

GENESIS STUDY BOOK 2

A Channel of BLESSING



 CAMPUS MISSION
INTERNATIONAL

FORWARD

After the fall of Adam and Eve, humankind faced the first murder (Cain killed his brother Abel) and the world became extremely corrupt: “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart” (Gen 6:5-6). God judged the sinful world through the flood. The entire world was swept through the flood and all the humans and creatures perished except Noah’s family and the animals that were in the ark. Yet it didn’t solve man’s sin problem. The number of people increased and they built the Babel tower and tried to exalt themselves to the position of God (Gen 11).

In this dark situation, God called one family, Abraham and Sarah, as a blessing (Gen 12:2-3). They were chosen to build God’s redeeming history so that when Jesus the Messiah comes to the world one day the whole world can be redeemed and blessed. Thus, it is very important for us to learn about Abraham’s life of faith. Galatians 3:13-14 says, “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree’— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.” Just as God called Abraham, we have God’s calling in Jesus Christ. That curse is lifted from us and we have the blessing of Abraham in Jesus Christ. The blessing of Abraham is that we become a Channel of Blessing wherever we go. How can we be a blessing to all? It is through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us through Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless your study of Abraham’s life of faith in this book.

In this book, you will learn about Abraham’s family background, God’s calling on him, how Abraham obeyed, his failures, his struggles and how God helped him and raised him up to be a godly man and a man of faith.

In the third book, you will learn how God accomplishes His promise, giving Abraham a son, and Abraham’s obedience in offering his son to God (God tested Abraham’s faith to see if he put God first instead of his son. God actually provided a ram for Abraham to offer. This ram signifies Jesus Christ). Lastly, you will learn about the end days of Abraham’s life.

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A Channel of Blessing

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STEP 01

A Channel of Blessing

Genesis 11:27-12:3

Introduction

Genesis 1-11, is the introduction of the book of Genesis. In truth, it is the introduction of the entire Bible. The message in it is that humans who inherit the sinful nature of Adam have no hope at all. The intention of humans' hearts are evil from their youth for humans are contaminated by sin (Ge 8:21). Therefore, for humans who are without God's redemption, there is no hope at all. So God started His original plan of redemption that He made after the fall. It was through the 'offspring of woman' (Gen 3:15). He started it through calling one man, Abraham. From this text, let us learn about the grace of God's calling upon us.

1. Who was Abram's father and who were Abram's brothers (11:27)? What kind of life did Terah live in Ur (Josh 24:2)? What things happened to them (28-29)? What was Abram's problem (30)? What did Terah want to do (31)? Where did he settle and die (32)? What was Abram's destiny? What kind of life did you live before God called you? ¹

¹ **Josh 24:2** And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.'

2. What did God command Abram to do [12:1]? Why was this command necessary for Abram? What does God's command to 'leave from your country, kindred and the father's house' mean to you? Think about God's promise to Abram (2-3). What did God mean to make of Abram into a great nation and make his name great? What does the word, 'blessing' mean here [22:18]? What is God's ultimate purpose to call Abram? What is the way that you fulfill God's purpose of calling you [18:19]? ²

² **22:18** and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.

18:19 For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.

3. How did Abram respond to God's calling (4-5)? What things can you learn from Abram's response? What was his life like when he left Haran (Heb 11:8)? What assurance do we find when we follow God's promise (Mt 5:18; Mt 7:24-27)? What kind of spiritual principle do we find in God's calling and Abram's response? What promise did you receive from the Lord?³

³ **Heb 11:8** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Mt 5:18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Mt 7:24 ²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

4. What did Abram find when he arrived in Canaan (6)? What kind of life should he live there (8)? What would you do when you followed God's calling and faced unfavorable situations? What did God say to Abram (7a)? What was Abram's response to God's word (7b, 8b)? When did God fulfill this promise (15:13-16)? Who is our God that we follow His calling? What do you learn from Abram (Heb 11:9-10, 13)? ⁴

4 15:13-16 ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

Heb 11:9-10, 13 ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God... ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Reflection

STEP 02

The First Test of Abram

Genesis 12:10-20

Introduction

Money is indispensable in surviving in this world. When you have no money, you can't buy bread or clothes. When you have no money, you lose your confidence. Confucius said, "After starving three days, there is no one who would not climb over a neighbor's wall." Truly, a bread problem is one of the most important matters for all. However, we, God's people, should be able to manage our bread problem by faith in God. Our text shows us about Abram's failure over the bread problem. May we learn how to manage our bread problem we face in our life.

