

Ch. 5 Review: Technology brings a double-edged sword. “Bigger cities and more material abundance also mean heavier weaponry and a more luxurious and increasingly dangerous complacency and arrogance. ...if you do not perish in the flood, you may still die in the ruins of the Tower of Babel.” What does this mean to you?

**Go forth**

**Gen. 12:1-3** – “The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

God’s promise to Abram has a sevenfold structure. What are the 7 promises?

God’s promise to Abram also tells us two things: One, that Abram is up for the task. And two, that the task will result in great success, generational success. What does this tell us about the nature of God, that he would give this task to a human?

God the Father is showing us His nature and giving us the opportunity to grow from a child to an adult. We are aware of the truth as we have encountered God as the “Word of truth”. How does this help Abram carry out God’s plan?

What do we know about the opposite of truth, the liar? The liar lies for two reasons:

1. to gain something he does not deserve
2. to evade some responsibility or consequence that belongs rightfully to him

Have you ever considered the two reasons for lying? Have you seen this in your life in those around you?

“Abram must give up his narrow, self-centered desires...and let the wind take him where it will.” What does this mean?

**John 3:8** – Jesus teaches Nicodemus: “The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

What is “the wind” in this story? What is Jesus telling us?

In accepting a covenant with the One True God, Abram swears to live by the Truth, not the lie. “He swears to alter his aim, and to accept, even welcome, whatever comes his way, along the pathway of the truth.” This is adventure. “Because living in truth-acting truthfully; seeing truthfully’ speaking truthfully- means accepting whatever happens in consequence instead of aiming at the target of delusion motivated by the spirit of the lie.” What does this mean to you?

**John 8:31-32** – “To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Jesus goes on to tell the descendants of Abraham that they do not understand what he is saying because they do not follow God or Abraham, but rather they are children of the Devil and follow his lies. What can we learn from this teaching from Jesus? Can one be a believer and still follow Satan? What does it mean to “pick up your cross” and follow Jesus?

Abram is first called to go to the land of the Canaanites. What have we learned about the Canaanites? Why go there?

“It means that every sojourner called forth by the spirit of adventure will suffer exposure to the full gamut of human sin and cruelty, and that such exposure must somehow be managed-even turned into part of the adventure.”

“If the cost of reality is death, how might reality manifest itself, to justify that price? That is the ultimate question...”

**Gen. 12:7-8** – “The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.” Why did Abram build altars to the Lord?

In **Gen. 12:10-14**, Abram lies to the Egyptians, saying that his wife Sarai is his sister. In return, he is awarded materially. “But the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues...” What is the lesson of lies? Why would Abram lie?

**The devil at the crossroads**

After Abram leaves Egypt with his family and his nephew Lot’s family, they part ways. As we travel through life, we find it necessary to part ways with others. Whether they are friends, business partners, or family, we must manage parting with good will. Abram went west while Lot went east. Have you had individuals come and go in your life? How did you handle it?

Lot pitched his tent near Sodom while Abram followed the Lord. Satan is at the crossroads of decisions. What are the consequences?

1. Deviation from the true path of adventure – What does this mean?
2. Falling prey to the battles of the world - What does this mean?

**Life as sacrificial secession**

**Gen. 15:1** – God told Abram: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

Following God and making good choices strengthened Abram’s faith. What does this tell us about our lives?

“The path the God has offered to Abram is that which leads him down the path most likely” to accomplish his goal, to be a father.

**Sex and parasitism**

“Women choose men who are adventurous and able. They are attracted, first and foremost, by competence and confidence.” The pattern of the wise father was set by Abram in his sacrificial and expansive adventure & life. Abram had a long-term mentality and not the short-term sexual gratification mentality of today. “The sexual exploitation of women on the part of psychopathic, narcissistic, Machiavellian, and sadistic men is the human equivalent of parasitism.” What does this mean?

**With the angels into the abyss**

Abram and Sarai have been transformed into Abraham and Sarah for their faith. In **Gen. 18** the couple is visited by three strangers, possibly two angels and the Lord Himself whom they welcome. The Lord told Abraham they were walking to Sodom & Gomorrah. After pleading with the Lord, God said He would spare the cities if He found 10 righteous people there. What happened?