

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

The Book of Genesis

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth - Genesis 1:1

WEEK 4

“Speak the Truth”

Study: Genesis 12:10-13:1

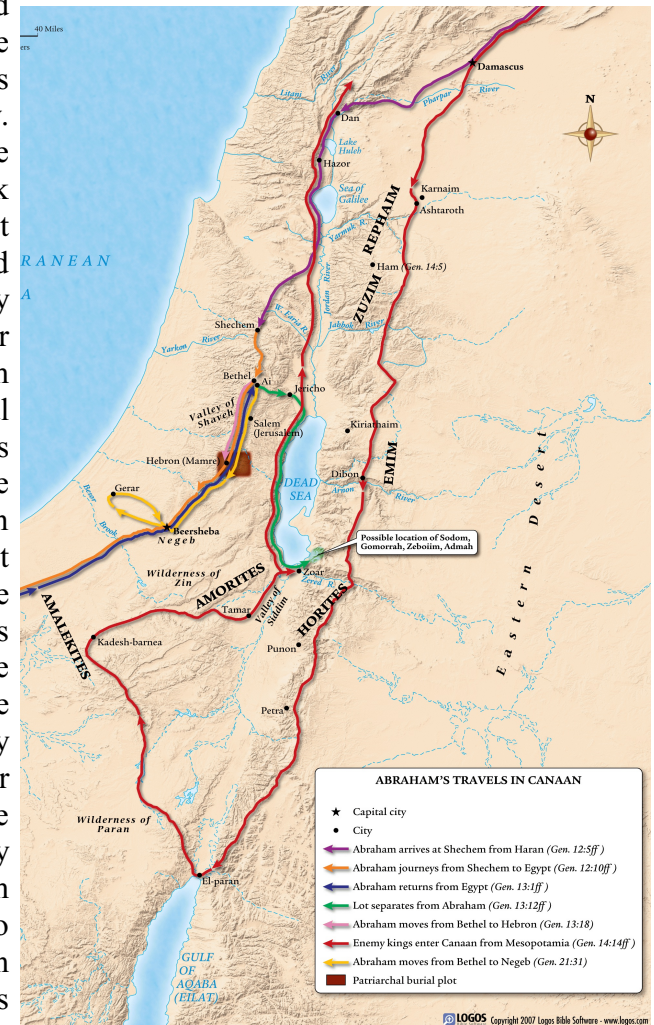
Reading: Proverbs 6:16-19, Ephesians 4:17-32

Memory: Matthew 5:42

What Does the Bible Say?

Though God had promised Abram the land of Canaan, times were not always easy. Due to a famine in the land, Abram took Sarai down to Egypt in order to find food to survive. As they were about to enter into Egypt, Abram became very fearful because Sarai was very beautiful. She would have been around 65 years old at the time, but because the aging process was much slower in those days, she would have still looked fairly young. Abram’s fear was based in the thought that they might take Sarai from him and kill him so the Egyptian pharaoh could have her for his own. They devised a plan to lie to the

Egyptians and tell them that she was his sister instead of his wife. Abram



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was right about his suspicions and the Egyptians did think Sarai was beautiful. Some of the Egyptians working for Pharaoh took her to add her to his harem. They didn't just take her by force though, they took her, and in return, Abram was given many animals and servants in exchange for Sarai. The amount that Abram was given indicates that Abram was not exaggerating when he mentioned to Sarai how beautiful she was (vs 10-16).

From the moment that Pharaoh took Sarai into his household, things started to go wrong for Pharaoh. We are not given specifics, but enough bad things were happening to him that caused him to realize that some type of god was causing him problems. Ancient cultures were polytheistic and believed the gods to be responsible for successes and failures. He realized that Abram's God was causing his issues. When he questioned Abram, he found out that Sarai was Abram's wife. Pharaoh then sent Abram and Sarai away so the problems that he was having would go away (vs 17-20).