1. What problem did Abram face in the land of Canaan (10)? What do you think here about sufferings we face in the course of living a life of faith (Jn 11:3)? In the course of making a decision of going to Egypt, what was lacking? What spiritual significance can we find with the famine Abram faced in the land of Canaan? How can we pass test of faith in the midst of following God's calling (Ex 16:4-5; Dt 8:2-3; Mt 6:24)?⁵

⁵ **Jn 11:3** So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

Ex 16:4-5⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not."⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."

Dt 8:2-3² And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Mt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

2. What was Abram's fear as he was going down to Egypt and what did he ask Sarai to do (11-13)? Why did Abram become so fearful (He was not fearful at all when he went to Canaan and lived there)? What happened to Abram and Sarai in Egypt (14-16)? What do you learn about the danger of leaning on your own understanding in life (Prov 3:5-6)? ⁶

⁶ **Prov 3:5-6** ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

3. How did God intervene to help Abram (17)? How did God resolve the problem (18-20)? What do you learn in this incident about the Lord our God who called us (12:3)? ⁷

⁷ **12:3** I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Reflection

STEP 03

The Second Test of Abram

Genesis 13:1-18

Introduction

Life is a sum of choices. Right choices lead to success. Therefore, people spend a lot of efforts to get good information and strengthen their competitiveness. Priority is given to those who are knowledgeable and competent. However, the right choice is not from one's knowledge or competency but from one's life values and perspective. Our text today teaches us the value system we should have as God's people.

1. Where did Abram go when he came out of Egypt (1-4)? Why was it significant that he went all the way to the land of Canaan? In what sense, is worship so important in our life? Share the blessing you experience through worship?

2. What new problem did Abram meet (5-7)? How did Abram resolve the conflict between his herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen (8-9)? What was Lot's choice (10-12)? In what sense, was Abram's value system and Lot's value system opposite? What happened with the land Lot choose (14:1-2; 19:24-26)? What kind of life should we, God's people, live in this conflict filled world (Mt 5:5)?⁸

⁸ **14:1-2** ¹ In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, ² these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

19:24-26 ²⁴ Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

²⁶ But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Mt 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

3. How did God comfort Abram after Lot had separated from him (14-16)? What did God tell Abram to do (17)? How important is it that you hear the voice of God and arise and do what God tells you to do? Where did Abram go and who did he meet there (18; 14:13)? What did Abram do there again? What do you learn about God who comforts us in times of disappointment (Ps 121:1-4)? ⁹

⁹ **Gen 14:13** Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram.

Ps 121:1-4 ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴ Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Reflection

STEP 04

The Third Test of Abram

Genesis 14:1-24

Introduction

We see in our text the war in the ancient middle East. In it, many people died or became POWs. War is tragic. The trauma you experience in the war is so deep that many people suffer throughout their life. In the story of war in our text, the author testifies our God as the living God. He also testifies Abram's victories both in the war and in the faith. We can learn who the Lord our God is and the victory in faith.

1. What was the cause of war (1-4)? What do you know about the cause of war in history? What was like Chedolaomer's campaign of war (5-7)? What was the result of the battle of the king of Sodom and his allies (8-11)? What happened to Lot (12)? What lesson do we get from this war?

2. Why did Abram get involved in the war (13)? Who were his allies? How many were with Abram (13b-14)? What was the result of his war (15-16)? What do you learn about our God who is with us when we do His pleasing will?

3. Who did Abram meet first (17-18)? What did Melchizedek teach Abram (19-20)? What did Abram give to Melchizedek? Who is Melchizedek? How did Abram respond to the request of the king of Sodom (21-24)? What do you learn from Abram's faith in God?

Reflection

STEP 05

Look up and Count the Stars

Genesis 15:1-21

Introduction

In the novel, 'Jonathan Livingston Seagull', Jonathan Livingston said, "The tallest birds look farthest." A bird that flies highest sky can look farthest, broadest and fullest. This is why we call eagles the princes of sky. Our life of faith should be the same. It is easy to live day to day survival. We should see farther and broader and that we live in God's vision.

