

Walking Through the Word

Creation to Judges (Week 3)

Story: **Family Choices** (E: Abram and Lot Separate, p 22-23)

Location: **Genesis 13**

Bios & definitions

Abram: a son of Terah (though listed first, may not be the oldest); uncle of Lot (whose father Haran died, and Abram became Lot's custodian); his name means "exalted father"; husband to Sarai; born in Ur of the Chaldees; traveled with his father, brother Nahor, and wife to "enter the land of Canaan" (11:31) but settled in Haran; called by God (12:1-4) to leave his home country and "go to the land which I will show you" with the promise that God would: 1) make him a great nation, 2) bless him, 3) make his name great, 4) make him a blessing

Lot: nephew of Abram, son of Haran who Scripture says "died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his birth;" Abram takes custody of Lot in his younger years, until he is old enough to care for the herds and possessions which his father, Haran, left behind when he died

Negev: the South country (north of Egypt, but south of the Jordan; creating the Jordan valley)

Story: **Promises of a Son** (E: Abram's Tent Home and Abraham's Strange Visitors, p 25-29)

Location: **Genesis 15-18:16**

Bios & definitions

Hagar: Egyptian servant girl to Sarai; commanded by Sarai to have a child with Abram; bore a son named Ishmael; was found by the angel of the LORD near a spring in the wilderness, later named Beer-lahai-roi, which means *the well of the living One who sees me (or well of the one who sees me and who lives)*

Ishmael: firstborn son to Abram, through Hagar the servant; his name means *God hears* given to him by the angel of the LORD because "God heard" Hagar's affliction; described in Scripture as "a wild donkey of a man" (16:12); *not* the child whom God would use to fulfill his covenant promise to give him a son, but still received a blessing of God to "make him fruitful and multiply him exceedingly. He will become the father of 12 princes and I will make him a great nation" (17:20)

Abraham: the new name given to Abram by God; it means *father of a multitude*, and was part of God's covenant with Abram to give him a son

Sarah: the new name given to Sarai by God; it means *princess*; Scripture tells that "she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her" (17:16)

Isaac: name of son to be born to Abraham and Sarah, as announced by the 3 strangers; the name means *he laughs*, since both Abraham (17:17) and Sarah (18:12) laughed at the pronouncement that they would conceive a son in their old age

3 strangers: based on Scriptural accounts, the strangers are believed to be two angels and the LORD; in conjunction with Heb 13:2, a reminder that we may be *entertaining angels unaware*

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Creation to Judges (Week 3)

Story: **Lot's Unfortunate Gamble** (E: Lot is Captured and What Happened to Sodom, p 24-25, 29-30)

Location: **Genesis 14, 18:17-19:38**

Bios & definitions

Sodom: city destroyed by the Lord for its egregious sins, especially "sodomy"; Lot lived in it for a short while (Gen 13) but was rescued from its destruction; located in the southern area of Canaan (Gen 10:19), southeast of the Dead Sea; engaged in war with several northern kings (Gen 14:2-22); illustration of wickedness, for there were not enough righteous persons in it to deliver it (Gen 18:16-26; 19:1-28) (taken from The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

NOTE: Many archaeologists and other scholars believe that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah with sulphuric fire resulted in the formation of the Dead (or Salt) Sea (known as the *Asphaltites*); there are even today grotesque salt formations that remain near the southern end of the sea (where the cities were located) that remind us of the poor choice of Lot's wife

Lot's Wife: nothing mentioned about her biographically in scripture, including her name. But, we can learn an important lesson regarding following God's direction rather than evil desires.

Zoar: name of the *small (or littleness)* town to which Lot and family escaped; later Lot moved into a mountain cave for fear of remaining in Zoar