

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Was Abram forced to leave his homeland or did God give him a choice?
2. Were Abram and his family familiar with the land to which they were directed?
3. What were some of the promises to Abram if he obeyed the call of God?
4. Was God faithful to Abram? Is He faithful to us? If so, are there any special conditions?

SUMMARY:

Abram's father moved his family to a new land. They started out for Canaan but settled in Haran. God wanted Abram in Canaan, and after Terah's death, God made an ever lasting proposition with him. In great faith, he accepted God's promise, and we see a covenant made which has lasted throughout the centuries. God, of course, kept His word, but in Abram we see an outstanding example of one who took God at His word and never doubted. His faith in God made him great. A right relationship with God allows Him to use us to the fulfillment of His will.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #8

February 21, 2021

First Quarter

THE BEGINNING OF A NATION

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 11:31 through 12:9; Acts 7:1-8*

LESSON SETTING: Abram went from Ur to Haran (in Turkey near the Syrian border). God called him from Haran.

TIME: Approximately 1950 BC

- I. GOD'S CALL.** Genesis 11:31-32; 12:1
 - A. Call to Separation (12:1) Isaiah 52:11; John 15:19; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18
 - B. Faith in God's Call (12:1) Genesis 24:27; Psalm 23:2; 25:9; 48:14; Hebrews 11:8-10
- II. GOD'S COVENANT.** Genesis 12:2-3
 - A. Call to Leadership (vs. 2) Exodus 3:10; Judges; 6:14; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 26:16
 - B. Unfailing (vs. 2) 1 Kings 8:56; Romans 4:21; 8:28; 2 Peter 1:4
 - C. Both Temporal and Spiritual (vs. 3) Psalm 65:9; Psalm 68:19; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 6:33
- III. ABRAM'S OBEDIENCE.** Genesis 12:4-9; Acts 7:1-8
 - A. Trusting God (12:4-6) Psalm 37:3; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 1 Peter 4:12, 13
 - B. Reward (12:7-9) Isaiah 55:3; Hebrews 11:13-16; Revelation 3:21

GOLDEN TEXT: *AND I WILL MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS THEE, AND MAKE THY NAME GREAT; AND THOU SHALT BE A BLESSING;* Genesis 12:2

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 13:1-18; 14:12-16

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 6:19-34

QUARTERLY THEME: The Beginnings

TOPIC: ABRAM AND LOT

INTRODUCTION:

How very human it is for each of us to see that we are given what we want. If a choice is placed before us we take that which is most desirable. It is divine to be as Abram was. It takes an unselfish heart, one void of conceit and self-centeredness to take the shorter end.

Man is placed on this earth with a will of his own, with the power to make a choice. The world upholds that person that can make what it calls wise choices, choices that bring him gain in material things. The man who chooses to live for God and ignore worldly attractions for great gain is considered foolish by the world.

Lot showed human worldly wisdom in making his choice. Abram showed humble divine wisdom. But the result of these choices proved which one really had done wisely and had received God's blessings. We read much of Abram's descendants throughout the Bible, but little is mentioned of Lot's.

How much happier each individual would be if he, like Abram, is wise enough to take the shorter end.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Being both unselfish and a peacemaker go far in making the right choice.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE LORD IS MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS, SLOW TO ANGER, AND PLENTEOUS IN MERCY.*

Psalm 103:8

The Psalmist was looking back to the beginning of God's nation, Israel, and remembering the many times His people had turned from His ways, and yet how God had always forgiven them when they turned back to Him in repentance and godly fear. We know that God was "*slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy*" toward Israel, because of the promises which he had made to Abraham when he was yet Abram. Although He often punished them because of their idolatry and wickedness, whenever a righteous man prayed for them and they turned from evil, He always forgave them. So David was moved to write also, "*He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.*" (Psalm 103:10-11)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Feb. 22 – 28

M. *Abram and Lot. Genesis 13:1-18; 14:12-16

T. Israel Chooses Rightly. Joshua 24:11-21

W. Ruth Chooses Rightly. Ruth 1:11-21

T. Ruler Chooses Wrongly. Mark 10:17-22

F. Rich Man Chooses Wrongly. Luke 12:16-28

S. Felix Chooses Wrongly. Acts 24:10-26

S. Moses Chooses Rightly. Hebrews 11:23-29

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