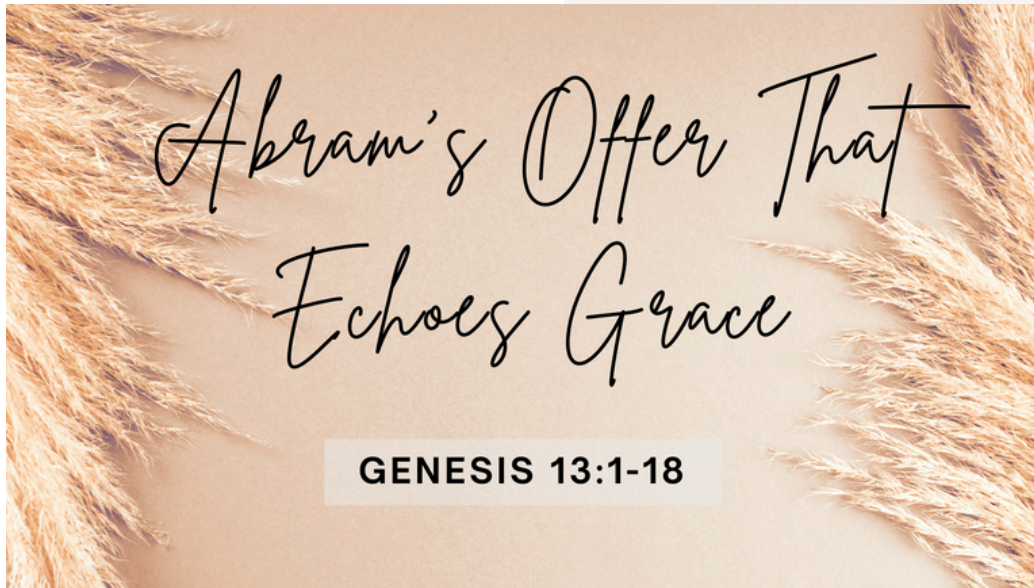
# CCLEB SERMON NOTES



SUNDAY JULY 20, 2025  
GENESIS 13

PASTOR YORDANYS OLIVE

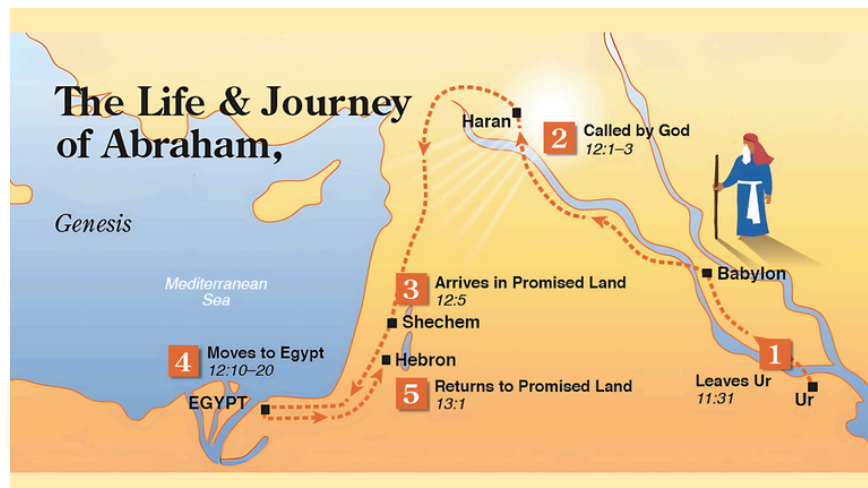
## ABRAM'S OFFER THAT ECHOES GRACE



Have you ever signed up for something because the offer looked amazing? “Free for 30 days!”

Next thing you know... it's been two years, and you're still paying for a subscription you don't even use. Not all offers are as good as they seem.

But today, we're going to look at a generous offer that wasn't a trap - in fact, it opened the door to peace, unity, and God's blessing.



Last week we saw how Abram was called by God, but when the famine came, he ran to Egypt a place of temporary solution. Egypt might have looked like the answer, but it wasn't where God had called him to be.

Now, in **chapter 13**, we see something powerful: Abram is coming back. Not just physically, but spiritually. He's not just returning from Egypt – he's back to the altar, back to worship, back to his calling. Let's read **Genesis 13:1-4**.

In Egypt, he lied about his wife being his sister, and that caused serious problems especially for Pharaoh. But here's the amazing part: even though Abram messed up, God still protected him. Not only that, but Pharaoh sent him out with great possessions.

Brothers and sisters, this is grace on full display, undeserved protection and unexpected blessing. Abram failed. He lied. But God didn't cancel His promise just because Abram made a mistake. And I truly believe this: God used that moment not to destroy him, but to shape him to teach him, to grow him, and to remind him who's really in control.

That's the kind of God we serve. Not one who walks away when we fail, but one who steps into our mess, covers us with grace, and lovingly calls us back. He doesn't give up on us. He's patient. He restores. He leads us back to the altar. **Verse 4** tells us something simple, yet profound: Abram returned – not just to the land, but to the altar – to worship the Lord again.

After the famine, the fear, the failure... Abram doesn't try to fix everything first. He doesn't offer excuses. He just returns – and that's where restoration begins. The altar is the place of realignment, of surrender, of renewed connection with God. It's where the journey starts again.

That's the invitation for us too: Come back to the altar. Return to that place where you first trusted Him, where you knew He called you. And there's a detail in the text that carries a big lesson... Lot Abram's nephew is still with him. Lot was never supposed to be part of this journey. When God first called Abram in **Genesis 12:1**, He said: "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you."

When God first called Abram, He told him to leave his native country and his relatives. And while Abram responded in faith and followed God's direction, we notice that Lot his nephew went with him.

