

Conflict Through Eyes of Faith

Genesis 13:2-12 Sunday AM, August 17, 2025

Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 13:1-12 (NASB95) So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him. 2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. 3 He went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. 5 Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together. 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land. 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. 9 "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left." 10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar. 11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other. 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom.

Limited opportunity to preach Sunday mornings for which I've been thankful as together, my father and I have sought to shepherd a congregation under God in an increasingly individualistic society which threatens to pull us apart instead of together, together not just for the sake of together, but together to accomplish God's purposes. What do I preach? Whole counsel of God—yes, one of reasons still have 3 corporate times together to cover more, but if only have few opportunities, where? Want careful theology, but specifically, how lives over lifetime—**concerned for roots, where do you get your identity** Back to Genesis, focuses on beginnings of everything created including you and me; after finishing Jacob/Joseph, went back to Abraham; looked at his roots from Gen. 10-11, preached sermon called "**Where do you Get Your Name?**" followed those who gathered at Babel to make name for themselves, called it a **Legacy from earth to heaven**; got so high, "Look at us", but God higher yet came down and scattered them; **if they so wrong, what is right?** What does God want? **11:10** shifted focus to line from Shem—see Eber as dividing line—**10:25-26** follows Joktan; **line ends w Babel**; come back to **11:17** and you'd think only son who mattered was Peleg—line ends w Terah's 3 sons one of whom was Abraham who had **legacy from heaven to earth**; **why?** because next words come from God to Abram 12:1 **Now the LORD said to Abram**—this exposed second reason for choosing Abraham; **concerned for roots of faith in God**—**what does it mean to "have faith in"/to "trust God"?** **when can you with confidence call yourself a Christian?** no faith in God, no reconciliation with God, no ability to please Him Heb. 11:6, no heaven; Faith has become personal, faith story/journey is our own, and often tied more to emotions and experiences than to any fact/reality; **what is faith accepted by God, saving, born again faith, evidence of Spirit of God?** many verses tie Abraham's faith to saving faith; Gen. 15:6, Rom. 4:2-3, 9, 22, Gal. 3:6, Jm. 2:23; and while **Faith God approves IS personal, its focus is more communal than individual**—Gal. 3:29 says that if we belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise—how did this faith live? With worship and obedience. Abraham followed God's words, trusting God's character even without seeing all God's promises fulfilled. Worship God's trustworthy word.

*Hymn #275: How Firm a Foundation

What led Abram forward? 2 sermons on 12:1-9 called **Roots of Biblical Faith**. **Biblical faith begins with God's call** Leave 3 things that identify you--place call home, your culture (customs, those who get how you do things), father's house (closest, tightest as God intended); **forward gaze of call** **Go forth . . . To the land which I will show you**; there is another place than where settled, familiar, has been good to you; **THAT is place will show you**; **is motivated by God's promise**, 7 "I wills," 5-fold blessing; 2 **And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing;** 3 **And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**; God spoke, v. 1 **Go/Leave halak**, 4 **So Abram halak went forth**; 75 years old, patterns of living deeply set, affects not just him 5 **Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran**; no welcome home party, but those who would oppose when got there; **Ross calls it life-changing act of faith** p. 259-260; **and responds with obedience and worship because of the worthiness of the One who called**. worship **built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him**. Pattern will see in today's passage as well; worship comes as trust His word and live in light of it through many unknowns—living faith; learn this one with me

*Hymn (Powerpoint): He Will Be

*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D. Scripture: Psalm 84:1-12

(NASB95) For the choir director; on the Gittith. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. 1 How lovely are Your dwelling places, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. 3 The bird also has found a house, And the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young. Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, My King and my God. 4 How blessed are those who dwell in Your house! They are ever praising You, Selah. 5 How blessed is the man whose strength is in You, In whose heart are the highways to Zion! 6 Passing through the valley of Baca they make it a spring; The early rain also covers it with blessings. 7 They go from strength to strength, Every one of them appears before God in Zion. 8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah. 9 Behold our shield, O God, And look upon the face of Your anointed. 10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, How blessed is the man who trusts in You!

Offering: *Doxology:

Today, the passage is filled with a hard choice and living with the consequences of that choice. But the passage is bookended by Abraham's worship of God. Underneath all the happenings, the heart of Psalm 84 pervades. 1 **How lovely are Your dwelling places, O LORD of hosts!** 2 **My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God** 5 **How blessed is the man whose strength is in You,** 10 **For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.** Church, praise the Lord.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love

You may be seated. Abraham's walk of faith is exciting for us because it includes conflict and many unknowns. While we focus on the events, Abraham noted for His faith, which undergirds his responses/outlook. Today, his faithfulness to trust God's word and act in line with it is rewarded by the reassurance of God's promises by God Himself. As we listen to the Word preached, ask God for something larger than what you see—that God Himself would fill your gaze and you can live trusting Him, following Him, seeking His will. Sing one of my favorite hymns--freedom that comes from treasuring fellowship with God above all else.

***Hymn #490: I Am His, and He is Mine**

Message: Conflict Through the Eyes of Faith Gen. 13:2-12

I think most of us would want to have attitude, action of Abram today. Where rooted? Identity and purpose and hope from God's gracious provision to bring to Himself and teach us to trust His word—we live seeing His greatness and worship and walk/live in line with His promises

***Hymn #352: A Child of the King**

***Prayer**