

Steve Greenberg's Handout

Week 11, April 8, 2026 Genesis 13-14 Lot's Separation And Rescue

Genesis 13:1-13 Abram Inherits Canaan (Abram's Separation from Lot)

Gen 13:1 Then Abram went up (traveled north, left) from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had (all his possessions), and Lot (his nephew) with him, to the South (South country of Judah, Negev).

(Previously) Gen 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.

Abram came back from Egypt with great riches. Abram should not have used the blessing God brought to him in Egypt as a justification for disobedience to God's will. Even though God is great enough to bring good even when we disobey, there is still a cost built into disobedience. Sin leads to separation from God, hearing His voice knowing and being empowered by His resources. Remember He lied about his wife, and put her in a bad place, The King gave him material things for his sister who was being groomed to be his wife, and then an unbelieving King rebuked this man of God.

Abram sought to provide for himself, as he feared and was led into disobedience. God would have provided for his needs in Canaan, even though there can be hard times and a time of famine.

When you realize you did wrong and trusted in your own wisdom, you repent and get about seeking the Lord and hearing his voice and get back to being led and empowered by the Lord.

Rev 2:4 "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Rev 2:5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...

Paul's recommendation

Phl 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

Phl 3:14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Prov 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

Prov 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Gen 13:2 (Now!) Abram was very rich (extremely wealthy) in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

Gen 24:34 So he (Eliezer, Gen 15:2) said, "I am Abraham's servant.

Gen 24:35 "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He (The LORD) has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.

Gen 13:3 And he(**Abram**) went on his journey (**Lit: by stages**) from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,

Gen 13:4 (**he returned**) to the place of the altar, which he had made there at first (**his first altar**). And there Abram called on the name of the LORD (**Abram prayed & worshiped the LORD**)

Gen 13:5 Lot also, who went (**also was traveling**) with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents (**lot also became very wealthy, because of Abram**).

Gen 13:6 Now the land was not able to support them (**fulfill their grazing and water needs**), that they might dwell together (**live together**), for their possessions (**flocks and herds**) were so great that they could not dwell (**live**) together.

Gen 13:7 And there was strife (**quarrels, conflicts**) between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt (**living & feeding their livestock**) in the land (**adding to the difficulty of grazing and taking care of the livestock**).

Gen 13:8 So Abram said to Lot (**his nephew**), "Please let there be no strife (**quarreling & disagreements**) between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren (**family, close relatives**).

Competition for pasture and watering spots soon leads to strife between the herdsmen and also Abram and Lot.

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (possessions, money).

Possessions are meant to be tools in your hands—not masters over your heart.

Gen 13:9 "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me (**chose any section, so we can separate**). If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

Abram offers Lot make a decision, Lot chooses the fertile Jordan Valley.

Phl 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Phl 2:4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Gen 13:10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan (**Jordan Valley**), that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) (**previously**) like (**similar to**) the garden of the LORD, like the (**beautiful**) land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar (**south end of the Dead or Salt Sea**).

Lot walked only by sight. Not concerned about his family their safety, leaning on his ways not seeking God and hearing His voice.

2Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed

Gen 19:24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.

Gen 19:25 So He(the LORD) overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

Gen 19:26 But his(Lot's) wife looked back (at what) was behind him (disobedience to a direct command, her heart longed for things that were wicked), and she became a pillar of salt (judgement came).

Gen 19:29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.

Gen 13:11 Then Lot chose for himself all (whole region, Lit circle) the plain of Jordan (Jordan Valley), and Lot journeyed east (eastward). And they (Abram & Lot) separated (parted company) from each other.

Lot's decision to settle in the plain of Jordan put him next to the wicked city of Sodom, which would be his neighbors.

1Tim 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

1Tim 6:18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share (give),

1Tim 6:19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Gen 13:12 Abram dwelt (settled) in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt (moved & lived) in the cities of the plain (Jordan valley) and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.

Gen 13:13 But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful (rebellious, flaunted their sin openly) against the LORD.

Genesis 13:14-18 Gods Promise to Abram

Gen 13:14 And the LORD said (spoke) to Abram (again), after Lot had separated (departed) from him(Abram) (original obedience achieved): "Lift your eyes now and look (as far as you can see) from the place where you are--northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

Avoid those who lead you astray Pro 1:10, 3:20; Psalm 1:1

1Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

1Cor 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

Abram's history of disobedience and trusting in his own wisdom

Act 7:2 And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

Act 7:3 "and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.'

Act 7:4 "Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

Gen 13:15 "for all the land which you see, I (The LORD) give to you and your descendants (your seed) forever. (Literally seed, also vs 16 and throughout the book).

Gen 28:14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Lord reaffirms that Abram's descendants will possess all the land of Canaan.

God promised the physical land to Abram and his descendants forever. But at this time Abram still has no children.

God told Abram to look at the land with the eyes of faith and then to walk in faith everywhere and rejoice.

In Genesis 13:15 The phrase: "to you and to your seed forever" is generally understood to be referring to Abraham's descendants as a whole (plural meaning collective whole) not just one individual, but his entire lineage. We have to be careful to look at context, especially in the New Testament, e.g., Galatians 3:16, "seed" is taken as singular, pointing to one specific descendant.

Hebrew: Zera^c is a grammatically singular Hebrew noun that often functions as a collective (group), referring to one or many descendants depending on context.

Gen 13:16 "And I will make your descendants (as numerous) as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust (particles) of the earth, then your descendants (offspring) also could be numbered (or counted).

Act 7:5 "And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for (as) a possession, and to his descendants after him.

Gen 13:17 "Arise, walk in (have faith check out) the land through its length and its width, for I (the LORD) give it to you."

