

1. I want to say a couple of things about what we are going thru at the present
 - a. #1. God is sovereign
 - i. Total control!
 - ii. To God – nothing is unsettled – no urgency – no panic
 - b. #2. Omniscient – God knows everything
 - i. Virus didn't catch Him off-guard
 - ii. He knows future – your life, health, family, your eternity
 - iii. God doesn't see the parade as it passes by – He see all of it at once
 - iv. It helps to remember Who God is!

Isaiah 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,
In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry *them* in
His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing *ewes*.

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His
hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And
calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And
weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a
pair of scales?

¹³ Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His
counselor has informed Him?

V.18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what
likeness will you compare with Him?

V.21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it
not been declared to you from the beginning? Have
you not understood from the foundations of the
earth?

²² It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And
its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches
out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out
like a tent to dwell in.

V.26 Lift up your eyes on high And see who has
created these *stars*, The One who leads forth their
host by number, He calls them all by name; Because
of the greatness of His might and the strength of *His*
power, Not one *of them* is missing.

V.28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary, And to *him who* lacks might He increases power.

³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly,

³¹ Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

c. #3. God is Immutable – never changes

i. He loves us

1 John 4:9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

ii. He will always love us

01. Never withhold the best

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Review:

1. In chapter 13 we see Abram & Lot splitting up – too much livestock to live in the same area
2. Two mindsets are displayed
 - a. #1. Unselfishness: Abram deferred to Lot – let Lot pick what land he wanted
 - i. Abram (who is older) had the right to take the best land
 - b. #2. Selfishness: Lot picked what was best for himself – selfish
 - i. This will prove to be the worst mistake Lot ever made

- c. If you, a believer, live life more concerned about "stuff" than eternity, it will be the worst mistake you ever make
2. Chapter 13 closes w/ God giving Abram all the land he can see
- a. God chose what Abram should have in this life
 - b. God wants to decide what you should have in this life
 - i. That is why Christ said:
 - Matthew 6:31** "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'"
 - ³² "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
 - ³³ "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
3. Chapter 14 opens w/ a different scene – this one focuses on Lot
- a. Lot was selfish but he was also myopic (shortsighted/nearsighted)
 - i. He focused on this life
 - ii. That attitude will cause him to lose all God had for him
 - 01. Lot will never find contentment in life
 - 02. Lot's path will always be hard
 - Proverbs 13:15** ^(NIV) Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.
 - Proverbs 15:10** Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way; He who hates reproof will die.
 - iii. The most unhappy people are unspiritual believers
 - iv. They are trapped – hard to get free
 - 01. He ignores the warning

14:1 And it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim,

V.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 (that is, Zoar).

V.3 All these came as allies to the valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).

V.4 Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled.

V.8 And the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) came out; and they arrayed for battle against them in the valley of Siddim,

V.10 Now the valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell into them. But those who survived fled to the hill country.

V.11 Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed.

V.12 They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed, *for he was living in Sodom.*

1. "They also took Lot...for he was living in Sodom"

a. God makes a note that Lot was living in Sodom

i. He started by moving close to Sodom

Genesis 13:12 ^(NIV) Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

01. Sin is never static – it is always aggressive – always!

b. Lot gets into trouble for being in Sodom

c. Lot is not only selfish but also temporally minded

d. Everyone thinks on 1 of 2 levels – temporal or eternal

i. Many believers kid themselves about which level they think on – but there are only 2 levels

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are **temporal**, but the things which are not seen are **eternal**.

e. Lot moved into Sodom b/c he wanted to

f. He became friends w/ the world

i. He is out of fellowship w/ God

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

- g. A believer can actually place himself into the position of being God's enemy –
- h. God doesn't see any believer as an enemy but man can place himself in that spot
 - i. Habitual sin does that!

James 4:4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

V.13 Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram.

