

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What examples of Christian virtues are evident in Abram?
2. How much did Abram's success depend upon the abundance of human resources?
3. Discuss the basic differences between Abram and Lot and the effects they had on their lives?

SUMMARY:

In this Old Testament story, we get a look into the hearts and can see the character and the desires of these two men. There is a vast difference in their natures, but perhaps they are much the same as we might find in men today. We would do well to go into the depths of our own hearts for a serious self-examination to see which of these attitudes most nearly fits us. Both men were richly blessed with worldly goods. Abram had a love and concern for Lot even above his own. Lot lifted his eyes upon the material things and lived among the wicked and sinners of Sodom, but the Lord stayed close to Abram and promised him many things. Lot became more entangled in worldliness, until he lost everything and had to flee for his life. But Abram rose to new heights of spiritual blessings.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

March 4, 2007

First Quarter

ABRAM AND LOT

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 13:1-18; 14:12-16*

LESSON SETTING: In Jordan near the lower end of the Dead Sea.

TIME: Approximately 1900 BC

- I. ABRAM'S GENEROSITY.** Genesis 13:1-9
 - A. Godly Nature. (vs. 4) Acts 20:35; 1 Corinthians 13:4, 5; Philippians 2:3-4
 - B. Peacemaker. (vs. 8) Romans 12:18; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 3:10-12
- II. LOT'S COVETOUSNESS.** Genesis 13:10-13
 - A. Man's Reasoning. (vs. 10) Luke 12:17-19
 - B. Presumption. (vs. 11) Proverbs 12:15; Luke 14:7-11; 2 Peter 2:10
- III. GOD'S COVENANT.** Genesis 13:14-18
 - A. Made with Abraham. (vs. 14-16) Genesis 15:7-8
 - B. Renewed Under the Gospel. Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10
 - C. Fulfilled in Christ. Luke 1:68-79; Hebrews 13:20
- IV. LOT'S DELIVERANCE.** Genesis 14:12-16
 - A. Abram's Love for Lot. (vs. 14) Genesis 12:4; 13:1
 - B. Deliverance by God's Hand. Genesis 14:20; Exodus 23:27; 2 Chronicles 20:29

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE LORD IS MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS, SLOW TO ANGER, AND PLENTIFUL IN MERCY.* Psalm 103:8

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 15:1-8; 17:1-14; Hebrews 6:13-20

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 21:1-21

QUARTERLY THEME: The Patriarchs

TOPIC: GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

INTRODUCTION:

In God's covenant with Noah, God used a symbol that He made. The rainbow showed He would not again destroy the earth by means of a flood. In making His covenant with Abraham, Abraham had to carry out His plan. The covenant was binding by God, but Abraham had to do the work. In this covenant, God promised to do something: make Abraham the founder of great nations. This was a covenant bound by fleshly works, circumcision.

As the Jews mingled with those of other nations, they were marked as a peculiar people. They were circumcised and could be distinguished as God's elect. They should have a meek, humble, upright spirit reflecting the grace of God, for He says, *"I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."* (2 Corinthians 6:16b) *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* (2 Corinthians 3:18)

CENTRAL TRUTH: Since our selfish choices only bring trouble and heartache, we should ask God for help in making decisions.

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *I AM THY SHIELD, AND THY EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD.*

Genesis 15:1

Many of the promises God was making to Abram were for far in the future. What a comfort it must have been that part of the promise was for the present. Abram had experienced God's help before, as in rescuing Lot from the warring kings and in attaining many possessions, but this promise of his children becoming many nations, must have been hard to believe for an old man, who was childless. But God in His promises, also said, *"I am thy shield."* Later God was to say to Moses, *"Tell Pharaoh I AM sent thee."* Still later Jesus said, *"Before Abraham was, I am."* So it was the continuing help of God which made it possible for men of old to go on trusting in Him. As the Psalmist wrote, *"God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble."* (Psalm 46:1) Looking back, Samuel could say, *"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."* (1 Samuel 7:12)

When we would make a covenant with God for eternal life, we too, like Abram have nothing to offer to God toward attaining it, nothing but obedience and faith. As we consider the faith of Abraham and its fulfillment, we can also of our lives say, "God helped, He helps and He will help to the end," because as our *"shield and exceeding great reward,"* we have *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."* (Hebrews 13:8)

O Lord, my Light, Thou art my present aid
In Thee I shall abide;
Of Satan's might I need not be afraid
When Thou art at my side. Z.H. 110:1

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 5 - 11

M. *God's Covenant with Abraham. Genesis 15:1-8; Hebrews 6:13-20
T. Israel's History Foretold. Genesis 15:8-16
W. The Promise Concerning Palestine. Genesis 15:17-21
T. Abraham and Hagar. Genesis 16:1-6
F. The Birth of Ishmael. Genesis 16:7-16
S. *Abraham's Name Changed. Genesis 17:1-14
S. The Promise Concerning Isaac. Genesis 21:9-12