By this time, the pressure of the famine must have ceased, though we are not told how much time had passed. Abram took Sarai and they traveled back up into the Negeb (lower part of Caanan). Throughout the whole famine and ordeal in Egypt, God continued to bless Abram with great wealth and prosperity (Chapter 13 vs 1).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you think it was okay for Abram to lie? Some people might get this idea and thought because God still prospered Abram through the event and kept Sarai safe. Just because he did not face punishment, at least a recorded punishment, doesn't mean that it was right. Proverbs 6:17 describes how a lying tongue is an abomination to God. Abram was putting his wife at risk and his marriage at risk because he was afraid. Fear is often the basis for lies, and it is that fear that can cause you not to be truthful today. Almost every lie reveals a lack of trust in God. Take time to examine your life today to see if there are any areas where fear is causing you not to tell the truth. Repent of those areas and choose that you are going to trust God. God is strong enough, wise enough and loves you enough to take care of you.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for meeting all of your needs.*

* *Ask God to help you be a person of truth*

Where did Abram and Sarai travel to (vs 10)? Why?

****It must be remembered that it was not just Abram and Sarai. They would have been traveling with a large number of servants and animals whom they were responsible for feeding.*

What did Abram say to his wife (vs 11)?

What did Abram fear would happen (vs 12)?

What did Abram tell Sarai to do (vs 13)?

What was Abram concerned about above all else (vs 13)?

What do you think you would have done if you were in Abram's shoes?

What did the palace officials do when they saw Sarai (vs 14-15)?

What did Pharaoh give Abram in exchange for Sarai (vs 16)?

What did God cause to happen to Pharaoh (vs 17)?

What did Pharaoh do (vs 18)?

Why do you think that Pharaoh knew it was Abram and Sarai who were the source of his problems?

What questions did Pharaoh ask Abram (vs 18-19)?

What did Pharaoh do as a result (vs 20)?

Why do you think Pharaoh acted this way?

Where did Abram go to after he left Egypt (vs 1)?

What valuable lessons do you think Abram learned from this experience?

What lessons do you think God would have you learn?

“Making Godly Decisions”

Study: Genesis 13:2-18

Reading: James 4:1-17

Memory: Matthew 5:42

What Does the Bible Say?

God had blessed Abram in an abundant way and had also blessed Lot, the nephew of Abram. They journeyed north from the Negeb and returned to the area of Bethel where Abram once again offered a sacrifice to the Lord. The problem that Abram and Lot were running into was that the land they could use for their families and flocks was not large enough to support both families. The larger their families and flocks, the more servants they would hire. The more servants they had, the quicker their families and possessions would grow. This was leading to fights and arguments among the herdsmen of Abram and Lot because there was just not enough room for all of them to live in the same area. Their land use was limited because the Canaanites and Perizzites also lived in the land. Abram and Lot were careful not to trespass on land that was being used by others. In those days, the population of the earth was still growing and there was still a great deal of open land that had not been settled (vs 2-7).

Abram had heard about the problems his herdsmen were having and he chose to approach Lot with the idea of splitting up so that they could avoid further



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problems. Abram gave Lot the choice of land and decided that he would go the opposite way of Lot. In making his decision, Lot saw that the Jordan Valley was a very fertile plain and that it would provide abundant food for his family and livestock. It was noted that the valley looked much different after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah than it did before. (Today, the Jordan Valley is still quite fertile, but the area around the southern end of the Dead Sea is not fertile like it was before the destruction of the cities. Perhaps the Dead Sea and the great salt content of it has something to do with the original destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.) This choice by Lot seemed to be a good, wise choice for him to provide for his herds, but we are given another bit of information in verse 13. We are told that the men of Sodom were great and wicked sinners. Lot chose to dwell in the plains in the vicinity of the city and it appears that he knew that the city was evil, yet failed to protect himself and his family from the evil as we will see shortly (vs 8-13).