This shows us something important about partial obedience: sometimes, we obey, but not completely, and that can lead to complications down the road. And we'll see in the next verses how this plays out. **Genesis 13:5-9**

It wasn't Abram and Lot arguing directly, but their herdsmen the people working for them. Still, the tension was real. They weren't fighting because of enemies... And right in the middle of that, the text reminds us that "the Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land." The land didn't look like it was ready to be given to Abram. The people already there were strong, established, and not going anywhere soon. But that's often how God works. He speaks promises into places that still look full, messy, or impossible.

And here's the tension: internal division was happening while external threats were present. This wasn't the time for pride. It was a time for faith, wisdom, and peace. And that's what Abram chose.

The conflict came because they had too much. Isn't that something? Sometimes it's not lack, but abundance that brings division.

You might be thinking, "Well... that's a good problem to have!"

But the truth is even good things can create division when our hearts aren't aligned. Wealth without wisdom, blessing without boundaries, can lead to conflict. Small conflicts can damage important relationships if they're not handled with maturity.

That's how it often works in life: Minor issues become major wounds when no one steps up with maturity. But Abram does. He doesn't let pride speak. He chose to be led by peace

He doesn't say, "That's my land. I brought you here. I'm older, plus, I'm the one with the promise."

Instead, in **verse 8** he says: "Let's not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives!"

He doesn't blame Lot. He doesn't fight to defend what is his. He chooses peace over pride. Yes, the land wasn't enough to support both of them... But grace was.

Abram valued unity over territory. He knew that God could bless him anywhere. Then, Abram made a surprising choice. He let Lot choose first.

Here's what's amazing: He trusted God more than his position. He trusted the Provider more than the provision.

So he says to Lot, "If you go left, I'll go right. If you go right, I'll go left.". That's not just humility... That's pure generosity. That's faith in action.

So, now in the next verses we will see how Lot makes a quick and selfish decision, based on appearance, not discernment.

### **Genesis 13:10-13**

Lot lifted his eyes and saw the green plains, abundance, the comfort. He saw the opportunity, but he didn't stop to consider his neighbors. He didn't think about the spiritual danger. The land reminded him of Egypt, the place they had just escaped from.

Brothers and sisters, not everything that looks good... is truly good. Just like Eve in the garden saw the fruit and thought it was good, we too can be deceived by what we see.

### **Genesis 3:6**

Sometimes, the most attractive doors lead us away from what God actually wants for us. That's why we need God's direction. Without it, we can make big mistakes just because something looks good.



You know, this reminds me of a moment in my own life... Before God opened the doors for me to come to the United States, I was offered a really good job in a beautiful hotel area in Cuba. The pay was incredible. In just one day, I would earn almost the same as a full month of serving full-time at church.

On the outside, it looked like a blessing. It seemed like the answer we had been waiting for. But after praying, doing some research, and talking with my wife, we started to realize the truth.

It looked good but it wasn't from God. It was actually a trap. That job would have pulled us away from our calling. It would have hurt our family and our ministry.

Sadly, many brothers I knew who took that kind of job ended up losing their families and walking away from God. We didn't want to make that mistake.

So even though it looked like a great opportunity, we said no. And here's the beautiful part of the story: Not long after, a brother from Tampa, someone I had only met once in Cuba called me. He told me that while he was praying, God gave him a vision of me preaching in a church in United States.

Then, he decided to send us the money to get our passports. Soon after that, God started opening doors that we never could've imagined doors that led to my visa and the calling He had for us. And here we are!!



What looked like a loss became a setup for something greater. God was working all along, and He proved that saying "no" to what looks good, is worth it when you're saying "yes" to Him. Obeying God is always worth it. We may give something up in the moment, but God always gives us more than we could ever expect.

That's exactly what happened to Abram. After Abram let go, after he chose peace, God stepped in and spoke again (**verse 14**).

### **Genesis 13:14-18**

Abram didn't chase a better land he trusted God, and now God speaks again. God says: "Look in every direction... all of it, I'm giving it to you and your descendants."

The first time, God told him to go "Leave your land, your family, everything you know... and I will show you.". Abram had to move without having the full picture. He didn't know where he was going, he only knew who was leading him

But now, after he has walked in obedience, God tells him to look. "Lift up your eyes, look in every direction... all of this, I give to you."

First it was, "Trust Me and take the first step.". Now it's, "See what I've prepared for you."

And how does Abram respond? He builds an altar.



Abram ends the chapter by settling in Hebron. and here's something beautiful: Hebron comes from a Hebrew word that means "fellowship" or "friendship."

So, think about that... After letting go, after choosing peace, after walking in obedience, Abram ends up in a place of friendship with God. And later in Scripture, we see that clearly: **James 2:23**

While Lot moved toward Sodom (a place of sin), Abram moved to Hebron a place that means fellowship.

How Does This Apply to Me? This isn't just a story about land and family. It's about a generous offer – one that points us to Jesus.

Abram gave up land. He gave up his rights. He chose peace over position. And that generous offer points us to the greatest offer ever given – Jesus Christ. **Philippians 2:6-11**

Just like Abram let go of what was his to make peace, Jesus let go of heaven's glory to bring us peace with God. **Romans 5:1**

Paul tells us again in **Philippians 2:3-5**

That means living with:



So, whether it's pride, conflict, or the temptation to chase what looks good... Go back to the altar. Let go of whatever is holding you back.

What does that mean for us, practically? It means returning to the place of worship – the place of surrender. It means falling to our knees again and saying, "Lord, I need You". Maybe for you, that means rebuilding your daily prayer life. Maybe it means repentance. Maybe it means letting go of distractions that have taken God's place in your heart.

