

Genesis Bible Study Assignment
March 18, 2021

Reading: Genesis Chapters 12-15

Discussion Questions

Chapter 12

1. God makes a promise to Abram, a part of which reads, "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." In the original language, the words "you will be a blessing" isn't part of the promise but instead more like an order or commandment: "You *WILL* be a blessing!" How do you think God meant for Abram and his descendants to be a blessing? What do you think it means to be a blessing in today's world?

2. How did Abram respond to God's promise to bless him and his offspring? In what ways can we respond to God's blessings that would serve a similar function?

3. If Abram was correct in thinking that the Pharaoh would kill him if Abram admitted that Sarai was his wife, why do you think Pharaoh let Abram live after he found out the truth?

4. The story of Abram in Egypt has many parallels to the story of Joseph and his family at the end of Genesis and the beginning of the book of Exodus which tells of Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Similarities include answers to the following questions:
 - a. Why did Abram and Sarai go to Egypt?

 - b. How did Abram's time in Egypt affect his possessions/wealth?

 - c. Why did Pharaoh let Abram and Sarai go?

Chapter 13

5. Why do you think there was "strife between the herders of Abram's livestock and the herders of Lot's livestock"?

6. Lot chose what he thought was the best part of the land – including the city of Sodom – when he separated from Abram. How would this affect the land Abram and his offspring would possess? (This is a little bit of a trick question.)

Chapter 14

7. Lot gets caught in the crossfire between two groups of kings and is captured along with his household and all his property. Abram takes 318 men to drive off the kings' army, rescue Lot, and retrieve his possessions and the people of his household. What do you think we are meant to learn by the fact that Abram was able to accomplish all of this against such enormous odds (i.e. 318 men versus an entire army, etc.)?
8. King Melchizedek was not a Hebrew and yet Genesis 14:18 refers to him as a "priest of God Most High" (a different name than Yahweh – the name used for God in the rest of Abram's story). What could Abram's response to King Melchizedek's blessing (giving him "one-tenth of everything") teach about how we are to respond to people who worship God under different names (*Allah*, for example)?
9. Why do you think Abram refused the goods the King of Sodom offered to him, saying "I would not take a thread or sandal-thong or anything that is yours, so that you might not say, 'I have made Abram rich.'"?

Chapter 15

10. How did God respond to Abram's doubt about God's ability to fulfill the promise of making of him and his offspring a great nation?
11. What did Abram do that "the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness"?