

Abraham – Spiritual Father of All Believers
A Caleb’s Promise Ministry Teaching

Abraham is known as the spiritual father of the Jews and Gentiles who are the Body of Christ.

Jesus and Paul refer to Abraham frequently as the spiritual father of the Jewish Nation, Israel, and of the Body of Christ.

Abraham is called the “father of faith.”

If Jesus and Paul esteem Abraham so much and speak of Abraham throughout the New Testament or New Covenant, perhaps we need to study Abraham and learn more about him to help us in our walk as Believers.

Galatians 3:6-8

6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, **preached before the gospel unto Abraham**, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Galatians 3:13-14, 29

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

14 That **the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ**; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The “promise” is found in Romans 4:13 where it says, “Abraham is heir of this world.” The world, this material world belongs to Abraham and his seed. This is us.

We know Abraham and Sarah had different names, Abram and Sarai, until God changed their names in Genesis 17 as part of His covenant with Abraham.

A. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE NAME CHANGES?

Not understanding the name changes creates confusion.

Abram = “Exalted Father”

Sarai = “Chief, Governor, or Leader” – Masculine form of the name which means she cannot bear children because a male cannot bear children.

God changed Abram’s and Sarai’s name in Genesis 17. **There is significant Spiritual significance to the name changes:**

- “LORD,” spelled in all uppercase letters is the Hebrew Word, “YHVH Elohim.”
- “YHVH” are the letters Y, H, V, and H. YHVH stands for “Hand Behold Nail Behold”
- “Elohim” is the plural name of God: God The Father, God The Son, God the Holy Spirit
- The “Heh” in YHVH is the 5th letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Hebrew letters also have a numeric value; therefore the “H” or “Heh” is the 5th letter. What is the significance of the 5th letter “Heh?”
 - o GRACE! It represents “GRACE.” GRACE is the primary attribute of REDEMPTION.
 - o Also represents “YHVH Elohim.”
 - o Standing alone, “Heh,” is also the word, “BEHOLD”
- The “LORD” changed Abram’s and Sarai’s names during His 5th visit with Abram. This 5th visit has great significance. It is during this visit that God inserted the letter “Heh” into their names:
 - o “Heh” was inserted in the middle of Abram’s name forever imprinting the quality of God’s grace on Abraham and his Seed.
 - o “Heh” was added to the end of Sarai’s name which illustrates the feminine idea of gentleness, loving affection, and devotion. This adding of “Heh” to the end of her name opened her womb and Isaac was born. Her name changed made her the matriarch of the entire redeemed world.
- It was less than one year from the time God changed Abram’s and Sarai’s names to Abraham and Sarah that Isaac was born. The power of the spoken word in faith.

God’s name change resulted in the new meaning of their new names:

- Abraham = “Father of Many Nations”
- Sarah = “Princess”

GOD INSERTED HIMSELF, “GRACE,” INTO THEIR NAMES.

Now that we understand the former and present names of Abraham and Sarah, let’s learn more about where they came from and why God chose them to be our spiritual father and mother.

B. WHY DID GOD CHOOSE ABRAM AND SARAI TO BE THE SPIRITUAL PATRIARCH AND MATRIARCH?

Many believe God just went, “Eany, Meany, Miny, Moe” and chose Abram from among the pagan idolaters of Ur to become the earthly and spiritual lineage of Jesus Christ and all Believers. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I asked God why Abram one time?

Genesis 18:19

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him.

Abraham and Sarah's lineage came from Noah's son Shem.

Remember Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Shem was the oldest.

In Genesis 9:26 Noah blessed Shem.

In Genesis 11 we have the Tower of Babel. From the Tower of Babel, mankind was scattered upon the earth. The Tower of Babel was built in the area of what later became Babylon. Babylon has always been a stronghold of demonic activity.

Of real interest is Genesis 11:31:

Genesis 11:31

And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, **to go into the land of Canaan**; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

NOTICE: Terah, Abraham's father, has taken his family and left Ur of the Chaldees to go into the land of Canaan.

The ancient city of Ur was located in what is today the nation of Iraq. It was located near the modern city of Nasiriya in Southern Iraq.

The ancient city of Haran was located in what is today Eastern Turkey about 300 miles northeast of what is today Israel. In that day it was the Land of Canaan.

It's interesting that Terah left Ur of Chaldees **TO GO INTO THE LAND OF CANAAN**. Ur was a major worship area of many different idols and false gods with the primary false god being the "Moon God."

