

## School of the Bible Notes – Program #40

Genesis 11

The word of God is relevant for today. It never changes. We need to hunger to know the Bible better.

Things happening today → Genesis 11

They talked about the movement toward more mergers. People think that if they come together, they can do anything. Back in the 1950's, the U.S. was made mostly of small towns, families, and it was more personal. Today everything is being squeezed together for the "oneness of efficiency." It has an evil side to it – you save money, but you also lose so much.

Principle of unity – John 17

Unity can only be good if the Lord is there. The devil tries to copy unity.

The number 70 connects to redemption

Genesis 11:26 – 70 is God's favorite number

Abraham was the father of 70 nations. He was born in the 70<sup>th</sup> year of Terah. God has a plan to evangelize the world.

Adam and Eve failed → family failed → Abraham was the missionary to the nations.

End of Genesis and into Exodus – Jacob went to Egypt. How many people were in his family? 70

Israel chosen → nation of Israel fails → Jesus triumphs

Go ahead with God's plan.

Genesis 11's primary focus is redemption

Nimrod's name means rebellion. Tower was being built.

Genesis 11:1

God's unity is the word of God. Unity is good when God is in it.

Picture – rise of evil – unity without God. We hear less and less about God today.

Babel was another attempt to reach God by works and the salvation by works movement. However, salvation is not built. It is freely given. Man thought he could build something to get what he lost. Man wants to be God.

Righteous people have a right standing with God. We have no fear, shame, or condemnation. We try to create our own righteousness. We build huge towers around the world → to Babel → reach Heaven.

God reaches down. We don't reach up. The pyramids were built so that the pharaohs could have some type of eternity. Greatness only comes through Jesus. Money won't satisfy your heart.

One language – we are becoming a 1 language planet. Today, English is the language of commerce, business, technology, and science. The world is coming together. We now have the ability to communicate with one another, but we are, for the most part, leaving God out. We have the money to build big buildings. Pastor Carlson and Bishop Rogers said that there is a tower being discussed in the Middle East to be about 1 mile high. Man is still trying to reach up. It's all for nothing if God isn't in it.

Paradigm shift – people want to make their name great. Why is man so driven to build? John D. Rockefeller said, "one more dollar is enough" when someone asked him how much money is enough for you.

Language is God's grace. Location, language – God's mercy

The Internet is changing lives. We can connect to people worldwide. Ultimately it will turn people against God.

## School of the Bible Notes – Program #41

Rebellion and redemption

Genesis 11:26

How can you be fruitful and multiply if you're barren?

Setting up the story of Abraham → Jesus

The Lord starts in seeming confusion (Babylon) → God's plan

We start in Babylon. Our culture is intoxicated with babbling. Barrenness is a tremendous curse. The Lord sets all of Scripture on what happens with this couple. The great story of our lives is leaving confusion. God calls us out of barrenness and emptiness to the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Our future is not a barren place. God is calling us. We often think, "there has to be more." Spiritual barrenness happens to the rich and poor. We are not to be connected to the world.

Without the Lord, we have nothing. When you come out, you will be a blessing.

Call → surprise themselves → bless others

New land, place to go, fruitfulness

Start → stopped part way through → get on with God's plan and purposes

Wrestling match – God vs. the world

Being stuck in Haran – nothing. God has something more for you.

Get up, get going, go with God. Abram was the first person in the Bible who received a name change from God. For the rest of the Bible, Abram is known as Abraham. God gave Abraham a new identity in Him.

Wandering in Babylon (heathen) → God made Abraham's name great

Redemption – insignificant → treasure

"If you want to be the greatest, let him be the servant of all."

Everybody can be great. God put it there. Everybody knows better. God whispers His destiny into your life. You are valuable. All you need is a servant's heart.

Get up and leave – beginning of greatness. Recognize that if we are to find greatness, we will need to leave something behind. God's divine destiny and call is that we are to leave something (sin).

