

## Lesson 5 – Genesis 13-17

Text: Genesis 13-17

Main Characters: God, Abraham, Lot, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael

Key Passages:

- Genesis 15:6 – Abraham is one of the best examples of faith in the Bible. So much so that this verse is referenced at least 5 times in the New Testament to teach on faith.
- Genesis 17:19 – Isaac is promised to Abraham. God promises an everlasting covenant.

Main Storyline:

Abraham and Lot left Egypt after being sent away by Pharaoh and returned to Canaan, where they had come from. When Abraham arrived in Canaan, he worshipped the Lord at the altar he had made previously. However, because Abraham and Lot were so rich, they needed to separate.

Abraham told Lot that he could have the first choice of the land, and that he would take whatever Lot did not choose. Lot saw the good land in the Jordan valley and chose that land for himself. Lot left Abraham and moved towards the cities in the Jordan valley, eventually moving close to Sodom, an extremely wicked and sinful city. After Lot left, God spoke to Abraham and reminded him that all the land would eventually belong to his descendants, who would be as numerous as the dust of the earth.

During that time, there were four kings from Mesopotamia who had placed five kings of the Jordan valley in subjection (Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Bela/Zoar). One year, the five kings rebelled against the rule of the kings from Mesopotamia. The four kings came down and crushed the rebellion. In their victory, they sacked the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, taking all of the possessions and many prisoners, including Lot, who had been living in Sodom. Hearing this, Abraham summoned his allies and servants, pursued the kings, and recovered what had been taken from Sodom, including Lot and others. Melchizedek, a priest and king of Salem, administered to Abraham while he was on his way back home. The king of Sodom offered Abraham all of the possessions that he had recovered from the Mesopotamians as a reward, but Abraham refused the offer.

Later, God spoke with Abraham regarding the promises He had made to him. God reassured Abraham that he would have an heir from his own body (a biological child) and that his descendants would be virtually innumerable. In addition, God reminded Abraham that he would inherit the land of Canaan, too. Abraham believed God's promises, and God considered him righteous because of his faith.

One day, since they had no children, Sarah offered that Abraham should have children with her servant, Hagar. Abraham agreed, and Hagar became pregnant with a child. As soon as Hagar was pregnant, Sarah became jealous, and she began to treat her so badly that Hagar ran away. God comforted Hagar and told her to go back home. Eventually, Hagar gave birth to a son, Ishmael.

When Abraham was 99 years old (Sarah was 89), God made a covenant with him, changing his and Sarah's names. Abraham was told to circumcise every male in his house (servants included), while God promised to bless him and his descendants forever. Abraham circumcised every man in his household that very day. God also told him that Sarah would have a son in a year, to be named Isaac.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) Being around sin almost always leads to living in sin (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- 2.) We must be careful about choosing with whom we associate (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- 3.) A sincere faith in God and His Word is critical if we desire to be considered righteous (Gal. 3:1ff).
- 4.) Deviation from God's plan for marriage (Genesis 2:23ff, i.e. one wife) always leads to problems.
- 5.) We must obey God immediately once we know what to do (see Paul in Acts 22:16).