C. WHY THE LAND OF CANAAN?

The land of Canaan was not ruled by any authority or nation. It was located between Babylon and Egypt, the two great empires at this time. The land, geographically, was one which experienced a lot of drought and had large areas of desert with an oasis here and there. The people of the land were Canaanites.

"And the Canaanite was then in the land." Canaanites, as a people, represent the evil spirit of sexual and religious perversion. They practiced all kinds of sexual perversion and sacrificed their children to the gods.

Canaan = in Hebrew means "to be brought down by a heavy load"

Canaanites were named after the son of Ham, Canaan. Remember Ham was cursed by Noah for performing a sexual perversion. See Genesis 9:21-22, 25 and Deuteronomy 27:20. Ham laid with his mother. Incest begins here. We can see now why the Canaanites practiced sexual perversions of all kind.

To the naked eye, to the wisdom of the world, it would make NO SENSE for Abram to leave Haran and go into the Land of Canaan. God called Abram out of the world, where he could depend on the world system and into a land where Abram would have to depend on God every day for his very survival. It was here God would teach Abram God's Word and Abram's faith would grow to become the "Father of Many Nations."

It is commonly, and wrongly, stated that God called Abraham out of Ur of Chaldees. When God called Abraham, he was living in Haran. We see this in Genesis 12:1 and 12:4-5:

Genesis 12:1

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Genesis 12:4-5

4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

In the Hebrew Bible, Genesis 12:1 says, "**And Jehovah saith unto Abram,**" not "Now the LORD had said unto Abram...." When the word "HAD" is wrongly inserted, it implies God said this to Abram before. God didn't.

The Scriptures are clear it was TERAH who moved the family from Ur to Haran. God DID NOT call Abram in UR to go to Canaan. God put it in Terah's heart to move from Ur.

God called Abram when he was in Haran, after Terah had died.

ONE VERY IMPORTANT FACT TO UNDERSTAND – ABRAM KNEW GOD BEFORE GOD TOLD HIM TO LEAVE HARAN AND GO TO THE LAND OF CANAAN. IT WASN'T RANDOM.

Abraham acted in faith by leaving Haran and all he knew behind to follow God into what he had heard to be an inhospitable land.

Where did this faith come from? Yes, Romans 10:17 tells us. Abram didn't have this faith overnight. Therefore, we know Abram already had some kind of relationship with God and was meditating things he had learned of God.

D. FOUR CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY GOD UPON ABRAM

Let's look closely at Genesis 12:1. God gives Abram four (4) conditions he must perform in order to receive the promises of Genesis 12:2-3:

1. "Get thee out of thy country,"
2. "and from thy kindred,"
3. "and from thy father's house,"
4. "unto a land I will shew thee:"

What is the Spiritual significance of the number four (4) in Hebrew?

In Hebrew, the number 1 represents The Father, the number 2 The Son, and the number 3 The Holy Spirit. **The number 4 represents the world system characterized by humanities weakness.**

Let's look at the four conditions of Genesis 12:1:

1. "Out of thy Country" = "government, business, religion, education, arts and entertainment, media" **ABRAM IS TO LEAVE A WORLD SYSTEM.**
2. "From thy Kindred" = "Out of your own native land, origin, nativity." **ABRAM IS TO LEAVE OR SEPARATE HIMSELF FROM THE PEOPLE LIVING IN AND DEPENDING ON THE WORLD SYSTEM.**
3. "From thy Father's house" = "Leave your earthly father, his customs, his practices, his family, his wealth and riches" **ABRAM IS TO LEAVE HIS EARTHLY FAMILY SO GOD CAN TRAIN ABRAM TO DEPEND COMPLETELY ON GOD AS HIS HEAVENLY FATHER.**
4. "Unto a land I will shew thee" = "a physical land elsewhere." **ABRAM IS TO RELOCATE TO A PHYSICAL LOCATION AWAY FROM HIS COUNTRY, KINDRED, AND FATHER'S HOUSE.**

We can see the four conditions are all tied to leaving the world system, the system ruled by the god of this world, Satan, to enter a land where YHVH Elohim would become Abram's God and Abram would depend upon God Himself for his prosperity, protection, deliverance, and health.

The formula $4+1=5$, YHVH's omnipotence added to the weakness of humanities impotence signifies God's unmerited favor bestowed upon a fallen humanity by forgiveness and redemption. Therefore, the letter "Heh" meaning "Grace" is represented by the number 5.

