

Don't
Hate Me Because I'm
Beautiful

Genesis 12:12 - 14:11



~ In this report from our Spiritual Safari, we will continue with Abraham and we're, actually, going to continue with him through the rest of the Bible in one way or another. More is said about Abraham in the Word of God than there is about anyone else except the Lord Jesus Christ. In the last leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God, we were dilly-dallying around down in Egypt until Abraham finally obeyed God and left. Then, we saw that God appeared to Abraham once he was back in the right geographical place, being obedient and back in God's direct will. Unfortunately, Abraham isn't going to stay in the land, or remain obedient, or be in the direct will of God for very long. I understand Abraham was a nomadic man - and he probably had itchy feet; but he went up and down the land wandering aimlessly for a very long time. Canaan was a good land; and it was the land of milk and honey - but it did not resemble the land of Israel today at all. It's pretty hard to understand how Israel could be called the land of milk and honey today. Well, a famine came, and Abraham ran down to Egypt without asking God about it - as we saw in our last report. The difficulty God sent to Abraham for the disobedience of going down to Egypt wasn't a food shortage, though - and it wasn't financial problems, either - no, the problem God sent to Abraham was the beauty of his wife....

XII

12 and it will come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they will say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

13 Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister; that it may be well with me for thy sake, and that my soul may live because of thee.

~ Today we have found what are known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. They were found in Qumran on the West Bank along the Dead Sea in some caves there. One particular scroll could not be unrolled because it was just too fragile, and had been wrapped in leather for so long they were afraid it would, literally, shatter and fall to pieces. However, they could see one single word, "Lamech" - and so they called it the Book of Lamech and they said this is an apocryphal book of the Bible. Well, they couldn't have been more wrong! Israel bought the scroll, and it went to their National Museum where they gradually moistened it and eventually they were able to unroll it. They found, of all unlikely things, the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteen chapters in Genesis; but it's not what we have in our Bibles. It is an interpretation of this section of Genesis; and the one thing it stresses is the beauty of Sarah. It goes into great detail about her features and how lovely she was. To me, that does nothing in the world but confirm what the Bible already says. Pharaoh certainly wanted Sarah; and that was a huge problem for Abraham. See, whenever you get out of the will of God in disobedience, then even the beauty in your world will become a problem!

The other part of that Dead Sea Scroll describes the walk of Lot and Abraham step by step as they were dividing up the land. To me, that is absolutely remarkable! It confirms Scripture and it confirms also that the land was exactly like God says it was. The eyewitness saw what happened and wrote it down. Was it a description written by Abraham? I doubt it; but I am sure Abraham had men recording the affairs of the day. To think that Abraham was having everything written down by servants is - well - very plausible. Irrespective of all of that, though, the fact remains, God said it in His Word and that ought to be enough for Christians; because God wrote everything we see in the Bible on that basis for us. Alright, so, let's think about the encounter Abraham will have down in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh took Sarah - and - well, okay? God made Himself real to Pharaoh in these plagues and God said, "...you better get rid of that woman" - and that's exactly what Pharaoh did! I think Pharaoh threw Sarah out of the palace before any improprieties went on, too, by the way....

14 And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.

15 And the princes of Pharaoh saw her, and praised her to Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

16 And he dealt well with Abram for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he-asses, and men-servants, and maid-servants, and she-asses, and camels.

17 And Jehovah plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

18 And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?

19 why saidst thou, She is my sister, so that I took her to be my wife? now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.

20 And Pharaoh gave men charge concerning him: and they brought him on the way, and his wife, and all that he had.

XIII

~ God is still overruling in Abraham's disobedient life, and Abraham is still within the providential and permissive will of God, but God did not appear to Abraham in the land of Egypt. See, God is NEVER going to give you new revelation until you are in His will through faith and obedience, friends; and you can just write that down. So, this is also where we see Lot and Abraham leave Egypt; and Lot heads over to Sodom but Abraham goes back to the land of promise. The minute Abraham gets back in the land where God commanded him to be and separates himself from Lot – whom Abraham was supposed to leave behind a long time ago in Ur - then God appears to Abraham again.

While Abraham is in disobedience God does not appear to him at all. If you have a good Bible with a map of Canaan at the time in which we are studying, you'll see that Abraham went south first and now he goes north of where Jerusalem will be established later and back to the altar where he had first called on the Name of the Lord. Abraham is wandering around

with no direction because of his disobedience; which is exactly the condition most Christians are in today. Abraham stumbled. Abraham fell - but he got up, brushed himself off and came back to God. It's wonderful to have a God we can come back to, my beloved. I would also note that both Lot and Abraham did quite well, financially and materially speaking, while they were completely out of the will of God....

1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the South.

2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

3 And he went on his journeys from the South even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Ai,

4 unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of Jehovah.

5 And Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

7 And there was a strife between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelt then in the land.

~ So, obviously, one thing that brought untold strife, envy and grief by dividing the family was riches. The second thing that will bring unending grief for Abraham will be a little Egyptian maid named Hagar. See, if Abraham had obeyed God then he never would have gone to Egypt. If he never had gone to Egypt then there would have been no Hagar! Here, it is riches that cause Lot and Abraham to have to separate; and there's strife between them over material possessions. The Canaanite and the Perizzite were also living amongst them at this time; and I think these two groups got together and mocked old Abraham, you know - they probably shook their head and said, "...if that's a path that works for him let him go on."

Oh, yes, very pious and very mean. They knew Abraham was honest and upright; but all they saw was the infighting in his life at this point. I don't think the Canaanite's or the Perizzite's were very impressed with the idea of following God because of Abraham and Lot's example.