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him(God), for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

2Pet 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

2Pet 1:3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

2Pet 1:4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing (every promise) in the heavenly places in Christ,

You remember when Joshua was coming in with the children of Israel to claim the land that God had given to Abram some four hundred years later, that God said to Joshua, "Every place you put your foot, I have given it to you" (Joshua 1:3). "It's all yours. All you have to do is go in and put your foot down and claim it. Every place you put your foot down, I've given that to you, so go ahead and take it." That appropriating of the promises of God, everywhere you put your foot down, every place you step out and appropriate those promises of God, you'll find that God is faithful. He has given it to you. It is yours. But it is not yours until it has been appropriated by faith.

Gen 13:18 Then Abram moved his tent, and went (**and came**) and dwelt by the terebinth trees (**grove of great oak trees**) of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD (**to worship and honor the Lord**).

Since one of Abram's allies is Mamre the Amorite, the oaks are probably named after him.

Genesis 14:1-17 Lot's Captivity and Rescue

Gen 14:1 And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar (**Babylonia, Gen 10:10**), Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations (**Goim**),

Gen 14:2 that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

One of the many facts supporting the antiquity of Genesis is that many of the original names of places mentioned were so old that Moses had to add an explanation in order to identify these ancient names, so that the Israelites returning from Egypt could recognize them. Chapter 14 alone contains six such explanatory notes (Gen 14:2, 3, 7, 8, 15, 17) (Amp notes).

Gen 14:3 All these joined together in the Valley of Siddim (**that is, Salt Sea, the Sea of Salt or Dead Sea Valley**).

Gen 14:4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

Gen 14:5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him came and attacked the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim (**or the plain of Kiriathaim**),

Under the leadership of Chedorlaomer, they invaded kings and defeated other tribal groups.

Gen 14:6 and the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far as El Paran, which is by the wilderness.

Gen 14:7 Then they turned back and came to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and attacked all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazezon Tamar.

Gen 14:8 And the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out and joined together in battle in the Valley of Siddim

Gen 14:9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar (**Babylonia**), and Arioch king of Ellasar--four kings against five.

Gen 14:10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of asphalt pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled; some fell there (**fell into tar and slim pits and died**), and the remainder fled to the mountains.

Gen 14:11 Then they (**four kings**) took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way.

Gen 14:12 They (**the four victorious kings**) also took Lot (**captive**), Abram's brother's son who dwelt (**was now living**) in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

Gen 14:13 Then one who had escaped (**from the invading four Kings**) came and told Abram the Hebrew (**one who crosses a border or descended from Eber**) for he dwelt by the terebinth (oak) trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram.

Gen 14:14 Now when Abram heard that his brother (**relative**) was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen (318) trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan (**in the North**).

Abram was a family man, he did what was right, and he would fight for his nephew's life and safety.

You can see the gate entrance at Dan from Abram's time, it has been discovered by archaeologists and can be viewed at the Israeli national park at Dan

Gen 14:15 He divided his forces (**his men**) against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north (**left hand**) of Damascus.

Abram was outnumbered and trusted in God, made an attack at night.

Quote from David Guzik's Commentary on Blue Letter Bible

Lot moved right back to where he was before in Sodom. He refused this warning from God and would eventually lose everything when Sodom and Gomorrah were ultimately judged ([Genesis 19:24-25](#)).

Gen 14:16 So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods (**his possessions**), as well as the women and the people.

Gen 14:17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him (**Abram**) at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat (**struck down and slaughter**) of Chedorlaomer, and the kings who were with him.

Genesis 14:18-24 Abram and Melchizedek (Heb. 7:1, 2) Abran Refuse Rewards

Gen 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he (**Melchizedek**) was the priest of God Most High.

Melchizedek (which means "king of righteousness"; see Heb. 7:2)

Salem is possibly a shortened version of "Jerusalem" (see Ps. 76:2).

The term El Elyon, is most high God," is first used here.

Some think Melchizedek may have been Shem, who was still alive at that time, and regardless this person is a type of Christ. He is both king and priest. He blesses Abraham and His priesthood is presented as greater than the Levitical priesthood. This typology is further seen Hebrews 7.

Psa 110:4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Others believe that Melchizedek was a theophany, an appearance of God in human form, which would be Christ. Hebrews 7:3 described Melchizedek as without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

Gen 14:19 And he (**Melchizedek**) blessed him (**Abram**) and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, (**Creator &**) Possessor of heaven and earth;

Gen 14:20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand (**miraculously**)." And he(**Abram**) gave him(**Melchizedek**) a tithe of all.

Abram tithed to Melchizedek, showing he believed what Melchizedek said.

Heb 7:4 Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

Heb 7:9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,
Heb 7:10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

Gen 14:21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods (**spoils of battle**) for yourself."

Gen 14:22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand (**sworn an oath**) to the LORD, God Most High, the (**Creator &**) Possessor of heaven and earth,

Abram here used the term Melchizedek had used - "most high God" in v18.

Gen 14:23 "that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I (**King of Sodom**) have made Abram rich'—

Gen 14:24 (**nothing to me**)"except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."

God most high, the possessor of heaven and earth, how glorious it is for us to be His children, and to be His heirs, to be joint heirs with Jesus Christ. How privileged we are to be able to have a relationship with God! Oh what blessings God has bestowed upon us as His children. Blessed be God most high who has blessed us beyond measure in sending His Son, in granting redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, and choosing us and calling us and filling us with His Spirit, sealing us with the Spirit of promise, making us His heirs forever. Blessed be God both now and forever. Amen.

End:

Extra Notes:

Psa 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

Psa 37:4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Psa 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.