

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 Sept Genesis 01
- 2) 13 Sept Genesis 02
- 3) 20 Sept Genesis 03-05
- 4) 27 Sept Genesis 06-07
- 5) 04 Oct Genesis 08-10
- 6) 11 Oct Genesis 11
- 7) 18 Oct Genesis 12-14**
- 8) 25 Oct Genesis 15-16
- 9) 01 Nov Genesis 17
- 10) 08 Nov Genesis 18-20
- 11) 15 Nov Genesis 21
- 12) 22 Nov Genesis 22-23
- 13) 29 Nov Genesis 24

INTRODUCTION

- What would make you leave the comforts of home and travel to an unknown territory? Fame? Fortune? Family?
- How do you discern the voice of God these days?

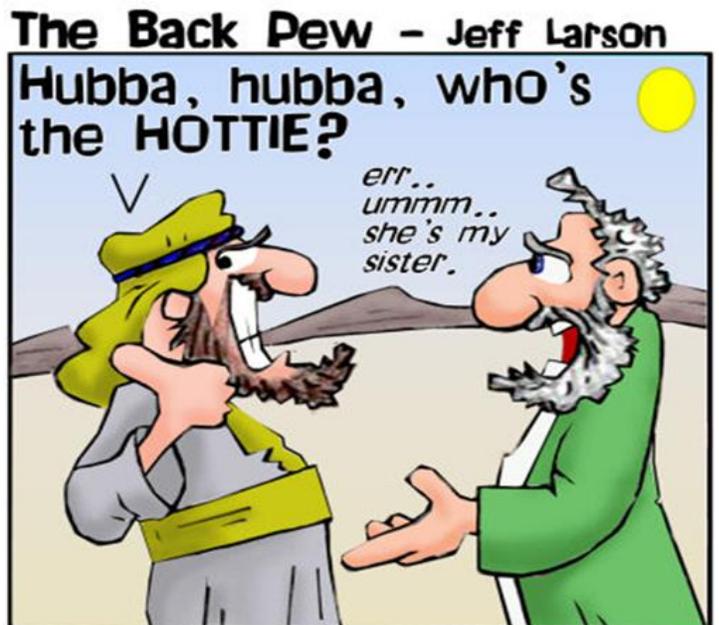
Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. Abram gives Lot first choice. Again, Abram behaves nobly by thinking more highly of others and putting himself at a disadvantage 1Cor 6:7; Phil 2:3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Lot got the pretty land, but Abram got the safe land • vv14-17. God promises to give Abram the land that is before him and to increase his descendants without number, and this promise seems to be unconditional – God is going to do it no matter what Abram does • v18. Abram builds another altar, here at Mamre – Mamre is where Abram, Sarah & Joseph are buried
Gen 14	<p>War of the Kings and Tribute to Melchizedek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lot's new neighbors go to war, and Lot and his family are taken prisoner • Abram comes to their rescue with a brilliant military tactic – attack at night with separate divisions or battle fronts and pursue till the enemy is destroyed • Abram does another noble thing by not taking any war booty, but only enough to cover his expenses • Melchizedek is introduced as a High Priest of God and a King from Salem (which means “peace” and would one day become Jerusalem). Some theologians believe Melchizedek was Shem, Noah's son, who was still living <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Abram saw him as worthy to receive a 10% offering Psalm 110:4; Heb 5:6,10; 6:20; 7:1-21 • Melchizedek is brought up again in Psalms 110, and more thoroughly elaborated on in Hebrews 5-7 as a priestly order for Jesus Christ, who was also a King and a High Priest, but not after the Judean or Levitical orders

Passage	Comments
Gen 12	<p>Abram Journeys to Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. Abram receives the ultimate command from God with a global promise – Leave your people and I will make a people out of you who will be a blessing to the world. God's word, His son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit would be the fruit of that blessing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We may consider Abram old at 75 yrs, but he left behind him notables such as Noah who was 817 yrs old when Abram departed, and Noah's son Shem, who was only 315 yrs old at the time ♦ So Abram wasn't concerned about his age, though he would only live another 100 years • vv6-7. Remember Shechem. It started out as place of worship; Joseph would be buried there; and the 10 tribes of Israel would use Shechem as their capital; the Romans would renamed Shechem to Neopolis • vv10. A famine forces Abram to seek relief in Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ It's amazing how God providentially guides His people through economic and political upheavals • vv11-13. Was it proper for Abram to tell a lie, or in his case, to stretch the truth to save his neck? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ When is it OK to tell a lie? ♦ When is it OK to take matters into our own hands and neglect to seek God's guidance? ♦ When given a choice, Abram seems to take the path of least resistance. ♦ When is it OK to take the path of least resistance • God doesn't wait till we are perfect saints before He saves us or uses us. He loves us so much He is willing to take us just as we are – warts and all. And He loves us so much He doesn't leave us where He found us. • Despite Abram's character flaws, God is still in control, and He allows everything to work Rom 8:28
Gen 13	<p>Abram and Lot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. Abram returns to Bethel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In a few years, Abram's grandson, Jacob, will visit Bethel and wrestle with God, and get his name changed to Israel, which means “God prevails” • v8. Abram pleads for peace with Lot. This is very noble of Abram since we are meant for peace, and the world will know we are God's children if we have love for one another Mark 9:50; John 13:35 • God told Abram to leave family. Did Abram disobey God by taking family (i.e., Lot) with him? After all, Lot was more trouble than he was worth, correct? Consider this: Both Lot and Abraham were men of faith per Hebrews 11

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Abram had a lot of notable characteristics we should emulate such as thinking more highly of others, serving God unquestionably, and willing to worship God wherever He may send us
- Some of the weaker character flaws of Abram we need to eliminate and not emulate, such as taking the path of least resistance and neglecting to seek God's guidance

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 15-16. Abram gets into trouble for listening to his wife – “Hey Honey, would you like to sleep with my maid?”



Abraham, a great man of faith...BUT he sure could tell a whopper.