It appears that Abram was still in the area of Bethel when God told him to look in all directions around him. God was going to give him all the land he could see and it was a land that his descendants were going to dwell in. God wanted Abram to go through the land and explore it so that he would be able to see the abundant land that he was promising to what would eventually be the Israelite nation. Abram did move around in the land and found himself settling the area of Hebron (vs 14-18).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How do you make your choices and decisions? Do you make choices and decisions based on what may seem best for you to flourish or do you make your choices based on what God wants. There is nothing stated that says that Lot's decision to move towards the plain of Sodom was a bad choice, but we are told about the evil of the cities. This seems to indicate that Lot wasn't necessarily wise in the choice that he made or that he made a choice based purely on financial gain. Though I don't want to be too quick to condemn Lot for this, I do want to learn from Lot. It appears that he made his choice on what looked like would bring the most financial prosperity for him. When you make choices and decisions, it is easy to make them on what appears to be "best" rather than what God desires. Sometimes what we think is going to be a great situation in our human minds, might not be what God wants us to do. As you make choices, decisions and plans for your life, make sure you are seeking the will of God and not just what you think may be best.

What are you told about Abram (vs 2)?

Where did Abram travel after leaving the Negeb (vs 3)?

Why do you think Abram traveled back to Bethel?

What did Abram do at Bethel (vs 4)?

What was God doing for Lot (vs 5)?

Why do you think Lot was prospering?

What problem were they running into (vs 6)?

What was happening among the herdsman (vs 7)?

Why was the region not big enough for both Abram and Lot (vs 7)?

What did Abram not want (vs 8)?

What option did Abram give Lot (vs 9)?

What does this show about the character of Abram?

What appealed to Lot? Why (vs 10)?

****From the comment at the end of verse 10, it appears the whole landscape of the Jordan Valley changed after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.*

What choice was made (vs 11-13)?

What promise did God make to Abram (vs 14-16)?

What did God tell Abram to do (vs 17)?

Where did Abram choose to settle (vs 18)?

Why do you think he built an altar in that location?

“*Lot or Abram?*”

Study: Genesis 14:1-16

Reading: Joshua 24:1-28

Memory: Matthew 5:42

What Does the Bible Say?

In the days of Abram and Lot, the area was not ruled by one centralized government. Instead, the region was made up of several city-states and each had their own king. These cities would often make alliances for protection and would go to war together when needed. Chapter 14 describes how several kings gathered together against Sodom and its alliance cities. It appears that there was no war, but Sodom and the other cities surrendered and made an agreement to pay large sums of tribute. For twelve years they paid heavy taxes to the foreign kings, but on the thirteenth year, they chose to rebel because they no longer wanted to be under Chedorlaomer and his allies. Sodom and several other cities joined in the rebellion, but Chedorlaomer sent his powerful army to fight. His army was too powerful and conquered their foes. We are told that the city of Sodom was overtaken and that many of the warriors fled into the hills. Verse 10 stated that there were several “bitumen” (ESV) pits which were probably some type of tar pits. We are not sure where the Valley of Siddim is, though as mentioned before, the landscape of that day must have been different before the destruction of Sodom (vs 1-10).

With the warriors defeated and on the run, the city of Sodom was now open for invasion and Chedorlaomer’s army. They invaded and plundered the city, taking several residents with them and we are told that Lot and his family were among them. This is very interesting to note because in the previous chapter, probably more than 14 years earlier, Lot settled in the valley with his tent pitched towards Sodom. Now, we see he is living in Sodom and having to face the consequences for his choice. A point could be made that he had moved into the city for protection when the invaders came in, but we will read later how he was a leader in the city of Sodom. We can assume that though the city was evil, Lot had chosen to be a part of it (vs 11-12).

