

GENESIS

THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S RELENTLESS PLAN

Part 10: Here We Go Again

August 12 & 13, 2017 | Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor

Abram is called, and he goes.

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." – Genesis 12:1

And then... (*Genesis 12*)

He builds a lie

"Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you." – Genesis 12:13

He comes out ahead

...and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, menservants and maidservants, and camels. – Genesis 12:16

He gets away with it

But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!" Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had." – Genesis 12:17-20

Don't do the wrong biblical math!

The end does not justify the means. The story isn't over.

And then... (*Genesis 13*)

He has stuff

Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. – Genesis 13:2

Important perspective:

A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions... – Luke 12:15
What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? – Mark 8:36

He reaps what he sowed

Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. – Genesis 13:10-11

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. – Galatians 6:7

Important point: Lot learned self-serving selfishness from someone!

He loses

The two men parted company... – Genesis 13:11b

And then... (Genesis 14)

He learns a valuable lesson: real blessing comes from God

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” – Genesis 14:18-20

He gives with the right heart

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. – Genesis 14:20b

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work
we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said:

‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

– Acts 20:35

He acts wisely

But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’” – Genesis 14:22-23

And then... (Genesis 15)

¹ After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.

⁵ Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

⁶ Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. ⁷ He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.” – Genesis 15:1,5-7

Small Group Questions

- 1) What tools do you use to navigate? Have they ever led you astray?
- 2) What do you lie about? What do you lie to yourself about? What can you learn from Abram’s lie? (Do the right biblical math!)
- 3) Jesus said it’s more blessed to give than to receive. Is that your experience?
- 4) Abram comes full circle. How has God’s relentless plan touched your life?
- 5) Look back over our journey through Genesis. What is God teaching you so far?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the coming week?