

THE LIFE OF ABARAHAM



4. Abraham's Attitude to Possessions

Introduction

In our previous study we have seen how Abraham gave Lot the opportunity to choose which part of the land he would like. Lot chose the fertile plains near the city of Sodom. Gradually he moved with his family into that wicked city. After some years there was a war between four kings, and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. During the fighting Lot and his family were captured.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 14:11 – 15:1

A. ABRAHAM'S ATTITUDE TO POSSESSIONS

- ✧ When Abraham heard the report that Lot had been captured, what did he do? V14-16



What does this show us about Abraham's attitude towards Lot, even after he had taken the best land?

- ✧ When the King of Sodom offered to let Abraham keep the goods how did he respond? V21-24. Why did he not want to take the goods?
- ✧ What can we learn from Abraham's attitude to material possessions?

B. ABRAHAM'S ATTITUDE TO GIVING

- ✧ Who was Melchizedek? V18-19, Hebrews 6:20, 7:1-3, 17
- ✧ Why do you think Abraham gave one tenth of everything to Melchizedek? Also see Hebrews 7:6

Some people say that giving one tenth was only for the Jewish people under the law. However the law had not been given at the time of Abraham. Remember, Abraham is called the 'father of all who believe'. As our spiritual father he sets us an example in giving.



Spend some time checking out what the Bible says about tithes, or giving one tenth to the Lord. Look up the following verses: Leviticus 27:30, Deuteronomy 12:11, Numbers 18:21, 24, Malachi 3:8-10

Conclusion

How easily Abraham could have taken all the goods the King of Sodom offered him! Instead he refuses to, saying that God had promised to bless him and he did not want anyone else to get the credit. Not only that, he gives one tenth to Melchizedek, as he represented the Most High God. Abraham trusted God's promise and God was faithful to him. Perhaps you have been afraid to tithe as it seems so much to give, but God will be faithful to you, just as he was to Abraham. And God's promise to us is, "My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."