

**In The Beginning: Session 22: Back Into The Inheritance**

בְּרֵאשִׁית

Get audio files and notes at: [www.htchurch.com/genesis](http://www.htchurch.com/genesis).

Note: class will be on break after December 16<sup>th</sup> and resume on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**The Lord Appears (Genesis 12:7-9)**

*7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. 9 So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.*

- This is the second time the LORD appeared to him. How gracious of God.
- God for the first time makes a promise of a grant of land to Abram. Moses does not give us here a strict definition of the Land of Canaan.
- Its boundaries are laid out in Numbers 34. (See map attached.)

*Another question raised here is who are the descendants?*

- The word descendants is really "Seed." The mystery person in the story is Isaac.
- Much of the story in Genesis is designed to let us know that God's choice is Isaac, rather than Ishmael, and that God's choice is Jacob, rather than Esau.

*He built an altar.*

- As soon as he got established somewhere, the first thing he did was build an altar.
- It was a place for prayer, to make gifts, and for sacrifices.
- Building an altar means he understood the holiness of God.

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**Going Down To Egypt (Genesis 12:10-20)**

*10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land. 11 And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, “Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance. 12 Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you.”*

*14 So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. 15 The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh’s house. 16 He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.*

*17 But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. 18 And Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take her and go your way.” 20 So Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.*

Famines: often come in Scripture as a judgment from the Lord.

Egypt is always a picture of the world. Why did he go?

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## **Sarai and the Deception**

- Apparently Pharaoh's men were “on the lookout...”
- Notice that Abram profited financially from Pharaoh. Deceptive blessings!
- Why would Abram have done this?
- When we fail to live God’s way, we hurt other people spiritually. We create additional barriers to their receiving the knowledge of God.

## **Back Into Canaan (Genesis 13:1-4)**

*1 Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. 2 Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. 3 And he went on his journey from the South 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 at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.*

Abraham now returns to his base of operations in Canaan.

- His former camping grounds in between *Bethel* and *Ai*.
- We come up out of Egypt (symbolizing the world) and are in between *Ai (heap of ruins)* and *Bethel (the house of God)*. Where are we in that journey?

## **The Departure Of Lot (Genesis 13:5-18)**

*5 Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. 6 Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.*

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8 So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.”

10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. 12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

14 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.”

18 Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

- The land was then in a better condition; even so it was strained
- Abraham had a generous heart, but the presence of Lot caused problems

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## More Revelation

- Greater revelation comes to Abram as soon as Lot (“veil” or “covering”) leaves
- He also receives a commission from God to begin to walk in that inheritance
- Why was Lot called Lot? We can only speculate.
- For Abram, having a *Lot* was like having a veil or a covering that prevented him from going and seeing further.
- One way that disobedience hinders us is by cutting us off from revelation
- The closer we draw to the Lord in love and obedience, the more we’ll be able to see his help, and see the inheritance we have in Him

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