

March 5, 2023 Worship Service Pastor Chris Regas WeAreLifeBridge.com

ABRAHAM: God of Promise & Life of Faith

Lesson Four • Genesis 13:1-18 Choices and Consequences

A Pivot from Great Failure to Greater Faith

Faith doesn't mean the absence of **<u>TESTING</u>**. Gen 12:10 Failure doesn't mean the absence of <u>**GRACE**</u>. Gen 13:1 Forgiveness doesn't mean the absence of <u>**REPENTANCE**</u>. Gen 13:2-4

Conflict, Choices, and Consequences

Conflict doesn't make character as much as <u>**REVEALS**</u> character. Choices reveal what's really in our <u>**HEART**</u>. Consequences often take a **LONG TIME** to reap what is sown.

Choosing by Faith or by the Flesh?

1. The <u>CONFLICT</u> in the Land.

What's Up with Lot? Lot should NOT be with Abram. (v. 5; 12:1)

Lot's Choice by the Flesh Lot's flesh causes him to choose what is FATAL. (vv. 10-13)

Eight Fatal Choices of the Flesh

3. The <u>CONSEQUENCES</u> from the Lord.

Consequences often take a long time to reap what is sown.

Lot's Fatal Consequences

- <u>CARNAL</u> compromise. (vv. 10, 12; 14:12; 19:1, 30)
 The slow slide into Sodom!
- <u>COSTLY</u> consequences. (Genesis 19) The legacy of the scarcely saved!

Abram's Future Consequences

- Yahweh's **FAITHFUL** choice: "I will fulfill My promises to you!" (vv. 14-16)
- Yahweh's **FUTURE** reward: "Persevere by faith in Me until I do!" (vv. 17-18)

Why the Conflict Over the Land?

Land is $\underline{\textbf{SCARCE}}$ due to the blessing of God and the presence of others. (vv. 6-7)

2. The <u>CHOICES</u> Over the Land.

Abram's Choice by Faith

Abram's faith FREES him to let Lot choose first. (vv. 8-9)

- Free to choose <u>UNITY</u> over strife.
- Free to choose <u>HUMILITY</u> over pride.
- Free to choose <u>GENEROSITY</u> over greed.

How Will You Choose Today?

Scarcely Saved? Clearly Saved?

God will freely show you grace just like He did to Abram, to Lot and his family, to Sodom and Gomorrah, and even to the Moabites (Ruth!) and Ammonites (Zelek!)!

But you must choose by faith alone to trust in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose choices were always righteous, wise and sinless. He is our perfect substitute and our sinless sacrifice.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil." Proverbs 3:5-7