1. What does 'after these things' refer to (1a)? What was Abram's heart like at that time? What did God say to Abram (1b)? What does it mean to you that God is your shield and your very great reward (Jas 1:17)? What was Abram's response to God (2-3)? ¹⁰

¹⁰ **Jas 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

2. What was God's answer to Abram's complaint (4)? What did God do to Abram (5)? What do you learn about God's way in helping His chosen one? God's promise seemed totally obscure to Abram's situation. Nevertheless, how did Abram respond to God's promise (6)? Who is the Lord God whom Abram believed (Ro 3:25-26)? ¹¹

¹¹ **Ro 3:25-26** ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

3. What was God's purpose of calling Abram out of Ur (7)? What did God do to make sure that He will fulfill His promise to Abram (8-17)? What significance do you find in this ceremony? What did God tell Abram about the land He would give to Abram's descendants (18-21)? What kind of plan does God have as He called you in His redemptive history?

Reflection

STEP 06

God Looks after Us

Genesis 16:1-16

Introduction

About 10 years had passed since Abram and Sarah received God's calling. Yet they were still childless. In this text, we see that Abram and Sarai tried to solve their childlessness in their own way. They got a son, yet it created a more serious problem. They reached a situation that they couldn't handle at all. The Lord God then intervened in their problem and took care of it. We learn here that our God is merciful that He looks after us and solves our life problems.

1. In chapter 15, Abram holding God's big picture overcame his crisis in faith. Yet he was still childless. What did Sarai suggest Abram to do and what did Abram do (1-4a)? What fundamental problem do you find in this event? Why are we tempted to solve our problem in our own way in the course of living a life of faith?

2. What problem did they face immediately (4b)? How did Sarai deal with the problem (5-6)? Imagine about Abram's family atmosphere at this time. What do you learn about the limit of solving our problems in humanistic ways?

3. How did God intervene in this matter (7-12)? What does Ishmael mean (11)? What did Hagar call God whom she experienced (13)? What do you learn about our God who hears our cries and looks after us?

Reflection

STEP 07

Your Name shall be Abraham

Genesis 17:1-27

Introduction

About 13 years had passed since Abram got a son, Ishmael. Abram happily spent those 13 years, enjoying his son's growth. Everything seemed to be fine. Yet he was in danger of losing God's purpose in his life. In our text, we see God helped Abram further so that he returns to God's plan. Our God is faithful. He helps His chosen one to the end.

1. When did God come to Abram and what did He say to Abram (1)? Why did God say it to Abram? What did God mean by "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless"? What did God remind Abram to build him up in faith (2-4)? What do you learn about the importance of God's covenant with us?

2. What problem did they face immediately (4b)? How did Sarai deal with the problem (5-6)? Imagine about Abram's family atmosphere at this time. How did God intervene in this matter (7-12)? What does Ishmael mean (11)? What did Hagar call God whom she experienced (13)? What do you learn about the limit of solving our problems in humanistic ways and our God who hears our cries and looks after us?

3. In what way, should Abraham keep God's covenant (9-10)? What was the purpose of circumcision (11,13)? How extensively should this circumcision be practiced (12-14)? Think about the connection between circumcision and God's covenant and share it together.

4. Why did God change Sarai's name to Sarah (15-16)? What was Abraham's response to it (17-18)? What did God say to doubtful Abraham (19)? What kind of faith did God want Abraham and Sarah to have? How can we apply it to the principle of God's salvation in Christ (15:6; Ro 4:1-3)? ¹²

¹² **15:6** And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Ro 4:1-3 ¹ What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

5. What blessing did God give to Ishmael [20]? Though God blessed Ishmael, His covenant would be established with Isaac [21; 21:12; Gal 4:30; Ro 9:6-9; Ro 2:28-29]. Why is this so? What did Abraham do [23-27]? In what sense can we be confident that we are God's children (Gal 4:6; Eph 1:13-14)?¹³

13 21:12 But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named."

Gal 4:30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman."

Ro 9:6-9 ⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹ For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son."

Ro 2:28-29 ²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Eph 1:13 ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Reflection

STEP 08

Abraham, the Friend of God

Genesis 18:1-33

Introduction

In our life, friend is very important. Having good friends leads you to success and a happy life. How great it is that your friend is a governor or a president! People will not treat you lightly. Abraham had God as his friend according to the Scriptures (Jas 2:23; 2 Chr 20:7; Isa 41:8). What is the condition of being a friend with God? ¹⁴

¹⁴ **Jas 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

2 Chr 20:7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

Isa 41:8 But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

1. How did the Lord appear to Abraham (1-2)? Who is this Lord (Jn 8:56)? How did Abraham respond to the visitors and how did he prepare a meal (3-8)? What do you learn from Abraham's family? What do you learn about the blessing of serving life (Heb 13:2, Mt 25:34-40)? ¹⁵