THOSE OF THE WORLD WHO GIVE THEMSELVES TO CHRIST HAVE GOD ADDED INTO THEIR LIVES PRODUCING GRACE IN AND FOR THE BLEIEVER. $4+1=5$.

E. SEVEN PROMISES OF GOD TO ABRAM

In Genesis 12:2-3, God makes seven promises to Abram if Abram will obey Genesis 12:1:

Genesis 12:2-3

2 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:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Promises:

1. “I will make of thee a great nation.”
2. “I will bless thee.”
3. “I will make your name great.”
4. “You shall be a blessing.”
5. “I will bless those that bless you.”
6. “I will curse him that curses you.”
7. “In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

What is the Spiritual significance of the number 7 in Hebrew?

The number seven (7) is the Hebrew word “Shevah.”

It means “Rest, cessation from work, wholeness, completeness, being ripe, order, stability, and holiness.”

In these seven promises God made to Abraham and to his seed – **US** – through The Seed – Jesus Christ – we receive divine health, divine prosperity, divine protection, and divine deliverance – **IN THIS EARTH.**

DID ABRAHAM HAVE ANY HEALTH ISSUES? ANY FINANCIAL ISSUES? ANY DELIVERANCE ISSUES? ANY PROTECTION ISSUES? NO!!!!!!!

So, as we review Genesis 12:1-3, we see that God has called Abram out of the world and into rest if Abram will obey and follow God.

Psalm 37:37

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

F. TRAVELS OF ABRAM THROUGHOUT THE LAND OF CANAAN

Let’s look at Abram’s travels through the land of Canaan. The Book of Hebrews tells us Abraham was a “sojourner.” SOJOURNER = A temporary resident; a stranger or traveler who dwells in a place for a time.

Hebrews 11:10 tells us Abraham was searching/looking “for a city which has foundations who builder and maker is God.”

Abraham is nomadic all of his life. He never lives in the urban areas, cities, or cities with walls. He is separated from the world.

“Sichem” = Hebrew word for “shoulder.”

Sichem lies in a narrow valley between Mt. Gerazim (Blessings) and Mt. Ebal (Curses)

Joshua 8 – Joshua and Children of Israel would recite the Blessings and the Cursings from Mt. Gerazim and Mt. Ebal

Isaiah 10:27

And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

LORD appeared unto Abram in Sichem. This is the first time God appears to Abram. This is why Abram recognizes Jesus in Genesis 18 when He comes to visit Abraham on the way to Sodom and Gomorrah.

God always visits man in the Old Covenant in a preincarnate image of Jesus Christ.

Notice in Genesis 12:7 its says, “...**there builded he an altar unto the LORD.**” It doesn’t say God instructed him to build an altar. Abram already knew to do this. Sacrifices were made here to God. God taught this to Adam who taught it to Seth and it was passed down to sacrifice a blood atonement for sin.

Another Truth that Abram was not some random pagan chosen out of Ur to become God’s man.

Bethel – Hebrew word for “**House of God.**”

Hai – Hebrew word for “**Heap or ruins.**” Hai is the “Ai” Joshua destroys in the book of Joshua. Symbolic of the world.

Abram pitched his tent between Bethel and Hai – between God and the world.

This was symbolic of Abraham’s role as an Intercessor between God and man.

Notice Genesis 12:8.

Genesis 12:8

And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, **and called upon the name of the LORD.**

The part of the Scripture, **“and called upon the name of the LORD”** is wrongly translated.

In the Hebrew, it is written, **“and preacheth in the Name of Jehovah.”**

When we see this phrase, “and called upon the name of the LORD,” it is always saying this person preached The Word of God. The first time we see this phrase in the Bible is in Genesis 4:26. Enos, the son of Seth was the first preacher of The Word of God in the earth.

Yet another Spiritual hint that Abram was not a random pagan chosen by God to be His man. Abram knew God.

G. ABRAMS TRAVELS INTO EGYPT

Genesis 12:10 – notice it says, **“there was a famine in the land; and Abram went down into Egypt...”**

“Egypt” = Hebrew word “Mitzraim,” which means “bondage, slavery, servitude.”

We know **“Egypt”** represents or is a picture of the world and its system, man’s wisdom. **“Went down,”** in a spiritual sense, means **“to leave a higher realm and descend into a lower or inferior realm.”** We leave the spiritual realm and descend into the physical realm. Therefore we’re instructed to think, speak, and act in the spiritual realm with The Word of God – which is Spirit and is life (John 6:63).

