

The Journey

Series 03: Covenant

Week 16: Abraham and Lot (Continued)

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We Have Been)

What instruction did God give to Abram? *Leave family/country; go to a new land*

Summary of God's Unconditional Covenant to Abraham...

Genesis 12:1 (ESV) The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the *land that I will show you*. **2** *I will make you into a great nation*. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. **3** I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the *families on earth will be blessed through you*.”

- **Promise of Land** (place to dwell) - *This land would position them as a group of witnesses on the crossroads of the ancient world, and as an example of what God can do in the life of a nation*
- **Promise of Nation** (descendants to fill land) - *They would become a great nation who would tell the world about the coming Deliverer*
- **Promise of Leader** (one descendant) – He would bless the whole earth (Christ)

What has happened?

- Abraham had arrived in Canaan with Sarah, Lot, and all their possessions
- The grass/water couldn’t sustain Abraham/Lot’s livestock; Lot given first choice

Genesis 13:11 (NLT) Lot...parted company with his uncle Abram. **12** So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. **13** But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the Lord.

“Abram stayed in the rocky and less fertile mountain and hills of Canaan. Lot moved down to the well-watered plain and settled near the city of Sodom.”

BIG Idea

These promises seemed empty since Abraham had **no land** yet, **no descendants** (his wife was barren), and **nothing to show for blessing the whole world**.

We'll discover God is at work, even when His work cannot be seen at the moment.

- **Nothing is too difficult for God**
- **No one can hinder God's purposes or plans**
- **Nothing is out of God's control** (even when it seems that way)

Information (What We Need to Know)

After Lot moved down to the plain near Sodom/Gomorrah, the Lord spoke to Abram.

God's words can be trusted. What He says, He will do...but we need reminded.

God's Reassurance of His Covenant with Abraham...

- **I will give you the *land***

Genesis 13:14 (ESV) The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, **15** for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. **17** Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.” **18** So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.

- **I will make of you a *great nation* and *send the Deliverer* through you**

Genesis 15:5 (ESV) And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” **6** And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

- ✓ Descendants seemed impossible to Abraham since his wife was barren
- ✓ But Abraham **believed** what God had said (even though it seemed impossible)
- ✓ Based on Abraham believing God's word, God made him **righteous**

“When Abram put his trust in God, specifically in God's promise to him (descendants leading to the Messiah), God credited (*counted*) this belief to Abram's account as righteousness. – David Guzik

Two Types of Righteousness...

- Righteousness *accomplished* by our own efforts (impossible for sinners)
- Righteousness *accounted* to us by the work of God when we believe (possible only through God)

“This is one of the clearest expressions in the Bible of the truth of salvation by grace, through faith. This is the first time *believe* is used in the Bible and the first time *righteousness* is used in the Bible. This is the New Testament gospel in the Hebrew Scriptures, later quoted four times in the New Testament.” – David Guzik

God's Actions Toward Abram and Sarai...

- God changes their names
 - ✓ Abram (Father of Many) to Abraham (Father of Many Nations)
Genesis 17:5 (ESV) No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.
 - ✓ Sarai to Sarah (Sarai means *my princess*, which confines her dominion to one family; but Sarah means *princess of a multitude*)
- God reminds them that He is capable of what seems impossible
Genesis 17:16 (ESV) “I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”
Genesis 18:14 (ESV) Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

In contrast to righteousness, we are introduced to the wickedness of Sodom, where Lot had chosen to dwell.

God's Actions Toward Sodom...

- God reveals the coming destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham
Genesis 18:20 (ESV) Then the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, **21** I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”
“We need to keep in mind that it was God, the righteous judge who condemned Sodom and Gomorrah. Although their sins of pride, sexual immorality, inhospitality, and cruelty were committed against other people - ultimately, they were a direct offense against God.” – Answers in Genesis
- God vows to spare Sodom if at least 10 righteous are found, but none are
Genesis 18:32 (ESV) Then he [Abraham] said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” **33** And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.
- God rescues Lot and his family from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
2 Peter 2:6 (ESV) God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. **7** But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him.

Application (What We Need to Do)

Although God cares about us and gives us the opportunity to believe His Word, He is also righteous and will judge those who refuse to believe the truth.

No person escapes God's attention, and no sin will escape God's righteous judgment.

Abraham, although sinful, chose to believe God and he was declared righteous.

Sodom and Gomorrah, in contrast, continued in their sin and experienced God's judgment.

Sin cannot go unpunished.

John 3:16 (NLT) “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. **17** God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. **18** “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. **19** And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.”