

OT-OV

Lesson 28

1. Last week I completed our study of Genesis chapter twelve and the first ten verses of chapter thirteen. When time expired we were analyzing Gen 13:11-13.

2. I want to review some of that learned and then we will return to our study of the controversy between Abram and Lot.

Gen 13:1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him.

Gen 13:2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

Gen 13:3 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier

Gen 13:4 and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.

3. Having seen the mighty hand of God at work, Abram left Egypt with a renewed fellowship with His maker and protector. Abraham was ready for a new life. He was immensely rich. Cattle, gold, and silver were his in great abundance.

4. His company of followers had increased until a serious problem confronted him. With such large herds, he needed water and grass.

Gen 13:5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.

Gen 13:6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.

Gen 13:7 And quarreling arose between Abram's herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

Gen 13:8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers.

5. Soon Lot's company had difficulty with Abram's men. The Hebrew word Meriba translated in the KJV "strife," and "quarreling" in the RV, indicates disputing, striving, and contentions.

6. The righteous uncle could not allow such unbecoming conduct to continue. He said: We are brethren.

7. Behavior like that was unnecessary, unavailing, and wholly out of keeping with God's representatives.

8. Now for new material and Gen 13:11-13.

Gen 13:11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

Gen 13:12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

Gen 13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

1. Lot chooses the plain of Jordan in the land of Canaan.

Gen 13:14 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west.

Gen 13:15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.

Gen 13:16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

Gen 13:17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

Gen 13:18 So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

1. The Palestinian Covenant is reaffirmed by the Lord to Abram.

2. It is a forever and unconditional covenant to Abram and his descendents.

Now let's see what we can learn from chapter fourteen.

1. Introduction to Chapter Fourteen

1.1 Instead of living in peace, prosperity, and happiness, Lot and Abram found themselves in the middle of a war.

1.2 Powerful warring armies from the east invaded the land of Palestine, and wrought much havoc.

1.3 Abram became deeply involved because of his love for Lot, and soon revealed himself a warrior to be reckoned with when his nephew is kidnapped.

1.4 Lot became a prisoner of war when his city, Sodom, and several neighboring kingdoms were defeated by the invaders.

1.5 He had invited trouble by choosing to enjoy Sodom's ease and privilege, and by becoming one of the people of that wicked city - there is both blessing and discipline by association.

1.6 Now he found that he had to share the city's danger and tragedy.

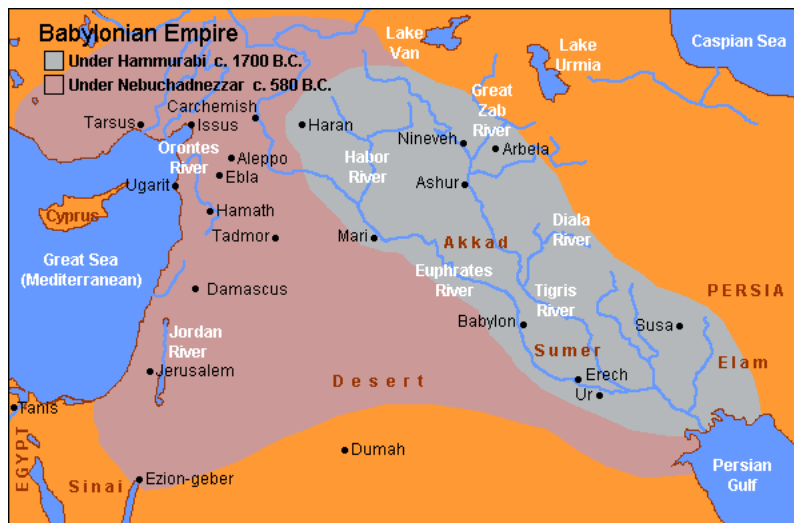
1.7 Abram quickly responded with his 318 men to complete a rescue, and establish himself as a powerful force for righteousness in the land.

Gen 14:1 At this time Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim

Gen 14:2 went to war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) ...

Gen 14:11 The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away.

Gen 14:12 They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.



Principles:

1. Amraphel, the king of Shinar was one of the quartet composing the invading army. For years critics laughed at the fourteenth chapter of Genesis because early history found no record of Amraphel and then he is found mentioned in the Hammurabi tablets.

2. Until quite recently scholars in fact identified him with Hammurabi, one of the earlier kings of Babylon. However, recent finds among clay tablets have tended to set Hammurabi's date nearer 1700 B.C. Amraphel was king much earlier.

3. Shinar, located in northern Mesopotamia, gave its name to the entire area between the Tigris and Euphrates, including Babylonia.

