

## Read Genesis 13:1-4

- Verse 1 tells us about Abram’s exit from Egypt. What strikes you about the details of those who were with Abram?
  - “his wife”
  - “all he had”
  - “Lot”
- Verse 2 tells us that “Abram was very rich in livestock, silver and gold.” What does that detail add to your understanding of Abram’s travels?

- Why did Abram travel north into Canaan to the place between Bethel and Ai?  
(Hint: remember 12:8)
  - “The first thing Abram did upon returning to Canaan was to head for Bethel. Years earlier when he had first entered the land, Bethel was one of the places where he had built an altar to the Lord and conducted public worship (12:8). There may have been more than one reason why Abram made this special trip to the altar at Bethel. One reason was surely his own personal need. Abram needed to express his penitence over his sorry performance in Egypt and his gratitude to God for mercifully undoing any potential damage he could have caused.

There may have been an additional reason. Abram had just experienced the grace of God as it appeared on the dark background of his sin, and he wanted to give public testimony to God’s amazing grace. Abram may have realized, furthermore, that it was not only the heathen inhabitants around Bethel who needed to hear that testimony. He knew that he owed a clear witness to the many members of his own household, who must have numbered in the hundreds (14:14). There was no way they could have been impressed with their master’s dishonesty. Some of them may even have wondered, ‘Is this what it means to be a follower of the true God?’ Abram’s worship at Bethel gave them a clear and correct answer.” *(People’s Bible: Genesis, p.127-128)*

Read Genesis 13:5-9

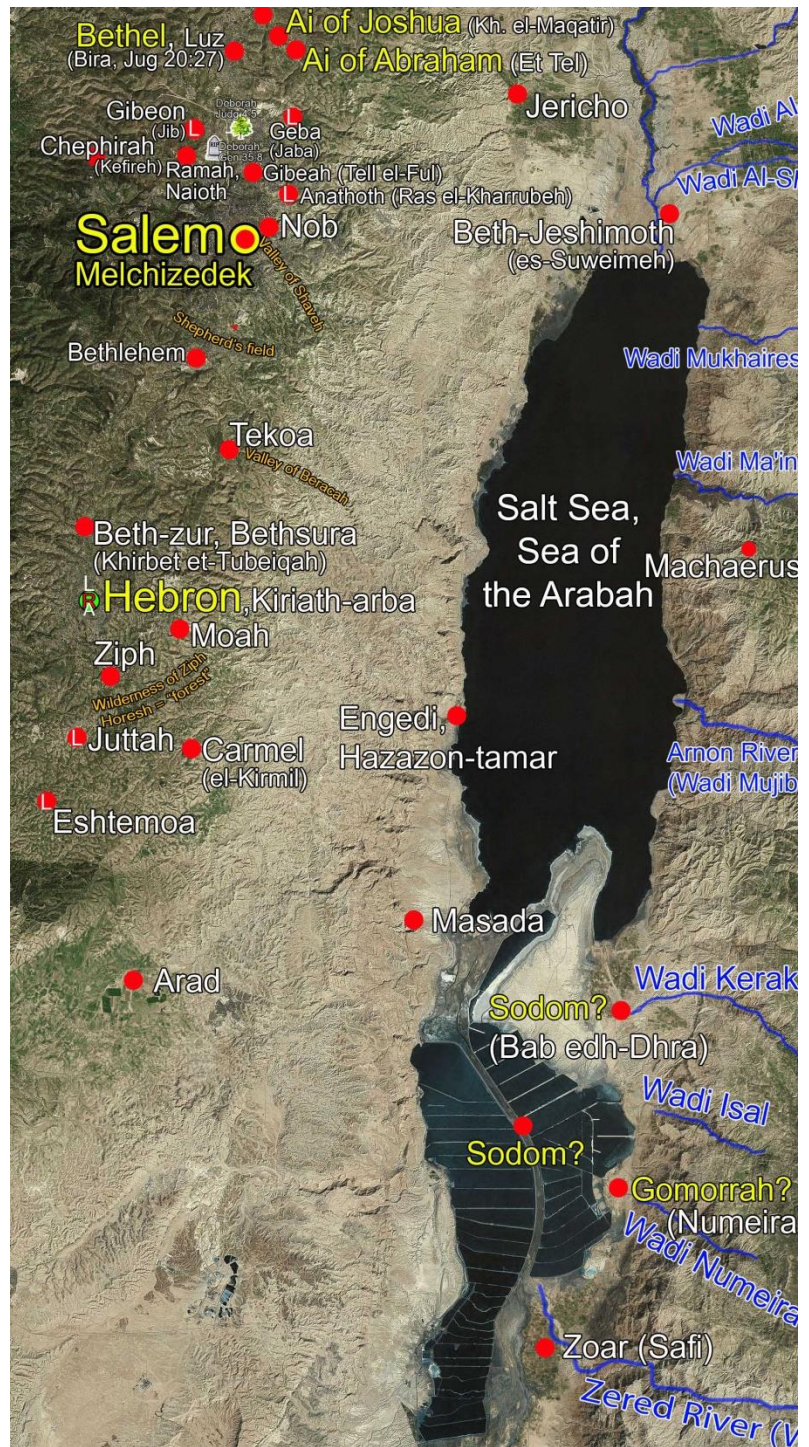
- What problem developed in Abram’s life?
- How was that problem a fulfillment of God’s promise?
- Why was it necessary that this problem be solved?
- What was Abram’s solution?

Read Genesis 13:10-13

- Where did Lot choose to settle? Why?
- What future dangers did this choice present for Lot and his people?
- As you look at verse 13, explain the following comment: “The Holy Spirit is a masterful and suspenseful author.”

Read Genesis 13:14-18

- What two promises does God here give to Abram?
- Note how Abram will receive the fulfillment of these promises. (Hint: note the subject/pronouns)



- (Verse 15) Why is there so much political issues regarding the land of Israel still to this day?

- Deuteronomy 28:58-64 – <sup>58</sup> *If you are not careful to obey all the words of this law, which are written in this scroll, by fearing this glorious and awesome name—Yahweh, your God—* <sup>59</sup> *He will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, severe and lasting plagues, and terrible and chronic sicknesses.* <sup>60</sup> *He will afflict you again with all the diseases of Egypt, which you dreaded, and they will cling to you.* <sup>61</sup> *The LORD will also afflict you with every sickness and plague not recorded in the book of this law, until you are destroyed.* <sup>62</sup> *Though you were as numerous as the stars of the sky, you will be left with only a few people, because you did not obey the LORD your God.* <sup>63</sup> *Just as the LORD was glad to cause you to prosper and to multiply you, so He will also be glad to cause you to perish and to destroy you. You will be deported from the land you are entering to possess.* <sup>64</sup> *Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples from one end of the earth to the other, and there you will worship other gods, of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.”*
  
- Deuteronomy 30:17-18 – <sup>16</sup> *For I am commanding you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, statutes, and ordinances, so that you may live and multiply, and the Lord your God may bless you in the land you are entering to possess.* <sup>17</sup> *But if your heart turns away and you do not listen and you are led astray to bow down to other gods and worship them,* <sup>18</sup> *I tell you today that you will certainly perish and will not live long in the land you are entering to possess across the Jordan.”*

- (Verse 18) What do the words “Abram moved his tent” emphasize about Abram’s life?
  
- Note: Hebron is the area in which Abram and family lived the longest. It is here that Abram will buy a piece of land as a burial plot for his family (when Sarai dies – Genesis 23:17).
  
- Note also: the chapter ends where it began...Abram worshipping God. He here builds an altar which serves to express his personal faith as well as give public testimony to the one true God.