The Land of Canaan is experiencing a famine. The Scriptures tell us it was a **“grievous famine.”**

There is a treasure trove of revelation in Genesis 12:10-20 – about Abram and Sarai’s time in Egypt.

The **“FEAR”** Abram had of being killed by the Egyptians for Sarai and her great beauty is simply **“UNBELIEF.”** God has already promised Abram in Genesis 12:2-3 He was going to make of Abram a great nation and the six other promises we covered earlier today. This is also reiterated by God at Sichem in Genesis 12:7 – that his seed should inherit the land.

If Abram or Sarai were killed, God couldn’t keep His promise to Abram.

God had to teach Abram to trust His Word. Later we find Abraham willing to sacrifice his only son Isaac for the Lord God because Abraham had grown in faith and believed God with all his heart.

We must grow in faith just as faithful Abraham did. But which FAITH? There is the faith in man’s wisdom and there is the faith in God’s Word. Both are types of faith. One is called “FEAR” and one is called “FAITH.”

We don’t have the time to dive into a deep study of the separation of Abram and Sarai, but I will give you Spiritual nuggets you can take and study out.

REVELATION – NOTICE GOD DIDN’T INSTRUCT ABRAM NOT TO GO INTO EGYPT AS HE DID ISAAC IN GENESIS 26. WHY?

BECAUSE THE FAITH IN GOD’S WORD ABRAM AND SARAI EXERCISED IN EGYPT GAVE GOD THE AUTHORITY TO INTERVENE IN LATER PROPHETIC EVENTS INVOLVING

EGYPT AND ISRAEL, TO DELIVER THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY FROM THE WORLD.

[REMEMBER ABRAHAM WILLING TO SACRIFICE ISAAC. ABRAHAM WAS GOD'S COVENANT PARTNER. WHATEVER ABRAHAM WAS WILLING TO GIVE, GOD HAS TO GIVE AS WELL.]

ABRAM = is a type or picture of FAITH.

SARAI = is a type or picture of GRACE.

PHAROAH = is a type of picture of the LAW.

FAITH is separated from GRACE and then rejoined at a later point. This is prophetic of four events yet to come from the day of Abraham:

- 1.) Jacob, which represents FAITH, is separated from Joseph, which represents GRACE, and then rejoined (Joseph a picture or type of Jesus the Messiah).
- 2.) Children of Israel, which represent FAITH, are separated from God, which represents GRACE, and then rejoined (Passover and Exodus).
- 3.) Man, which represents FAITH, is separated from GRACE by the Law and then rejoined (by Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection).
- 4.) Israel, which represents FAITH, is separated from GRACE, Jesus the Messiah, and will be rejoined.

Here is something we learn:

YOU CAN HAVE FAITH WITHOUT GRACE, BUT YOU CANNOT HAVE GRACE WITHOUT FAITH.

Let's look at the example of Abram and Sarai. In Genesis 12:13, we see Abram instructing his wife to say they were brother and sister because of Abram's fear of being killed. So, Abram and Sarai GO INTO EGYPT AS BROTHER AND SISTER.

Then we see in Genesis 13:1 Abram being reunited with Sarai and LEAVING AS HUSBAND AND WIFE.

What is the significance?

BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE OF THE SAME FAMILY BUT THEY ARE NOT ONE FLESH AS HUSBAND AND WIFE. THEY ARE NOT INTIMATE. FAITH AND GRACE ARE ONE FLESH IN CHRIST JESUS.

What is the Spiritual significance of marriage? It is a picture of FAITH and GRACE united.

Mark 10:7-8

7 For this cause shall a man [Jesus] leave his father and mother [El Shaddai], and cleave to his wife [The Church; His bride];

8 And they twain shall be one flesh [Grace and Faith]: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace [**Jesus**] are ye saved through faith [**Man**]; and that not of yourselves [**there is nothing we can do to earn salvation**]: it [**Grace**] is the gift of God:

9 Not of works [**Law**], lest any man [**Faith**] should boast.

H. Abram's Travels Out of Egypt (Genesis 13)

Why do we study about Abraham and Sarah? 1.) because they are our spiritual patriarch and matriarch and 2) because they are examples unto us.

I Corinthians 10:11

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

“**Admonition**” = “**Gentle reproof**; counseling against a fault; instruction in duties; caution; direction.”