4. Lower Mesopotamia was the center of Sumerian civilization, dating back to about c. 5000 B.C.

5. Arioch was king of Ellasar, Babylonian Larsa, and probably controlled a much larger region in the southern part of Babylonia.

6. Chedorlaomer was King of Elam, a well-known mountain region near the head of the Persian Gulf.

7. He seemed to be the most powerful of the four kings who made up this expedition. He had established control over the other kings of Babylonia and Palestine.

8. His name Kudur-Lagamer means "servant of Lagamer," one of Elam's gods. The capital of Elam was Susa.

9. Tidal, the other confederate king, was called the King of Goim, i.e., nations, or peoples.

10. His title may indicate that he was in control of several individual kingdoms, or that he was at the head of a strong band of roving people who were in the business of making raids for plunder.

Gen 14:13 One who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshcol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram.

Gen 14:14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Gen 14:15 During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.

Gen 14:16 He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

Gen 14:17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

11. Quickly the news of the battle reached Abram at Hebron. Abram had not been involved in the fighting, but since his nephew was a prisoner, he was doubly obligated to attempt a rescue.

12. In verse 13 we see the first use in the Scriptures of the word Hebrew (Ha Ibri). The exact derivation of the name is still in dispute. It was used by foreigners in designating descendants of Abraham and the patriarchs.

13. It literally means "a descendant of Eber," or "one from the other side" (of the river). This applies to Abram as one who had migrated from Mesopotamia.

14. The great trees of Mamre were located in the valley of Eshcol which is just north of Hebron; a place where the twelve spies sent out by Moses plucked huge clusters of grapes, symbolic of the fruitfulness of the land (Num 13:23-24; Deu 1:24). Wycliffe writes "The vineyards in this wadi are still noted for their grapes."

Num 13:23 When they reached the Valley of Eshcol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs.

Num 13:24 That place was called the Valley of Eshcol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there.

Deu 1:24 They left and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshcol and explored it.

Deu 1:25 Taking with them some of the fruit of the land, they brought it down to us and reported, "It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us."

15. A powerful empire has extended its hegemony and now it is up to Abram to determine where Lot is being held, develop a plan, pick and train his men and then rescue his reversionistic nephew.

16. If ever there was need for a special recon force, here it is!

Let's review the Doctrine of War:

1. War will always be with us - i.e. at least until the Lord returns at His 2nd Advent.
 2. There will never be world peace prior to the 2nd Advent of Christ.
 3. Individual nations can however stay out of war if they elect to maintain a dominant military with a population and leadership willing to use its overwhelming military force.
 4. When a nation has to go to war, it is because the nation failed to follow the protocol plan of God by maintaining such a military and/or displayed a reluctance to use its dominant force.
 5. Nations are God's way - He made this clear at the tower of Babel.
 6. It is Satan who wants to weaken the nations.
 7. Internationalism like the U.N. and other global forces are evil and a tool of Satan.
 8. Man has reacted emotionally to war because of an apotheosis of life. Life is glorified. Death is feared; this fear is sponsored by Satan.
- Heb 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--
Heb 2:15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
9. Mankind overlooks that God provides opportunity for salvation to all.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

Joh 1:9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

10. Before death everyone has maximum opportunity to be saved.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Rom 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God he hath showed it unto them.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

11. Death is gain to a believer. Suicide is arrogance and assumes God does not any longer have a plan for poor little me.

11.1 Suicide like murder violates the principle "if you are breathing God has a purpose for your life."

Phi 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

12. The Word of God does not prohibit killing; in fact it authorizes killing as in capital punishment, self-defense, war and protection of private property.

Exo 20:13 is better "Thou shalt not commit homicide."

12.1 Ratsach means "to murder;" Katal means "to kill." There is a difference.

13. It is God's will that we never have war.

Jam 4:1 From whence come wars and fighting among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

Jam 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Jam 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

14. It is God's will that every nation be so strong militarily that other nations are afraid to attack. Satan is the one who weakens the nation, one of his chief ploys.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which midst weaken the nations!

15. Wars are a result of not heeding God's edict to wield the big stick. Satan has been at times successful in convincing the U. S. A. to reduce its military and to even seek international ties and treaties.

16. Satan is the sponsor of internationalism. Internationalism began at the Tower of Babel our first United Nations. Gen 11:1-9

Gen 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech ...

Gen 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth...

Gen 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Gen 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Gen 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Gen 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

17. War will always be with us said our Lord.

Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, "Take heed that no man deceive you."

Mat 24:5 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

Mat 24:6 "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."

Mat 24:7 "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."

18. During the Millennium war will be abolished therefore we know war is not of God; for in perfect environment there is no war.

Isa 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

End Lesson