1. "Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew"
 - a. Abram is the 1st Hebrew
 - b. Hebrew – means from beyond, cross over, pass over
 - i. Abram crossed the Euphrates River from Ur & was the first Hebrew
2. "these were allies with Abram"
 - a. Here is a difference between Abram & Lot
 - i. Lot moved into Sodom & became a part of them
 - ii. Abram never became a part of those around him

"...and these were allies with Abram"
 - b. Very few believers know how to function in the world w/out letting the world alter their thinking
 - i. Most believers will hold a certain distance from the basic sins
 01. But their thinking is altered w/out realizing it
 02. Most believers think like the world!
 - c. Abram walked a distinctively different path than those around him
 - i. "Distinctively different" is not to be confused w/ "peculiar"
 - ii. Abram interacted w/ the world b/c he was in the world
 - d. God left believers here to function in the world – but we are not part of the world

John 17:15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*.

¹⁶ "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

- e. Abram's "thought life" was different than the world's
- f. We know those men were following Abram's lead b/c King of Sodom addressed Abram not them
- g. Believers to have a different mindset than the world
 - i. That is only possible to the degree you know Scripture

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
 - h. The world's wisdom may look good but it is not acceptable to God

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "*He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS*";

Ephesians 4:17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,
¹⁸ being **#1**darkened in their understanding,
#2excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the **#3**hardness of their heart;

 - 01. There should be an undeniable difference between a believer and the world
 - 02. Every believer should know Who is in control
 - 03. Therefore he knows he belongs to God; Who is in control
 - ii. That is why a believer should never have too intimate of a relationship w/ the lost

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

i.

V.13 x Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram.

3. "Then a fugitive came and told Abram"

a. Why did the fugitive go to Abram?

i. Lot must have told him about Abram

01. Lot knew who to turn to when in trouble

V.14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

1. "he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen"

a. He is a man of faith who is prepared to defend his family

i. These men were raised under his tent – loyal!

ii. They were trained for the purpose of self-defense

b. Abram was extremely wealthy – must've had thousands of servants

i. There is nothing wrong w/ wealth – it is the love of wealth that's sin

V.15 He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

1. "pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus."

a. Hobah is 250 miles from home

V.16 He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people.

1. "brought back his relative Lot with his possessions"

a. Don't you think Abram had a talk w/ Lot in that 250 mile journey about how he was living?

V.17 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

V.18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

1. "king of Sodom went out to meet him... king of Salem brought out bread and wine"
 - a. These 2 verses are together for a reason
 - i. The king of corruption & the King of peace both approached Abram
 01. Every believer is constantly confronted by both
2. "Melchizedek king of Salem"
 - a. "Melchizedek" means – King of Righteousness
 - b. "king of Salem" – "Salem" means "peace" early name of Jerusalem
 - c. He is an enigma by design
 - i. No priest could be king – no king could be priest
 01. But Christ is both
 - ii. Melchizedek was both b/c he is a type of Christ
 - iii. There is no record of lineage, of beginning or ending

Hebrews 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

V.3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.
3. "he was a priest of God Most High"
 - a. Some believe he was the preincarnate Christ
 - b. I don't think so – here is why

Hebrews 7:15 And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,¹⁶ who has become *such* not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.

¹⁷ For it is attested *of Him*, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

c.

V.19 He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

V.20 And blessed be God Most High, *Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.*" He gave him a tenth of all.

1. "Who has delivered your enemies into your hand"

a. It was God Who won the battle

b. Anything you have that is of value came from God's hand

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

c.

V.21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself."

V.22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "*I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth,*

V.23 *that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram rich.'*

1. "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth"

a. Here is an example of Abram's outlook on wealth

i. God owns it all – He can do w/ it as He chooses

2. "for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram rich"

a. Abram was careful not to allow the world to make any claims on him

b. The church has adopted the world's ways

i. The music has become entertainment instead of worship

ii. Smoke & lights to appeal to give atmosphere

iii. Not standing on biblical values b/c they are offensive to some

iv. That is where the world has altered believer's thinking

c. The power is in the Word of God – not stuff!

V.24 "I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; *let them take their share.*"

1. "the men who went with me...let them take their share"
 - a. Don't expect the world to see life as we should see it
 - b. Believers should have a different perspective than the world
 - c. Because our God is in control!