“**Reproof**” = “to convince of a fault, or to make it manifest.”

God, our Father, through the Holy Spirit admonishes and reproves us from love because He wants us to experience the very best in life. And, He DOES IT GENTLY AS A LOVING FATHER.

Genesis 13:1-2

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

2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

As was mentioned in previous teachings, Abram being reunited with Sarai represents “faith” being reunited with “grace.” Abram and Sarai leaving Egypt with all that they had and with the riches of Egypt, symbolic of the world, is prophetic of the Children of Israel leaving Egypt, led by Moses, and of US, as Believers, accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord, King, Savior, and Great High Priest.

Genesis 13:2, in the Hebrew, says, “And Abram **was exceedingly wealthy** in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

RICH – in ancient writings, an Arab Sheik was considered rich when he owned:

- 1.) One hundred to two hundred tents.**
- 2.) Sixty to one hundred camels.**
- 3.) One thousand sheep or goats.**

Remember Abram was given sheep, oxen, he asses, menservants, maidservants, she asses, and camels in Genesis 12:16.

So, what Abram was given in Genesis 13:2 was also given to him in addition to what he received in Genesis 12:16. Notice Abram wasn't given cattle, gold, or silver in Genesis 12:16.

Abram's wealth represents the "wealth transfer" to come in when the Children of Israel left Egypt in the Exodus and the "wealth transfer" given to us as Believers as part of our salvation. We are the seed of Abraham through Jesus Christ. We have the right to be exceedingly wealthy. (see Deuteronomy 8:18, Proverbs 13:22, Galatians 3:14, 29, and Philippians 4:19)

Deuteronomy 8:18

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is He that giveth thee **power** to get wealth, **that He may establish His covenant which He sware unto thy fathers**, as it is this day.

Notice that Deuteronomy 8:18 says, "that He [God] may establish His covenant which He sware unto they fathers...."

Is there anywhere in that Scripture where it says that "Abram" or "We," as Believers, do anything? NO! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BELIEVE AND CONFESS.

Romans 10:10

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Notice that Deuteronomy 8:18 says, "**for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth...**"

In the Hebrew it says, "**for He it is who is giving to thee power to make wealth...**"

There are two important points with this part of Genesis 8:18:

The "power" spoken of in Deuteronomy 8:18

"**power**" = Hebrew word "**koah**" which means "the ability, the efficiency to make wealth."

God gives TO US the ability and the efficiency to make wealth.

What is the difference between "get" and "make" wealth?

GET = "To procure; to obtain; to gain possession of, by almost any means."

MAKE = "To create; to cause to exist; to form from nothing." God made the materials of the earth and of all worlds.

WE MAKE WEALTH BY OUR SEEKING, BELIEVING, CONFESSING, THANKSGIVING, AND TESTIMONY.

AS GOD CREATED ALL GOOD GIFTS AND PERFECT GIFTS WITH HIS SPOKEN WORD THROUGH FAITH, GOD INSTRUCTS US TO DO THE SAME.

Proverbs 13:22

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just [righteous].

Galatians 3:14, 29

14 That **the blessing** of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the **promise**.

Romans 4:13

For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Abram returns to the location between Beth-el and Hai where he had originally camped and erected an altar to the LORD. Notice Abram again **“preached in the name of Jehovah.”**

H.1. Lot – name means “To conceal” or “To cover” in Hebrew.

Lot’s name is symbolic of today’s Believers who live with one foot in the world and one foot in the Spiritual realm. They try to straddle both realms in their thinking and actions.

Lot would “conceal” or “cover” The Truth with his carnal thoughts, words, and deeds.

The Hebrew says this type of Believer is a “two souled man.”

What does the Book of James tell us about a “two souled” or “double minded” man?

James 1:7

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Why will this man or woman not receive anything of the Lord?

James 1:6

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Genesis 13:5

And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

Lot is blessed by being with Abram. [other examples are Potiphar blessed by Joseph, Laban blessed by Jacob, James, John, and Peter blessed by being with Jesus]

II Peter 2:7-8

7 And delivered just [Hebrew says “righteous” rather than “just”] Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

“Vexed” = “Teased; provoked; irritated; troubled; agitated; disquieted; afflicted.”

LOT was greatly influenced by his environment, by his senses. He was very carnal.

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.

STRIFE BETWEEN ABRAM'S AND LOT'S HERDMAN CAUSED BY THE CANAANITE AND PERIZZITE EVIL SPIRITS IN CANAAN [GENESIS 13:7].

