



Genesis 13:1-18

PEACEMAKING ACCORDING TO GOD

Everything Abraham received in Egypt later caused trouble. Because of their great wealth, Abraham and Lot could not live together and had to separate (Gen. 13:5–6). Hagar, the Egyptian maidservant, brought division and sorrow into the home (Gen. 16). Having had a taste of Egypt (the world), Lot started measuring everything by what he saw there (Gen. 13:10–11), and this led to his downfall and the ruin of his family. There are no benefits from disobedience. The practical lesson from all of this is simply never abandon your altar. Stay in fellowship with the Lord no matter what the circumstances may be. If you have disobeyed... go back to the place where you left Him and make things right. Remember [the words of Alexander Whyte]: “The victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings.”

—Warren Wiersbe

- A Introduction to Abram’s Life (11:27-32)
 - B Abram’s Obedience to God’s Word (12:1-9)**
 - C Abram’s Lie: Sarai & Pharaoh (12:10-20)
 - D Abram’s Rescue of Lot (13:1-14:17)
 - E Melchizedek’s Blessing of Abram (14:18-24)
 - F Cutting of the Abrahamic Covenant (15)
 - G Abram’s Failure: Hagar & Ishmael (16)**
 - F Sign of the Abrahamic Covenant (17)
 - E God’s Visit to Abraham (18)
 - D God’s Rescue of Lot (19)
 - C Abraham’s Lie: Sarah & Abimelech (20)
 - B Abraham’s Obedience to God’s Word (21:1-22:24)**
 - A Epilogue to Abraham’s Life (23:1-25:11)

In Genesis 13, Abram, Sarai, and Lot leave Egypt and return to the land of Canaan. At Bethel, Abram recommits his life to the Lord. But then a great conflict breaks out between Abram and Lot’s herdsmen.

FOUR BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FROM GENESIS 13

1. Conflict is a reality in this life.

*A grasping disposition stirs up strife,
But he who trusts in Adonai will prosper.* (Proverbs 28:25, CJB)

- Conflict comes when we _____ more (James 4:1-2).
- Conflict comes when we _____ more (Prov. 13:10).
- Conflict comes because we are humans impacted by sin (cf. Acts 6:1; 15:36-40; Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:12-13).

Genesis 13 is the first account in a trilogy of Abram-Lot stories. Lot, the son of Abram’s brother Haran, provides a contrast for the patriarch and his heirs. Lot is passive and foolish. He initiates only scant actions, and even among these are the wrong decisions.

—Kenneth A. Mathews

[In returning to Bethel], Abram is trying to recapture his previous experience of God.

—Gordon J. Wenham

The building of altars is the key to Abraham’s spiritual triumph. In Egypt, when Abram feared for his life and doubted God’s promises, there were no altars. In this scene, the altars signify Abram’s return to faith and his proclamation of claiming the land in the name of God.

—Bruce K. Waltke

Abram suffered because the famine was כָּבֵד [heavy, severe] now he is very כָּבֵד [heavy, rich] with possessions. —Umberto Cassuto

How people deal with conflict shows you the kind of people they are.

—Stephen Moyer

2. Conflict can lead to great disaster.

*To start a conflict is to release a flood;
Stop the dispute before it breaks out.* (Proverbs 17:14, CSB)

- Conflict threatens our closest _____
(Prov. 16:28; 17:9; cf. Rom. 14:19-21).
- Conflict exposes us to much bigger _____
(Luke 11:17; cf. Rom. 16:17-20; Gal. 5:15; Heb. 12:14-15).

3. Peacemaking requires someone to take the initiative.

Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24)

Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. (Matthew 18:15)

- Peacemaking sees the priority of _____
over personal rights (Prov. 10:12; cf. 1 Cor. 6:1-8; 8:12-13).
- Peacemaking acts with _____ and grace
(Prov. 15:18; cf. Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:1-3; Col. 3:12-13).

4. Peacemaking brings the blessing of God.

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.* (Matthew 5:9)

- What I pursue for myself, I ultimately _____.
- What I give up for the Lord, I ultimately _____.

They were surrounded by as many enemies as they had neighbors. Nothing, therefore, was lacking toward their destruction except a suitable occasion; and this they themselves were affording by their quarrels. —John Calvin

He that is not a son of peace is not a son of God. All other sins destroy the Church consequentially; but division and separation demolish it directly. —Richard Baxter

Abram determined to be a peacemaker and not a troublemaker. —Warren Wiersbe

The Hebrews, as well as other ancient peoples, were eastern oriented (as contrasted with northern oriented, as we are) ... Thus when Abram offered Lot what was on his left he was referring to northern Canaan. The other choice was on their right: southern Canaan. —Thomas Constable

It takes more grace than I can tell, to play the second fiddle well. —Charles H. Spurgeon

A man who is weak in his devotions and worldly in his desires will inevitably be wrong in his decisions. —John Phillips

Who you are determines what you see, and what you see determines what you do. —Haddon Robinson

Walking around the perimeter of a piece of property was a common legal ritual in the ancient Near East for taking final possession. —Robert Alter

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. —Jim Eliot