

TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 13-15

OVERVIEW:

Abram and Lot separate; Abram moves to Hebron, builds an altar; Melchizedek's blessing upon Abram; God's covenant with Abram.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

After the downward move into the world's system of evil, and finding himself in the web of its sinfulness in chapter 12, "*Abram went up out of Egypt*" (13:1), and back to the place of blessing and intimacy with God that he had at the first (13:3-4). It's the same solution our Lord Jesus Christ identified in Revelation 2:4-5 for those times we find ourselves in the world's snare, having "*left our first love.*" Jesus said, "*Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.*" Do you need to follow Jesus' admonition and Abram's example? Note the simplicity: Remember. Repent. Repeat.

The separation of Abram and his nephew, Lot, might be called "the curse of God's blessing" (13:5-9). Sometimes the blessing of God in our lives forces us to make tough decisions. Lot illustrates a carnal believer, walking in the flesh, while Abram illustrates a committed believer, walking in the Spirit.

Lot chose the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh (13:10-11). He chose Sodom, thinking it a place of peace, protection and prosperity, when it was actually a place of warfare, danger, and cursing. Lot illustrates how important it is that we look through spiritual eyes as opposed to physical eyes in order to live the victorious Christian life. Paul said, "*While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*" (II Cor. 4:18)

Chapter 14 illustrates that the Spirit-filled life is a life that is blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ, as Melchizedek, a type of Christ, blesses faithful Abram. Note that Melchizedek, whose name means "Righteous King," is the King of Salem (Hebrew, "shalom") or peace, and is a priest of the most high God. Note, also that this mysterious king-priest of Jerusalem, to whom is given no human biographical or genealogical particulars, blesses Abram and receives tithes from him. Our Righteous King, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is not of human descent, is the Prince of Peace, and the God and Lord of peace, and will soon take up his throne in Jerusalem to rule as King over all the world. He blesses those who are surrendered to Him, and He alone is worthy of tithes of all that we possess.

Those, who like Abram, acknowledge Christ's lordship and are surrendered to Christ's lordship in their lives hear the word of the Lord in their hearts saying, "*Fear not, ... I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*" (15:1)

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

In MELCHIZEDEK, THE KING OF SALEM (Jerusalem), THE KING OF PEACE, THE PRIEST OF THE MOST HIGH GOD – Gen. 14:18-20 (Psa. 110:4; Heb. 7:1-6, 17, 21; Isa. 9:6; Rom. 15:33; II Thess. 3:16)