Embrace God's greatness!

### **School of the Bible Notes – Program #42**

Everyone is looking for love.

The Bible is a love story of His love for us.

Adam & Eve → failed - God won't give up on mankind.

Abraham → nation of Israel – nation with a mission to reach the world

Genesis 11:26 numbers are important to the God

After the Flood, story of nations beginning to form → 70 nations – 70 is center # throughout Scripture. Abram was born in Terah's 70<sup>th</sup> year. There are more than 70 nations, but the #70 is all inclusive and complete. There is no modern nation or ethnic group that can't trace their roots back to Genesis 10. God's promise to Abram – reach 70 nations. When science grows up enough, it will agree with the Bible. Everything started in Middle East → diaspora to the ends of the earth. Science is now proving that we are all descendants of Adam and Eve. Science and the Bible are friends when science has enough information. Science often has to reverse itself, but the Bible is never wrong. Every word of the Bible is true! When you don't understand a portion of the Bible and you wait with a child-life trusting heart, God will reveal the understanding to you.

Genesis 12:1-3

Originally Adam & Eve moved east – Genesis 4. → Genesis 12 – God is reversing the Fall. Abram is coming back. The Bible is God's love affair to bring us home. This world is not our home. Every one of us has a call on our lives. God is interested in taking us to a better place to live with Him. The New Jerusalem is 1,400 miles square. We will live there for all eternity. Don't get too settled in to one place and get complacent. We won't miss out on anything. God has wonderful places here in eternity. Let's make some sacrifices today while on this earth. Abram's life is a model of all believers. God is moving us in our hearts spiritually and preparing us a place for us.

Genesis 12:2 ultimately fulfilled through the land of Israel. More Nobel prizes have been won by Israelites than any other nations. Israel is about the size of New Jersey. Genesis 12:2 is being fulfilled before our very eyes. It is very important to God how you view Israel. If you bless the land and people of Israel, you will receive blessings from God. If you don't bless the land and people of Israel, you will receive curses from God. God is protecting Israel, which is the channel of blessings to the world. Genesis 12:3b - the blessing of having the Bible today comes from the Jewish people. Founding of State of Israel on May 14, 1948. The reason that the U.S. has been blessed is because we have supported and blessed Israel. Many problems arise in the world because they have in enmity in their hearts against Israel. They are now experiencing curses as a result. Jesus is the seed of Abraham. If God didn't bless Israel, Messiah could not have come, and the most we could look forward to is the grave. When you question whether or not there is a God, just look at the Jewish people and how God works through them.

### **School of the Bible Notes – Program #43**

#### **2 resurrections**

1. Jesus Christ – the Great Resurrection – all history rests on this.
2. Rebirth of Israel – includes the church

We're all in the story. Abraham had a national and spiritual heritage. As believers in Jesus, we have a national and spiritual heritage. God supernaturally protects Israel. Children of Israel (believers in Jesus) have the same promises Abraham had.

Genesis 12:4-5

Abraham starts his ministry at age 75. Moses began his ministry at age 80. Sometimes the Lord waits until things seem impossible. God works through aged men. Some people feel that life has past them by, but God is saving the best for last. When we come to the end of our own strength, God steps in and can then work through us. Abraham has to leave something behind. God begins to call us, but we are unwilling to leave. God calls us to leave some things, then He replaces them with better things. People think that God wants something from me. If God asks us to leave something that means that He has something 100% better on the other side of the mountain. If Abraham had never left Haran no one would've heard about him. The greatest things happen when God is in it. When we lose our lives for God's sake, we find our lives. Baby boomers need the promises of God to energize our lives. God is calling us. How will you respond? If you respond in obedience, God will bless you. We get a new beginning in Jesus Christ. As believers, God will bless others through us.