Someone who had escaped the invading army went to tell Abram what had happened to Lot. We can assume that this may have been a servant of Lot who knew the relationship between Abram and Lot. Abram was

still living near Hebron and had developed some good relationships with the surrounding cities who had become his allies. When Abram heard about Lot, he chose to gather some of his men to deliver Lot. We are told that there were 318 men who were part of Abram's household who had been trained fighters. This reveals to us the great wealth of Abram by this time. He was able to support 318 fighting men and there were probably hundreds of other servants to do various tasks in his household. Those who had taken Lot captive had taken him up to the northern regions of Israel to the city of Dan. (It would not have been called Dan until much later, but it was a reference the Israelites would understand.) Abram took his men and led a surprise attack at night, allowing him to defeat those who had taken Lot captive. Lot, his family and many of the others who had been taken captive were set free (vs 13-16).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you see the difference between Lot and Abram? Lot chose to live towards Sodom, a very evil city, and then we found him in Sodom among the evil men. Abram chose to live in Hebron, and though he made friends with the people in the region around him, he remained separate from them. Lot was taken captive with all his possessions, while Abram had increased in his riches. If it wasn't for Abram, Lot would have lost everything. Though Scripture does not declare this, I believe that Lot faced these difficulties because of his poor decision. I think another note to observe from this is that Lot should have learned from this event and chosen to move out of the city, but he didn't. Eventually he lost all of his possessions. The key I want you to see today is the two different choices these men made and the two different results. This is not to say that if you live godly everything will go well for you, but in general, when you do make the right choices and live how God desires, you will be blessed by God. When you make foolish choices and get close to sin, you will face the consequences for your decisions. Are you living like Lot or Abram?

Suggestions for Prayer

* Ask God to show you if you are living like Lot or Abram.

Thought for the day

What kings united together to do battle (vs 1)?

Who did they threaten (vs 2)?

Where did the invading armies travel to (vs 3)?

****They went to the "Valley of Siddim" which we are told was also the "Salt Sea" (Dead Sea). As mentioned a few times already, perhaps the Dead Sea as we know it today did not exist at the time of Lot, but the area was a large fertile valley. By the time the Book of Genesis was being written, (a few hundred years later) the Dead Sea did exist.*

What did the cities in the Valley of Siddim do for 12 years (vs 4)?

Why do you think they chose to rebel?

What did the foreign kings do (vs 5-7)?

What scenario does verses 8-9 present?

What was the Valley of Siddim full of (vs 10)?

****It was full of some type of tar pits. These no longer exist so there is no clear understanding of exactly what this was.*

What happened to many of the soldiers who fled (vs 10)?

What did the enemies of Sodom and Gomorrah do (vs 11)?

What happened to Lot (vs 12)?

How did Abram find out (vs 13)?

What did Abram do (vs 14)?

How was Abram able to be victorious (vs 15)?

What was Abram able to do (vs 16)?

“Giving to God”

Study: Genesis 14:17-24

Reading: Hebrews 7:1-28

Memory: Matthew 5:42

When my wife and I bought our first home, I was doing a paper route at the time and was planning to use that money to help pay the mortgage on our new home. During that time, a missionary came through the area with a dire need and both my wife and I felt that we should give much of the paper route income to that need for the next year. This was a great step of faith for us, but the end result was amazing. We never missed a mortgage payment during that year, and on top of that, after a few years, we were able to sell the house for a \$30,000 profit.

Today we are going to see how Abram chose to give to God and chose to trust God to take care of his needs.

What Does the Bible Say?

The end of chapter 14 gives a very interesting narrative that has led to much speculation and many questions. We will not answer all of those questions but hopefully we will see the big picture of what is being presented. The first question we are presented with has to do with the location of the King’s Valley or the Valley of Shaveh. According to II Samuel 18:18, the Valley of the Kings is where Absalom built a pillar for himself, and it is thought that this was done in the Kidron Valley that runs along the city of Jerusalem. When Abram was returning from his victory and deliverance of Lot, he traveled through this valley where he was met by the king of Sodom followed by the king of Salem. Many scholars equate the city of Salem with the city that would eventually be called Jerusalem. The king of Salem, Melchizedek, brought out wine and bread to Abram and his men. We are told that Melchizedek was a “priest of the Most High God.” (vs 17-18).

The complication about the identity of Melchizedek comes as you read the extra reading for today and read the description of him in Hebrews 7. In Hebrew 7 we are told that Melchizedek resembled the Son of God in that he had no beginning nor an end, nor did he have any genealogy. This whole understanding and study does get a little complicated, and for devotional purposes, we are going to stick to the passage here in Genesis.

