**July 6, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“FAMILY STRIFE”**

**Genesis 13:1-18**

***Genesis 13:1 "And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south."***

***Genesis 13:2 "And Abram [was] very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."***

***Genesis 13:3 "And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Hai;"***

Last lesson, we learned that Pharaoh had sent Abram out of Egypt, when he discovered that God had plagued him because of Sarai, Abram's wife. Having been sent away from Egypt, Abram and his family journeyed to the Negev, then from the Negev to Bethel, gradually making their way back toward the land of promise. We notice, here, that Abram left nothing behind but took even the gifts that Pharaoh had given him. We will find, throughout the Bible, that three things that God called wealth, were cattle, silver, and gold. I really believe that cattle were symbolic for all food. It is interesting that God did not include land, or jewels as wealth. God's people, many times, are wealthy. It is not the riches that are sin. It is the love of riches.

***Genesis 13:4 "Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD."***

***Genesis 13:5 "And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents."***

***Genesis 13:6 "And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together."***

By this point Abram had become rich in livestock, silver, and gold, but so had his nephew Lot. Lot was now grown. It was time for him to go out on his own. He had acquired great wealth along with Abram. They had so many animals, there was not enough grazing for them all. Had the men’s wealth just been in silver and gold, they would have had no problem. But their herds were too vast for any one area. There simply wasn’t enough water and pasture for all of their livestock. In this, I believe Abram saw that he had sinned, and went back to find God, to get forgiveness, and begin again. That is where so many people fail. When a Christian realizes he has sinned, he should repent, and go back to his first love of God, and begin again. When a man has great wealth, as Abram did, his family as well usually has wealth. Abram loved Lot as a son (which he did not have) and, probably, helped Lot get these things to help him get started.

***Genesis 13:7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.***

It was safer to dwell together, in case someone attacked them, but the land was not able to sustain both large herds, and their servants were fighting over the best grazing spots. So many times large groups of people cannot dwell together without strife. It is even difficult for two families to live in the same house without fighting, and these were large groups of people.

***Genesis 13:8 "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we [be] brethren."***

Abram did not want to fight with Lot. So many times when a young man becomes of age, there is strife in the home. Both the father and his son, who is of age, want to be the authority. Neither wants to be under the other, and conflict arises. The only way to solve the problem is for this adult son to move out and establish his own home. Such was the case of Abram and Lot.

***Genesis 13:9 "[Is] not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if [thou wilt take] the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if [thou depart] to the right hand, then I will go to the left."***

Abram recognized that he and Lot had to separate. Surprisingly, though, Abram chose to preserve relationship over keeping the economic upper hand. He allowed Lot to pick his plot of land first (13: 9). This was an incredibly generous decision: in that culture, as head of the household, Abram had every right to make the first choice himself. But he had faith in God’s promise and provision, so he was able to defer to Lot.

***Genesis 13:10 "And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it [was] well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, [even] as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar."***

***Genesis 13:11 "Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other."***

Abram was telling Lot to choose first, and he would take the land Lot did not want. Lot chose what he thought was the best for himself. This land had plenty of water and was very fertile land. Lot was looking at the physical, and not the spiritual. He had not taken into consideration the evil lifestyle of the people. Abram was satisfied with the land Lot did not choose. Abram's unselfishness would be rewarded.

***Genesis 13:12 "Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched [his] tent toward Sodom."***

***Genesis 13:13 "But the men of Sodom [were] wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."***

Whether Lot knew that the men of Sodom were evil or not at this time were not mentioned in the Bible. Lot should have checked this out before moving in with them. Notice the Scripture above, it was not enough to just say they were wicked and sinners. God considers homosexuality a terrible sin (exceedingly).

13: 10-13 Lot looked at the two options and saw that the entire plain of the Jordan as far as Zoar was well watered everywhere (13: 10). He saw the material wealth in front of him, but failed to see what he should have—that it couldn’t last. God was going to judge the region soon, because the men of Sodom were evil, sinning immensely against the Lord (13: 13). Yet Lot chose to get close to sin for the material gain and beauty of a moment, journeying eastward toward Sodom and Gomorrah (13: 11). In Genesis, moving east was always a bad sign, and that is precisely the direction in which Lot was headed.

***Genesis 13:14 "And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:"***

***Genesis 13:15 "For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever."***

God showed Abram the Promised Land, which his descendents will receive as part of God's promise to Abram. This was not for Lot's descendents, only Abram's.

***Genesis 13:16 "And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, [then] shall thy seed also be numbered."***

Here, again, God teld Abram (even though he was very old) I will make so many descendents of you, that they will be impossible to number. God felt He needed to reassure Abram that he would have children and grandchildren. Abram, by this time thought, that the only descendents he would have would be through his nephew, Lot.

***Genesis 13:17 "Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee."***

***Genesis 13:18 "Then Abram removed [his] tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which [is] in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD."***

God set the boundaries of Israel right there that day. The Israelites still claim this territory today. Wherever Abram was, he built an altar. Hebron is an area still with the same name. "Hebron" means community and alliance.

Best of all, Abram wouldn’t have to do anything to make this happen. I will give it to you (13: 17), God plainly told him. The beautiful part of obeying God is that you don’t have to take what’s yours; he gives it to you freely.

13: 18 Abram moved his tent near the oaks of Mamre at Hebron, building there another altar to the Lord. He heard God’s promise and received it, worshiping God because of his word and finding security in that word. Unlike he’d done during his time in Egypt, Abram was now moving by faith, not by sight, which would be the foundation not only of his obedience but also of the obedience that God wants for all who follow him (see 2 Cor 5: 7).

**QUESTIONS**

1. What three things did God classify as wealth?
2. What two things, that we classify as wealth, does God not count as wealth?
3. What pertaining to wealth is sin?
4. What three things did Lot have with Him?
5. Why was the land unable to sustain them?
6. Who was the strife between?
7. What plan did Abram offer Lot?
8. What area did Lot choose?
9. What town was Lot's tent near?
10. How should Lot have judged which area he should take?
11. How long did God promise to give the Promised Land to Abram?
12. How many descendants would Abram have?
13. Why had Abram just about given up having natural children?
14. Where did Abram come to in this land?
15. What does Hebron mean?