Canaanite Spirit – sexual perversion, addiction, exaggerated people pleasing, and child sacrifice.

Perizzite Spirit – limited vision, laziness, low self-esteem

Purpose of these evil spirits in the land was to knock Abram and Sarai off the foundation of God's Word, His promises, to them. Evil spirits were there to pull Abram and Sarai into the natural realm.

We won't go there, but this is described in Romans Chapter 1 by the Holy Spirit through Paul. The end result of these evil spirits is Romans 1:28.

Romans 1:28

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

“Reprobate” = “one who has lost their conviction of right and wrong. They don't care even though they have not lost their knowledge of what is right and wrong.

“Convenient” = Hebrew “those things not fitting, forbidden, shameful.”

James 3:14-15

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

Strife comes from Satan's wisdom and is earthy, sensual, and devilish. Confusion and every evil work accompany it.

The Canaanite and Perizzite are earthy, sensual, and devilish.

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 came to a Spiritual understanding of The Blessing which enabled him to say what he said to Lot. Abram didn't care which direction Lot chose because he knew he was blessed of The Lord. This can only happen through faith (Romans 10:17). The same as the poor widow who gave her last two mites mentioned by Jesus. She had to come to a Spiritual understanding of how The Blessing, The Kingdom of God works.

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.

Notice that “Lot” lifted up his eyes. This symbolizes Lot operating by his senses, in the physical realm.

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.

Notice that verse 11 says, “Then Lot chose him.....” Does Lot come before the Lord and ask him what land to choose? No! Lot is relying on his own wisdom and physical senses.

What does the Word of God tell us about relying on OUR wisdom, OUR knowledge, and OUR physical senses? We find the answer, as always, in The Word of God.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

We all know the story of Lot. We’ll study more about Lot as we continue in our study of Abraham and Sarah.

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.**

Notice in verse 12 the Scriptures tell us that Lot “...**dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.**”

Sodom = Hebrew for “flaming” or “burnt.”

Scriptures tell us the people of Sodom were terribly wicked.

Genesis 13:13

But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

Ezekiel 16:49 [God talking about Jerusalem]

Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

AMAZING REVELATION

The proverbial "sin of Sodom," however, was not, as is often understood, of a sexual nature but rather that it had "abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy"

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:

Notice how Lot's reaction in Genesis 13:10 differs from Abrams in Genesis 13:14. God tells Abram to "lift up now thine eyes and look..." Abram waited on God. There was time that elapsed from the time Abram spoke to Lot to the time Lot actually separated from Abram. Abram didn't move or act until God spoke to him. Abram lifted up his eyes when God commanded him.

Genesis 13:17-18

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

Notice Abram "removed his tent" and moved to Hebron AFTER God has commanded him to walk through the land.

Hebron = "friendship" or "fellowship" in Hebrew.

Abram is walking in "friendship" and "fellowship" with God his Father.

Hebron has a lot of history and is one of the oldest, continually populated cities in the world. All the patriarchs are buried there with their wives, and later Caleb is given Hebron as his possession in the Promised Land.

ABRAM DEPENDING ON GOD IN THE LAND OF CANAAN

Quickly recap Genesis Chapter 13.

Now we turn to Genesis Chapter 14, and we see in the first 11 verses a description of a conflict that turns into a war between the five kings of Canaan and the four kings of Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamia is the present-day countries or parts of the countries of Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Syria.

SIGNIFICANCE OF FOUR KINGS VERSUS FIVE KINGS

The number "four" in Hebrew represents the perfect creation of God. Every element of creation resonates with the number 4.

The four kings of Mesopotamia represent the fourfold division of humanity by God as set forth in Revelation 10:11, 5:9, and 13:7.

Revelation 10:11

And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

The division includes:

1. People – humans referred to by God as any one of the four divisions.

2. Language - We are identified by our language because language signifies who we are and where we originate from.
3. Tribe - People who are of the same tribe might not necessarily speak the same language as certain tribes adopt languages that are foreign to them.
4. Nation - Humans are also identified by their nation which is usually a combination of similar tribes unified under one government.

The number “five” in Hebrew has several meanings. One meaning which we know is “Grace.” The meaning as used for the “five” kings is, “the impotence of man.”

The five kings of Canaan represent the impotence of man. “Impotence” means “to be without strength, weak, feeble, or destitute of force.”