What Melchizedek did was bless Abram for his trust in God and the way God used him to deliver Lot. He also blessed the God of Abram, stating and declaring that God was the One who gave Abram the victory (vs 19-20a).

As a result, Abram gave Melchizedek one tenth of “everything.” This “everything” could be a reference to the spoil that was taken in the victory over Lot’s captors, but it also could be a reference to a tenth of what he owned. This also seems to be the precedence for giving a tithe to God of all that you earn. Later in their history, the Israelites were to give a tithe (a tenth) of their possessions to the Lord, though on top of the tithe, there were other offerings they were to give. I do believe the idea of a tithe, giving a tenth of all your income to the Lord is a great starting point for believers, but I also believe it is a great privilege to give God more than just ten percent (vs 20b).

As a result of his great victory, the king of Sodom told Abram to let him have the people that were delivered, but Abram could take the possessions he won back for himself. Though this was a generous offer, Abram described how he vowed to the Lord that he would not take anything, not even a thread of a sandal, so that the glory would not be taken away from God. He didn’t want anyone to accuse him of becoming rich because of man made wealth. Abram only wanted the food that they had eaten and for those men who had gone with him to battle to be paid for their choice to put their lives at risk to go to battle with Abram (vs 21-24).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you trust God to take care of your needs like Abram did? Yes, God had blessed him and he was already wealthy, but most of us as humans have a desire for more. Yet, Abram didn’t let that desire keep him from carrying out the commitment that he had made to the Lord. He was not going to keep anything that God did not want him to have. Actions like this helped keep Abram humble and trusting in God even though he had great wealth at the time.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the financial blessings He provides for you.*
- * *Ask God to show you any areas of greed in your life.*

What had Abraham done (see verses 1-16)?

Where did the king of Sodom meet Abram (vs 17)?

Who was Melchizedek (vs 18)?

What did he bring out to Abram (vs 18)?

What do you find interesting about the blessing that he gave Abram in verses 19-20?

Why is it vital to realize that God is the source of true power and strength?

What did Abram give to Melchizedek (vs 20)?

Why do you think he did this?

What offer did the king of Sodom make (vs 21)?

Why would this have appealed to Abram?

What has Abram told God (vs 22-23)?

Why did Abram not want any riches from the battle (vs 23)?

What does this reveal about the character of Abram?

How do you think you would have responded if this offer was made to you?

What did Abram say he would take (vs 24)?

How does this reveal the godly character of Abram?

What can you learn about leadership from the example of Abram in this passage?

What lessons can you learn from this narrative found in chapter 14?

“Fear Not”

Study: Genesis 15:1-7

Reading: Romans 4, Galatians 3

Memory: Matthew 5:42

I am amazed how many times I have found myself become slightly anxious when following the directions that someone has given me. As I travel down a road trying to find an address or landmark, it seems like it takes forever sometimes and I start wondering if I missed the address or didn't understand the directions. Though modern GPS has alleviated some of this, I still am amazed when I travel somewhere the first time how long it seems to take. Once I have been at a place it seems like coming back from there or traveling to there again feels like it takes much less time. This is often because the “first time” anxious feelings no longer exist and there is a confidence that develops that removes that fear.

Today, we are going to read how Abram was walking an uncertain path. That uncertainty was causing fear to rise in his heart, but God comforted Him by reiterating His promises to Abram.

What Does the Bible Say?

It is very interesting that God started out this conversation with Abram by using the words “Fear Not.” Abram had recently returned from a great victory over those who captured Sodom and had followed through on his commitment to the Lord by not taking any of the spoils from the victory. You would think that Abram would be in a spot of great faith with little fear, but a study of many other Bible characters helps reveal that some of the greatest times of fear and worry in the life of a follower of God come after some of the greatest victories. God told Abram not to be afraid because He was not only going to continue to be his shield and protector, but would also be his reward. God was going to reward Abram for his faithfulness and commitment to Him. Though Abram was rich and had gained great social status, what was causing fear was something deeper. What Abram was worried about is revealed in verse two as Abram is concerned about not being able to have children. He thought the heir to all of his possessions would not be his own child but the children of his main servant, Eliezer (vs 1-3).

