

Lesson 27

7.2 The promise

- We saw in the previous lesson in ⇒ **Genesis 12:1**, God telling Abram that he had to leave the land, his family and his father's house. The first command was fulfilled when Abram and his family left the city of Ur in Chaldea; the third was fulfilled when Abram's father died. Abram then went on to the land that God was going to show him, but the second command had yet to be fulfilled so that God could really open up to Abram everything he wanted. Abram had yet to separate from his relatives, from his nephew Lot, who had left the city of Ur together with Abram.
- God's promise to Abram centered on three words: land, descendants and blessings, according to ⇒ **Genesis 12:1~2**. Almost every time God spoke to Abram, and then also to his descendants, these three words were included; land and descendants; land, descendants and blessings; don't forget that.

⇒ **Genesis 13:1~13**

- Here it is recorded that disputes began between Abram's shepherds and Lot's shepherds, to the point where they had to separate. Many times, things happen in our lives that we don't understand; people who split up for no apparent reason, but in the end for glorious purposes for both sides.

⇒ **Romans 8:28**

⇒ **I Corinthians 11:18~19**

God has a greater plan for each of us and we only see what is happening in the present. God is always working for the good plan in our lives. God's will for us is good, pleasing and perfect; we must not be afraid of God's will for us, ⇒ **Romans 12:2**.

⇒ **Genesis 13:14**

- Notice that it says: '*after Lot separated from Abram*'. Why didn't God speak clearly to Abram before? Why does the Bible record what we read? We often wait for God's blessings because something is missing from us. Now here, God would extend his conversation with Abram, God would clearly show Abram what he was going to give him.

⇒ **Genesis 13:14~18**

- God began to make promises to Abram. Look here again at the words land and descendants. Note that the promise of the land is forever; when God says forever, it is forever. The land of Israel is for the Jewish people and there's no way it won't be.
- Lot preferred the Jordan valley, ⇒ **Genesis 13:10~11**; Abram's humility is impressive. When the quarrels between his shepherds and Lot's began, Abram said: '*Lot, let's split up, you choose where you want to go. If you choose north, I'll go south; if you choose here, I'll go there*'. Wasn't it Abram who had to choose? That's the world's standard, it's the world's concept; Abram, however, followed God's standard. You see, Lot saw and chose; Lot saw that green field: '*it must be fertile, if I go there, I'm done for*'. However, Lot went to Sodom; he went because it was beautiful to the eye, he didn't even ask for God's direction. We have to be sure that our decisions are in God's direction.

⇒ Genesis 14:1~17

- Here we see that Abram had to go to war. Four powerful kings attacked five other kings; one of them was the king of Sodom and another of Gomorrah. The four overpowered the five and took captive all the people of those five kings; Lot was in that region. Abram heard about it and with 318 men, who weren't even warriors (*Abram's men were shepherds*), he fought and defeated the four kings, who had already defeated five. It was Abram's faith that made him go to war and win. Abram went, defeated the kings and brought everything back.

⇒ Genesis 14:18~24

- On the way back, God gives Abram a gift, he meets Melchizedek, a type (*a figure*) of Jesus Christ. Melchizedek introduces Abram to the Most High God. With each name of God in the Bible, God reveals himself to mankind. Melchizedek comes, introduces the Most High God, the Creator God of heaven and earth, and Abram pays tithes to Melchizedek.
- Many unbelievers ridiculed this chapter 14 of Genesis for years, until evidence was found in the region of Syria of the existence of Sodom and Gomorrah, even the names of these kings are mentioned. These unbelievers said: how could Abram, with 318 shepherds defeat the kings? Sodom and Gomorrah really existed, these unbelievers said!
- We are following the story of Abram. In these chapters, the Bible shows how God revealed himself to Abram. When we read the OT, we should consider how God acts with us as a big picture of our life with God. The way God acted with the nation of Israel is the way God acts with us individually today.

⇒ Genesis 15:1~3

- Then Abram spoke to God and expressed his concern. Abram still didn't have a son, and he talks about the custom that existed in the land. When the master of the goods didn't have an heir and died, everything passed to the chief servant. Abram says: '*The Lord has promised all this, but I still have no son, so the heir to my house is Eliezer*'. Here Abram wanted to '*give God a helping hand*'! How often don't we act like that?

⇒ Genesis 15:4~5

- God says: '*No Abram, your heir will be your son! Abram, looks up at the sky, do you see the stars? Can you count them? Your descendants will be just like the stars; you won't even be able to count them*'.

⇒ Genesis 15:6

- So, the Bible says: '**Abram believed in the Lord**'. It's interesting because Abram didn't believe in the promise on his own, he believed in the Lord. He believed the promise because the Lord gave it. Often, if you look at the promise, you can't believe it, sometimes it seems impossible to our eyes. But when you believe in the Lord, He does the impossible for you. Could you believe it? Until then, this man had no children, and we read in ⇒ **Genesis 11:30** that his wife was barren. God tells Abram to look up at the sky and count the stars! You can't believe the promise, but you can believe in the one who promised, believe in the Lord. When we believe in the Lord, in everything he speaks to us, our reasoning, our mind, our soul, loses its effect, goes out of its mind. Then our spirit comes into play, and whatever the promise, if God has really spoken, we must say: **I believe in the Lord**.