We see the kings of Canaan served the kings of Mesopotamia for 12 years.

The number 12 represents authority and government in Hebrew. For 12 years there was the order of authority and government in place and peace between the regions.

In the 13th year, we see the kings of Canaan rebel against the kings of Mesopotamia.

The number 13 represents “rebellion and lawlessness” in Hebrew.

Nimrod, the mighty hunter, “who was before the Lord” meaning he tried to take place of God (Genesis 10:9). He was the 13th in Ham’s line.

In the 14th year, the kings of Mesopotamia attack the region of Canaan killing the tribes of giants, who were descendants of the sons of Anak, and eventually attacking the five kings of Canaan who had rebelled.

The number 14 represents “a double measure of spiritual perfection.” God uses evil men to punish evil men which is perfection according to God’s Word. God’s Word is perfect.

LOT

Notice in Genesis 14:12 that Lot **NOW** dwells in Sodom. The last time we heard about Lot in Genesis 13:12, he had “pitched his tent toward Sodom.” You cannot live in the world and not be of the world. Even Believers, who are from Heaven, from the Royal Family of God, if they live in the world, they will be of the world.

There is an important distinction between the two prepositions “of” and “from.”

“Of” is possessive meaning being possessed by.”

“From” is “origination” or “originates from.”

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the **tradition of men**, after the **rudiments of the world**, and not after Christ.

ARE YOU POSSESSED OF GOD OR POSSESSED OF THE WORLD?

Notice how Abram hasn't had any problems since the splitting up between his household and Lot's household because of their huge abundance. Here's Lot, in Sodom, or in the world, and suffering the same outcome as the world. Lot and his possessions are taken as well as everyone else and their possessions.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

II Peter 2:6-8

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

ABRAM RESCUES LOT

We see in Genesis 14:12 the kings of Mesopotamia take Lot, his family, and his goods and head back to Mesopotamia along with all the people and goods of Sodom and Gomorrah.

One of the Amorites escaped and returned telling Abram what happened. Three Amorite leaders, all brothers, Mamre, Asner, and Eschol, are confederated with Abram, and go with Abram after the kings of Mesopotamia to rescue their families, people, and goods.

Abram first called a “Hebrew” in Genesis 14:13

Hebrew = “cross over” or “pass through” or “traverse the river”

In Genesis 14:14, Abram reacts to the news by arming his 318 trained servants, born in his own house. These were young men born and raised under the spiritual and physical leadership of Abram.

Abram and his 318 trained servants and Mamre, Asner, and Eschol, the Amorites, pursue the kings of Mesopotamia until they encounter them near Dan.

Dan was a city in northernmost Israel, 140 miles from Hebron where Abram dwelt. Hebron is 20 miles south of modern day Jerusalem or Salem in the day of Abram. So Abram and his army passed by Salem on the way to Dan.

Abram divides his army into two groups and attack the kings of Mesopotamia at night.

Abram and his small army “**SLAUGHTERED**” the kings of Mesopotamia as we'll see in The Scriptures in a minute. The army of the kings of Mesopotamia likely numbered in the tens of thousands. It was an incredible and miraculous victory. Abram used military tactics not used before and not used again for thousands of years.

How Was Abram Able To Secure The Victory Against Overwhelming Odds?

In Genesis 24, we read about Abraham sending “his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had” to search out a wife for Abraham’s son Isaac.

We know this is a prophetic chapter full of allegory symbolizing the Father God searching out a bride for His Son Jesus Christ. We, The Church, are the bride.

In Genesis 24, Abraham allegorically represents The Father God, Isaac The Son Jesus Christ, and the unnamed servant The Holy Ghost.

We know from Genesis 15:2, the unnamed servant of Genesis 24 is Eliezer from Damascus. Eliezer ruled over all that Abraham possessed.

Eliezer means, “God is my help” in Hebrew.

The Hebrew numerical value of each of the alphabetic letters in Eliezer’s name adds up to 318.

Eliezer is not named in Genesis 14, but we know he was with Abram. Eliezer had trained Abram’s servants and when Abram divided his army into two groups, Abram led one and Eliezer led the other. Eliezer allegorically represents the Holy Spirit that was leading Abram to this great and miraculous victory.

Notice that Abram didn’t suffer the loss or death of one man, yet his army slaughtered the king of Mesopotamia. The moral of this story is “DON’T MESS WITH GOD’S CHILDREN!”