God had promised Abram that He would give him a son and He didn't intend to break that promise. Abram would have a son of his own and the son of his servant would not be his heir. To confirm this, Abram was led by God outside his tent where he was instructed by God to look at the stars in the heavens. God told Abram that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky, which basically meant that they would be innumerable. This was an important time in the life of Abram because he was faced with the difficult choice of believing that God would do something that seemed impossible. Abram chose the path of faith and we are told that was counted unto him as righteousness. Verse six was quoted by Paul a few times in the New Testament to help people understand that the salvation that God offers was not through human effort, but salvation came by faith (vs 4-6).

How Does this Apply to Me?

What are things that tend to cause fear in your life? Do you get upset at yourself when you doubt God or don't trust what He says? The grace of God is powerfully evident in this passage as you see the great grace of God that was shown to Abram by the phrase "Fear Not." He must have been getting depressed and worried about the future when God came to him. This reveals the humanity of Abram and the grace of God, the same humanity that you have and the same grace that God extends to you. There will be times when you will fear, but you don't have to. God will keep His promises to you even when time passes by and it seems like those promises may be impossible. Choose to trust God and have faith in Him. It is easy to say you have faith, but when that faith is put to the test and you don't see what you want to see happening, it is hard to truly have faith. Yet, it is faith that pleases God. God will do what He chooses and will be faithful to you! Take time today and ask God to give you the faith that you need to trust Him through whatever circumstances come your way in life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for His grace towards you.*
- * *Ask God to help you to have faith in Him.*

Thought for the day

Why do you think God used a vision (vs 1)?

****When studying the Old Testament, it must be remembered that they had no written Word at that time. God used direct communication or messengers to speak to His servants.*

What did God tell Abram not to do (vs 1)?

Why do you think this is a message that is repeated many times in Scripture?

What did God say He would be for Abram (vs 1)?

What was causing Abram to fear (vs 2)?

Why do you think this was causing so much fear in the mind of Abram?

Who was Abram planning to pass his wealth down to (vs 2-3)?

Why do you think Abram was planning a "Plan B" instead of trusting in God's plan?

Why do you think it is easy to develop our own plans instead of trusting in God's plans?

How did God confirm His word to Abram (vs 4)?

What can you learn from the gentle way that God dealt with Abram's doubt?

What did God show Abram (vs 5)?

How can we see the fulfillment of this promise today?

How did Abram respond to what God said (vs 6)?

What does this reveal about true righteousness?

Why is faith difficult at times?

“Future Promises”

