

Abram's Return to Prayer

Introduction & Review

- God called Abram to leave the things in life that brought stability & promised him special blessings in the future (Gen. 12:1-3).
- Abram responded to God's promise with obedience & to God's faithfulness with worship (Gen. 12:4-9) – *prayer & praise [v. 8]*.
- Abram responded to his first major trial selfishly without prayer (Gen. 12:10-16) – *famine [promised land] = fear & deception*.
- God graciously delivered Abram & his family with a reproof for his sinful actions (Gen. 12:17-20).

I. Abram's Second Major Trial (Gen. 13:1-13)

- A. The journey to the place of prayer (Gen. 13:1-4)
God intervened to deliver Abram, his family & possessions (v. 1). God graciously blessed Abram even in disobedience (v. 2). God graciously led Abram back to the place of prayer where he went astray (v. 3-4). Out of mercy, God will often intervene in the life of a saint who has yielded to temptation to deliver them out of a sinful place in their thoughts, actions or circumstances. The Holy Spirit brings reproof, correction & direction for restoration.
- B. The test at the place of prayer (Gen. 13:5-13)
The 2nd major test or trial involves the promise land again (v. 5-7) – “so that the land could not support...”. There are many problems associated with wealth – false friends, false security, envy, pride, greed & strife between relatives & friends (1Tim. 6:9). Abram responds to the test with grace & humility (v. 8-9). The desire for peace leads to a plan for peace – separation (Phil. 2:3-4). Abram resisted the temptation of another land this time (v. 10-11). Abram trusted God to provide where He had promised (v. 12-13). Abram was selfless & responded in faith trusting God with the outcome. Lot was selfish & responded by sight leaning to his understanding – chose the place evil prosperity.

APPL: Even after a believer has been graciously delivered from a place of sin in life, he/she will be tested & tempted again with the circumstances of life. Tests, trails & temptations reveal the true content of our hearts. They reveal whether we have truly repented of sin so that we live knowing & submitting to the will of God.

II. God's Major Revelation (Gen. 13:14-18)

- A. The reward of faith (Gen. 13:14-17)
God rewarded Abram's faith with spiritual insight or understanding about his future possession (v. 14-15, 17) – the land. Abram could not see the value of this land until God revealed it. Lot “lifted up his eyes” & saw thing naturally, but Abram “lifted up his eyes” to see by faith. Often we cannot see the value of our own possessions until God reveals it. God's also gave him insight regarding his future genealogy (v. 16). It's all of faith, not sight – the land presently belongs to the Canaanites & Sarai is still barren.
- B. The response in faith (Gen. 13:18)
Abram trusted God's promise & established a residence in this land of promise. Abram then worshiped God in his new place of residence without fear or doubts.

APPL: God knows that believers need encouragement after a major trial when it appears that you have suffered a major loss. He knows what you need to hear, see & understand. Your heavenly Father knows your needs & the desires of your heart – He is the God hope that will fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.