¹⁵ **Jn 8:56** Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”

Heb 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Mt 25:34 ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

2. What things did God share to Abraham (9-10)? What was Sarah's response to it (12)? How did God challenge Sarah to believe in Him (13-14)? Who is the Lord God who works in us and through us (Eph 3:20-21)? ¹⁶

¹⁶ **Eph 3:20-21** ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

3. What plan did God share to Abraham (16-19)? What is Abraham's task to fulfill God's purpose in his life? What does it mean that we become God's friend (Jn 15:14-15)? What sad plan did God share to Abraham (20-21, Jer 5:1)? How did Abraham intercede for Sodom and Gomorrah (22-33)? What was God's response to Abraham's intercession (19:29; 1 Jn 5:14)? ¹⁷

¹⁷ **19:29** So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

Jer 5:1 Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, look and take note! Search her squares to see if you can find a man, one who does justice and seeks truth, that I may pardon her.

1 Jn 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Reflection

STEP 09

The Fall of Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 19:1-38

Introduction

The film, '2012' which was made in 2009 was a huge hit around the world. This movie dealt with the end of the world. The earth was destroyed by an earthquake and Tsunami and only 200,000 survived. In fact, many scientists and historians warn the destruction of the world. The Bible also predicts the end of the earth and the universe. It is not through Tsunami but through the judgment of fire. The current world will be gone and the new heaven and new earth will come and it will last forever. Our text is the warning for those who live only for this world, putting all their hope in it.

1. Where was Lot living (1; compare Lot's life with 13:11-12)? What does it mean that Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city? How did Lot welcome the angels (1-3)? Compared to Abraham's hospitality in Genesis 18, what was Lot's hospitality like? What can happen when we seek worldly things rather than God? ¹⁸

¹⁸ **Gen 13:10-12** ¹⁰ Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

¹¹ So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

2. What did the people of Sodom try to do to the angels (4-5)? What is the biblical perspectives of homosexuality (Ro 1:26-27)? How did Lot try to solve the problem (6-9)? How did the angels protect Lot (10-11)? What warning did the angels tell to Lot (12-13)? What was the response of Lot's sons-in-law to the warning (14)? In his hesitation of leaving the city (16), what do you learn about Lot's lifestyles? ¹⁹

¹⁹ Ro 1:26-27 ²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

3. How did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (23-25)? What happened to Lot's wife (26)? How was Lot saved (19:29)? What kind of salvation was it (1 Cor 3:13-15)? What happened to Lot (36-38)? What does the story of Sodom and Gomorrah teach us [2 Pe 2:6; Heb 9:27; Ecc 11:9; 2 Pe 2:7-8; 1 Jn 2:15-17]? ²⁰

²⁰ **1 Cor 3:13-15** ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

2 Pe 2:6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.

Heb 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.

Ecc 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

2 Pe 2:7-8 ⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard).

1 Jn 2:15-17 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Reflection

STEP 10

Abraham, a Prophet of God

Genesis 20:1-18

Introduction

We say our wrongdoing as our mistake. However, your mistake is repeated for it is your habit. In truth, it is not simply a mistake, but a sin. Likewise, sin in nature repeated. Our text deals with Abraham's sin that is repeated. As a man of God, he should have lived as a light, yet he repeatedly told a lie that his wife was his sister. God should have given him up. However, God helps him with His unfailing love. He exalts Abraham as a prophet and used him as his servant.

1. What happened because Abraham told a lie that Sarah was his sister (1-2)? What had happened about 20 years ago (12:11-13)? Why do people repeat their sin? In what sense, is this lie more serious sin than before? ²¹

21 12:11-13 ¹¹ When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹² and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake."

2. What did God do to help Abraham (3-7)? What does it mean that Abraham is a prophet (7)? What do you learn about God who forebears with our sins and helps us in His unfailing love (Ex 34:6-7)? ²²

²² **Ex 34:6-7** ⁶ The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

3. What did Abimelech do when he rose early in the morning (8-10)? What was Abraham's excuse for his lie (11-13)? What should we remember when we live in the ungodly world? What should be our lifestyle (2 Ti 1:7)? What did Abimelech do to Abraham (14-16)? What did Abraham do for Abimelech (17-18)? What do you learn about our privilege in God (1 Sam 12:23)? ²³

²³ **2 Ti 1:7** or God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

1 Sam 12:23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.

Reflection

Prayer Topics

Prayer Topics