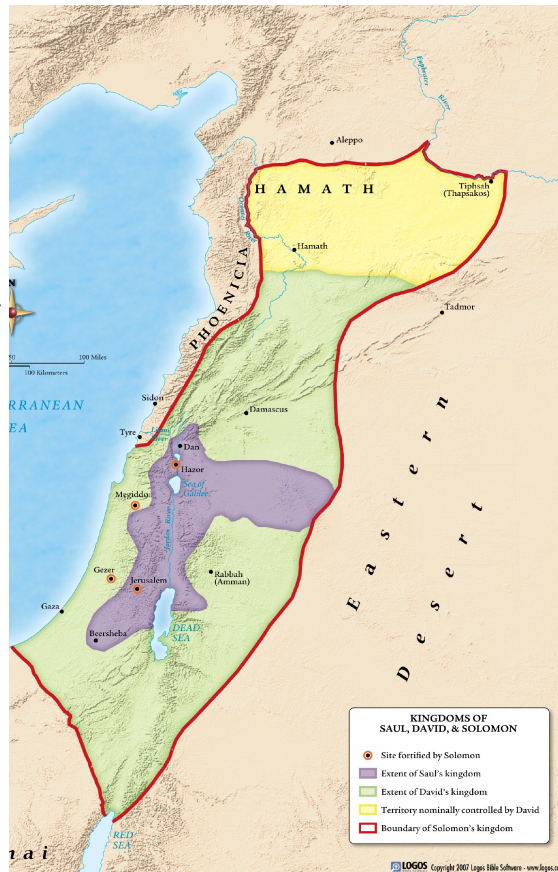
Study: Genesis 15:7-21

Reading: Numbers 14:1-12, Ezekiel 47:15-20

Memory: Matthew 5:42

What Does the Bible Say?

In order to help Abram continue to believe and to have trust in God, God reminded Abram that He was still the same God who originally called Abram from Ur to go to the land of promise. Basically God was telling Abram that He called him and directed him, and He was going to follow through on His promise. Abram knew this but wanted a little more confirmation from God to help assure his faith. The human understanding of this would be similar to an agreement made between two people. Often, the agreement will be followed with some type of down payment or some other affirmation to show that the deal will happen. In grace, God wanted to help show Abram confirmation. God did this by telling him to bring a heifer, a goat, a ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon to offer as sacrifices to Him. Abram cut each in half and created a type of path between the halves. In ancient cultures, there were customs where walking between halved animals would help seal agreements. It was an act that meant, “may I be like these animals if



Similar to the territory promised to Abram

I don't keep my commitment.” He then stayed by the animals, waiting for God to do something, while he scared away the birds that attempted to eat the animals (vs 7-11).

Abram waited all day for God to do something, but nothing happened. Then, as night fell, Abram fell into a deep sleep. God proceeded to tell Abram that he would have offspring and that they would travel down to a land that was not theirs and they would live in that land for four hundred years. They would be servants in the land and would face some times of difficulty while in the land. God would not forget them, but would deliver them out of the land with great judgement on their captors and would cause them to leave the land with great riches. This would not happen in Abram's day though. Instead, he would live in the land and live a full life without seeing the captivity that would happen to his descendants. God then described how it was not time yet to judge the Amorites, which the Israelites would do by defeating them when they conquered the land of Israel (vs 12-16).

In confirmation of the covenant, God caused a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch to pass between the halves of the animals to confirm the covenant that He had made with Abram. The covenant promised Abram that his seed would be given the land from the “river” in Egypt to the Euphrates in the north. From other descriptions of the land, it appears that this is not a reference to the Nile, but a seasonal river in the southern end of Israel. All the land that was currently inhabited by foreign nations would be theirs to possess (vs 17-20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

What are you called by God to do? As Abram doubted God's plan for his future, God reminded him that He was the One who called Abram and if He called Abram, He would be faithful to complete His calling. As you walk through the Christian life, God will at times call you to step out in faith to do something for Him. Those steps will not always be easy as you will not always see His promises fulfilled right away, nor will He always meet your expectations in your way and your timing. It is times like this that you need to remember His calling and remember that He will always be faithful to His Word.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for keeping the promises He has made to you.
- * Ask God to help you trust Him to keep His Word.

What did God remind Abram of (vs 7)?

What question did Abram ask God (vs 8)?

Why do you think he asked this question?

What did God tell Abram to do (vs 9)?

What did Abram do with these animals (vs 10)?

****Though this seems strange to us today, it would not have been that strange in those days since it was something that was practiced in that culture.*

Why do you think God delayed in coming to Abram?

What happened to Abram (vs 11)?

What did God say would happen to Abram's offspring (vs 12)?

How did this come true?

What was God going to do to the nation where Abram's descendants would be living (vs 14)?

What was going to happen to Abram (vs 15)?

What do you think the end of verse 16 means?

****Amorites is a broad term for those living in the land of Canaan. God was going to use His people to judge the land.*

What happened after dark (vs 17)?

What did God declare to Abram (vs 18)?

Why do you think this covenant was so important?

What land did God promise to Abram (vs 19-20)?

Matthew 5:25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil. 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.