

# Israel's Patriarch

## A Study in Genesis 12-24

A Promised Land  
Genesis 13:1-18  
August 2, 2020

Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen." - **Genesis 13:8**

### I. FULL CIRCLE

- Abram, after taking matters into his own hands, finds himself right back where he started (Gen. 13:3-4).
- In spite of Abram's wanderings, the LORD blesses him in almost every way (Gen. 13:2; 2 Tim. 2:13).

### II. TENSION AND RESOLUTION

- A main theme in the Abram/Abraham narrative of Genesis is the introduction of tension, and then the resolution of that tension (Gen. 12:19, 13:7, 14:12, 16:2, 18:13, 22-33, 19:1-29, 20:10, 21:9-10, 22-33, 22:2, 23:1-16, 24:1-67).
- Abram and Lot's combined wealth creates problems. The solution is separation (Gen. 13:8-9).

### III. ABRAM — THE BENEVOLENT

- Abram provides Lot with first choice of the land. He chooses without any concern for Abram (Vss. 10-12).
- Lot's eyes create greed and bad decisions (Vs. 13).
- Abram ends up where he belongs — in Canaan. There, God defines his promise even further (Vss. 12-17).
- Abram responds in worship. "Tent" and "altar" are the pattern of his life.

### IV. THE TIMES — THEY ARE A'CHANGIN'

- There is a time for everything. For humans, change and conflict are inevitable (Eccl. 3:1-8).
- Change is difficult. Stress creates problems. Nevertheless, "kinsmen" do not fight and grow bitter (Gen. 13:8; Rom. 12:18).

**KNOW:** God's promises to Abram are becoming more detailed, and Abram finally settles in the land. Life is filled with changes. God is always there on the other side of change.

**DO:** Roll with the changes inherent in life, but stand firmly on the foundation of the Lord.

### Suggested Reading:

*Does God Control Everything? Crucial Questions #14* by R.C. Sproul (LifePoint Library #CQ SPR)

*Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts* by Jerry Bridges (LifePoint Library #231.4 BRI)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read Genesis 13:1-18

1. God keeps blessing Abram. Why?
2. How does Abram tend to deal with conflict? What can we learn from this?
3. Do you see any sinful issues in the life of Abram's nephew Lot thus far in our narrative? What might those issues be?
4. So far, what has been God's promise to Abram?
5. Abram again responds to a visit from God by worshipping him. What lessons are there in this for us?
6. So far in our narrative of Abram's life, what are some points of application for you in your own life?