ABRAM MEETS MELCHISEDEK UPON THE RETURN FROM WAR

Abram and his 318 armed servants return from slaughtering the kings. How do we know Abram “**slaughtered**” the kings because it doesn’t say this in Genesis 14? We find it in Hebrews 7:1.

Hebrews 7:1

For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God [**El Elyon**], who met Abraham **returning from the slaughter of the kings**, and blessed him;

In Genesis 14 we meet what many say is the “mysterious character called Melchizedek.” But, as we shall see, there is nothing mysterious about Him. He is none other than the preincarnate Jesus Christ.

Preincarnate = “a previous incarnation or an existence before incarnation.”

Incarnate = “God embodied in the flesh.”

We also see that both Abram and the king of Sodom know Melchizedek. This is not the first time Abram or the king of Sodom are meeting Melchizedek.

How do we know Melchizedek was the preincarnate Jesus Christ?

Hebrews 7:2-3

2 To Whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but **made like unto the Son of God**; abideth a priest continually.

1. He has no mother, no father, and no human genealogy.
2. We can clearly see this Melchizedek has existed since eternity because He has no beginning and no end.
3. He was not created like the angels and man but “made like unto the Son of God.”
4. He is the King of Peace. He rules over the city of Salem, which means “Peace.” No man can be the King of Peace. This is Jesus’ title, only.
5. He is the King of Righteousness. Melchizedek translated into Hebrew means “King of Righteousness.” No man can be the King of Righteousness except Jesus.
6. In the days of Abraham, Melchizedek was not the Son of God. He had not yet been born of the virgin Mary, but **He was made like unto the Son of God** in His manifestation to the ancients.
7. He was not a man because a human born of a man and a woman cannot be the eternal priestly order of God. The spiritual priestly order of Melchizedek has existed for all eternity. It never ceased when God instituted the priestly order of Aaron, the human order, that accompanied the law. Remember Moses gave the law but God gave Jesus Christ, Grace. Jesus Christ, today, is the Great High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 4:14 and Hebrews 5:10).
8. It was not God The Father because The Scriptures tell us in John 1:18 that “**no man has seen The Father at any time.**”
9. We see that Abraham knows Melchizedek as “Lord” in Genesis 18:3 when Abram refers to Him as “My Lord” or “Adonai” which is a plural possessive name for God meaning “my lords.”

Communion – First Appearance

Genesis 14:18

And Melchizedek King of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and He was the priest of the most high God.

NOTICE: “brought forth bread and wine.”

The bread and wine are allegorical or a type of what is to come in the New Covenant through Jesus Christ. The “bread” represents the body of Jesus Christ that was broken for us and the “wine” represents the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for the remission of sins.

Melchizedek, the preincarnate Jesus Christ, is foreshadowing that which is to come 2000 years later when Jesus Christ performs the communion with His Disciples at The Last Supper describe in Matthew 26 and Luke 22.

John 8:56-58

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad.

57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham?

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Tithe First Mention

Genesis 14:20

And blessed be the most high God, Which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him **tithes** of all.

NOTICE: Genesis 14:20 is the first time the word “tithe” is mentioned. In fact, “tithes” and “tenth” aren’t mentioned before Genesis 14:20.

Tithe = Hebrew word for “tenth.”

Genesis 14:20 is the first time “THE AMOUNT” of the offerings given by Cain and Abel and Abram are mentioned. One tenth, the first fruits.

Hebrews 7:8

And here men that die receive tithes; but there He [Jesus, the Great High Priest after the order of Melchizedek] receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that He liveth.

When we read of Abel and Cain’s tithes and of Abram’s tithes, who are they bringing the tithes to? Yes, God, not man.

Abram refuses to take anything from the king of Sodom

Genesis 14:22-23

22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, **I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD**, the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth,

23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

Abram has lifted up his hand and made a vow before God that God would be his only supply – NOT THE WORLD.

Abram was determined the world would not be able to say **THEY MADE ABRAM**.

NOTICE: Satan, in this temptation, said, “all these things will I give thee...” Satan was not giving Jesus the people, only the “things.” Just as the king of Sodom asked for the “people” in Genesis 14:21.

Genesis 14:21

And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods [substance in the Hebrew] to thyself.

Satan only wants the souls of people. The “things” are just tools he uses to attract and trap in bondage the souls of people. Jesus came that we might be freed from the bondage of Satan and that Satan couldn’t use things to trap us.

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Abraham understood this as shown by his testimony in Genesis 14.