

## CGYG & LIFE Bible Study – Genesis 13-15

### Read Genesis 13:1-18

In Genesis 12:10-20, Abram went into Egypt because of a famine. Fearing for his life and wishing to be treated well, he deceived Pharaoh into thinking Sarai was his sister rather than his wife. However, God inflicted Pharaoh and his household with serious diseases, with the result that Abram's deception was discovered, and he and Sarai were sent away. Leaving Egypt, they returned to the land of Canaan, to the place near Bethel where Abram had previously built an altar (13:3-4). There, Abram called on the name of the Lord, perhaps in repentance and renewal of commitments he had made to the Lord prior to his journey into Egypt (12:8). Having become very wealthy (13:2), he now began having problems with his nephew, Lot (13:5ff).

-As Lot's uncle, Abram had the right to decide which way he and Lot would each go. What do you think motivated him to relinquish that right and let Lot decide instead? What do you think motivated Lot's decision?

-If you were faced with similar decisions as Abram and Lot, what do you think you would do, and why? [e.g. If your boss came to you with a very good promotion and told you that either you or your co-worker could have it, would you leave the choice to your co-worker? Or if you had an opportunity for an extremely attractive job that would pay far more than you were currently making, but meant that you could be exposed frequently to temptations or that you might not be able to attend Church on most Sundays, would you take the job?]

-How did God respond to Abram's dealings with Lot? How did Abram respond to God?

### Read Genesis 14:1-24

-Summarize the events of this chapter.

-Who was Melchizedek, and why is he significant? (see also Psalm 110:1-4; Heb. 7:1-7)

-Why did Abram refuse the king of Sodom's offer? What does this tell us about Abram's character?

### Read Genesis 15:1-21

-Why might Abram have been afraid (v.1), and how does God comfort him?

-Why (and how) does Abram question God (v.2-3)? How does God respond to Abraham's anxiety (v.4-5)?

-How does Abram respond to God's promise of an offspring? Why was his response so remarkable? (cf. Rom. 4:18-22)

-What does Abram's example teach us about faith and about God's response to faith? (cf. Romans 4:1-5,13-25; Galatians 3:6-9)

-Did Abram doubt that God would give him the land He had promised? (v.7-8)

-How does God respond to Abram's question in v.8? What is the meaning of the ritual performed in v.9-21? (cf. Jer. 34:8-20)

-What is the significance of the fact that God (manifested through the smoking firepot) passed along through the pieces of the animals, without Abram (v.17)?

### **Aliens and strangers in the world**

Abram's example shows us what a life of faith looks like. By faith, Abram was able to put Lot's needs before his own, trusting that God would be faithful to provide for him and to give him the land, as He had promised. By faith, he routed the armies of Kedorlaomer and rescued his nephew. By faith, he gave a tenth of everything to Melchizedek and refused the king of Sodom's goods, giving glory to God alone for his victories and successes. Abram's faith in God was the basis of his acceptance as righteous in God's sight (15:6) and was therefore the basis of the intimate fellowship he enjoyed with God, since 'without faith, it is impossible to please God' (Heb 11:6). And though he grappled with understanding how God's promises would be worked out through him, Abram 'did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised.' (Rom 4:20-21). As a result, he continued to know God's presence, comfort and affirmation in his life, even as he waited for fulfillment of the things promised.

Spend some time reflecting on what it means to live by faith in your daily life. Are you trusting fully in God, fully persuaded that He will do all that He has promised? Are there promises that you're having a hard time trusting Him to keep? Commit your uncertainties, fears and anxieties in these areas to Him in prayer, and learn to place your trust fully in Him.