Here, on this forum on which I teach, the church doesn't get along, either. They also fight constantly and exhaust themselves trying to disprove each other. As a result, this lost and dying atheistic world looks at the church and says, "...hell, no!" Frankly, I don't blame them! The world can get a fight at work or at the night club – they don't need or want to fight with each other on social media. That's why lost atheist's all support each other, irrespective of their contradictions, hypocrisy and foolishness. Atheists sticks together through thick and thin; and so do apostates, too, by the way. Jesus said, "...by this shall they know you are My church, that ye have love one for another." The world knows when the church is fighting and they love it - because it justifies their unbelief. You might want to think about that, friends....

8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we are brethren.

9 Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me. If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right. Or if thou take the right hand, then I will go to the left.

10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the Plain of the Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou goest unto Zoar.

11 So Lot chose him all the Plain of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the Plain, and moved his tent in Sodom.

~ I think Lot would look out of his tent at night and say to his wife, "...isn't that a beautiful place down there?" In the morning, Lot would say, "...honey, it looks so great down there; that must be where God wants us." Of course, Lot never consulted God about anything; and the grass is always greener and grows much faster directly over the septic tank; but there came a day when Lot could make his own decision to actually go down there to Sodom – and away he went. No man ever falls suddenly. Once we pitch our spiritual tent over against a spiritual Sodom – that's the beginning of our spiritual fall. We might even be extremely wealthy – as was Lot – won't change a thing. Lot lifted up his eyes and pitched his tent against Sodom; and being there was the biggest mistake he ever made in his life. Lot didn't know this, or maybe he did, but, either way, he should have known it, because....

13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners against the Lord exceedingly.

14 And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward and southward and eastward and westward:

~ We'll see what happens to Lot's family as a result of him leaving God out of everything in his life later down in Sodom. Here, God is going to lay out the land very specifically. Personally, by the way, I really hate that song, "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." If there was ever a song that needed NOT be sung at a funeral – that's the one. Well, Lot wasn't singing, "oh, beautiful isle of somewhere," either, friends – Lot was standing right in the middle of it all. Heaven just happens to be a very real place. It's not some beautiful isles of somewhere. Heaven is also a very definite place; and the Word of God is always quite specific. When we reach the Book of Revelation, God is so specific that He defines the boundary around Heaven itself. We're not dealing with the theoretical or the philosophical here, my beloved, because we simply don't operate that way on this so-called safari....

15 for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: So that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then may thy seed also be numbered.

17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for unto thee will I give it.

18 And Abram moved his tent, and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built there an altar unto Jehovah.

~ Abraham was, obviously, quite the altar builder. Everywhere he went he left a testimony to God. Today, man has left his footprint on the moon; we allegedly also left a flag up there with a motto that says, “we come in peace” - but they forgot to leave a Bible. Well, there is no peace without the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, I don’t think it would have done any good to leave a Bible on the moon anyways; but it does reveal the age and the thinking in this period of history that we live in today. We’re a lot like Lot; in fact, JUST like Lot! Even so, these altars to the Lord were important to Abraham. So, building them is exactly what Abraham did. Interestingly, “Mamre” means “riches” - and “Hebron” means “communion.” This would be a marvelous place to dwell. I don’t think I would mind living there; in fact, I’m sure of it....

XIV

~ That brings us to chapter fourteen of Genesis where we are going to see the first recorded account of war break out. Abraham also delivers Lot from captivity in this chapter; and we have the first priest come on the scene as Abraham is blessed by Melchizedek. The Lord Jesus Christ is our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Even so, and very strangely, this chapter just doesn’t seem to fit in with the rest of the account at all. Candidly, at first glance, it feels as though this chapter could have been left out of the Bible altogether. Some argue there remains harmonious continuity without this chapter - and I agree; but I don’t agree with leaving it out of Scripture – because I think this is one of the most important chapters in the Bible. I know I say that about every single chapter we come to on safari – because they all are – but I digress, sort of....

1 And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim,

2 that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar).

~ We have a very good exercise in pronunciation in this chapter - as well as the historical record. The kings of the east defeat the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah; and all of these places have been found in documents throughout secular history - recorded by mankind in a divine mandate as confirmation that the Bible is the Word of God. So, the first eleven verses here are the record of the first known war. The critical, radical scholar has, for years, rejected this all claiming, "...these men do not appear in secular history at all." Well, the "scholar" was exactly wrong about that - because these men mentioned here have been found on monuments and in scrolls and on tablets; including that Dead Sea Scroll we mentioned in this and in our previous report. They certainly did exist: the Amraphel was the equivalent of the Code of Hammurabi in secular history. Man, apparently, began waging wars very early in his history....

3 All these joined together in the vale of Siddim (the same is the Salt Sea).

4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

~ That rebellion in verse four is what brought the kings of the east against Sodom and Gomorrah. Again, this is all a historical record that is laid out in secular accounts for you and me to read on our own. Now, if you have a good Bible with a map, you'll notice these kings of the east had to go right by Abraham's tent to leave the Dead Sea region; and then they would have had to travel back up along the Fertile Crescent to return back to the land they came from. So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with a secular history lesson that irrefutably confirms this Scriptural account. When you hear people say

otherwise, all they are really saying is that they don't believe the Bible. Well, that's okay – because they have an absolute right to be wrong....

5 And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that were with him, and smote the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim,

6 and the Horites in their mount Seir, unto Elparan, which is by the wilderness.

7 And they returned, and came to En-mishpat (the same is Kadesh), and smote all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Hazazon-tamar.

8 And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar); and they set the battle in array against them in the vale of Siddim;

9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings against the five.

10 Now the vale of Siddim was full of slime pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell there, and they that remained fled to the mountain.

11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way ~

