LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	03 Dec 2023	Genesis 01	The First Week	
2)	10 Dec	Genesis 02	The First Couple	
3)	17 Dec	Genesis 03	The First Sin	
4)	24 Dec	Luke 02:1-15	The First Christmas	
5)	31 Dec	Genesis 04-05	The First Murder	
6)	07 Jan 2024	Genesis 06-07	Judgment	
7)	14 Jan	Genesis 08	Land!	
8)	21 Jan	Genesis 09-10	Protect	
9)	28 Jan	Genesis 11	Stalled	
<mark>10)</mark>	04 Feb	Genesis 12-14	Promised	
11)	11 Feb	Genesis 15-16	Impatience	
12)	18 Feb	Genesis 17	Established	
13)	25 Feb	Genesis 18-20	Purged	

INTRODUCTION

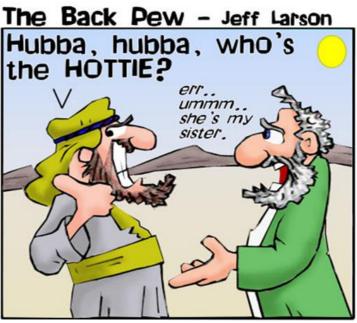
- What would make you leave the comforts of home and travel to an unknown territory? □ Fame? □ Fortune? □ Family?
- How do you discern the voice of God these days?

Passage	Comments	
Gen 12	 Abram Journeys to Egypt 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 We may consider Abram old at 75 years, but he left behind him notables such as Noah who was 817 years old when Abram departed, and Noah's son Shem, who was only 315 years 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 rename Shechem to Neopolis vv10. A famine forces Abram to seek relief in Egypt 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? 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 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. 	
Gen 13	 Abram and Lot v3. Abram returns to Bethel 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	

Passage	Comments	
	 v9. Abram gives Lot the first choice. Again, Abram behaves nobly by thinking more highly of others and putting himself at a disadvantage 1Cor 6:7; Phil 2:3 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	 War of the Kings and Tribute to Melchizedek Lot's new neighbors go to war, and Lot and his family an taken prisoner Abram comes to their rescue with a brilliant military tactin – 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 Abram saw him as worthy to receive a 10% offering	

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.