Genesis 12:4

Lot (Abraham's nephew) comes along with Abraham to the Promised Land. Lot sees Sodom and the lush valley. Abraham goes to Jerusalem. Where will you go – Jerusalem or Sodom? Jerusalem is rocky. Sodom is lush. One chose to go his own way. One chose to go God's way. We blame God for things we create ourselves. God told him to

leave his family behind but he didn't so that caused many problems later on. God gives us 2 models – Lot or Abraham. Lot is still following God in some ways but in love with the world. Abraham chose God's way.

Genesis 12:10-13

The man of God turning into the man of compromise. God calls his people to a place of promise - they get tempted to go their own way and think that God isn't in it. People go back to the world and compromise their character. Abram wanted to have his wife tell a lie to save his own skin. There will always be a famine when you trust the Lord. Famine is a testing point. Stay until the Lord reveals to us to leave. Wait until God speaks to you.

#### **School of the Bible Notes – Program #44**

God uses famine to test your Biblical principles. If it's God that told you to go into ministry, wait for God.

Genesis 26 hundred fold increase

Famine is where God molds us into the image of Christ. Our character is formed. In our flesh, we're like Lot and go back to the world and Egypt. As soon as blessings start to come, Abram left Egypt and made up a story to save his skin. He was out of the will of God.

In this world you will have tribulations, but God will always be with us. Live in a time of difficulty and famine. In the U.S. we are experiencing a type of famine. If you are in a famine, it is your opportunity to grow in your character and grow spiritually and Bible study. You will come out of a famine a transformed person if you understand that God will working through you even in times of famine. Abraham begins to doubt the Lord → went to Egypt due to famine. The Bible doesn't sugar coat anything – man, failure, challenges, as well as the God who refuses to give up on us. The man of God has a crisis of faith. Abram is stuck in Egypt.

Genesis 12:14-20

3. Abram's unfaithfulness

4. God's faithfulness

We cannot ultimately ruin God's blessings. In the end, the Lord will bring us out of our problems. Abram makes mistakes and fails God even after God called him personally. We make bad choices and sometimes find ourselves in Egypt. God still has a plan for me.

Sarah is a picture of God's people. In Exodus, God's people were stuck in Egypt. God can work through my failures to get me out of Egypt. Jonah had a task to do, but people on boat through Jonah overboard – their hearts turned against Jonah. Is God trying to get your attention? It's up to us, but in the end it's all up to the Lord. We cannot ultimately fail because of who God is. Abraham lied, but God has a deeper purpose. Sovereign plan of God. Sarah was 60 years old. She's an older, mature lady. Before Pharaoh touches her, God takes Pharaoh's hand off her and ultimately delivers Abram and Sarah from Egypt. God is supernaturally protecting you. Trust God that he will touch your husband and make him into a man of God again. The Lord is in this. In God's timing and way, he will turn men's hearts back to Him.

Abraham is the Father of Faith – Galatians 3, Romans, other

Abraham is a picture of failure. God let us see Abraham's weak spots. When we look at Abram's weaknesses we can be helped and find hope for the future because we often can see our own failures in the story of Abram. All of us have been scoundrels. We need a Savior.

Genesis 13:1-3

Abraham is leaving Egypt rich. Israelites plundered the Egyptians in the book of Exodus. We compromise with the world to get their silver and gold, but we need to be faithful and one way we will receive the silver and gold from the world. Sometimes we slip into old ways and drift back into Egypt, we have problems and Egypt, and we realize that God has never left us. We may have chosen to leave the Lord, but He has never left us. There's nothing new – something has been there before you. Prepare for the next step of the journey.

## School of the Bible Notes – Program #45

“Revelation is Genesis in reverse.”

Genesis 12 is the story of Abram and his descendants.

Abram was a man of faith.

He was excited about the promises God made him.

Abram left the land of promise and went to a land where his short-term needs would be met.

“What will you tell the people when the famine comes?”

Bishop Rogers had a dream about a slide and a time of opportunity. God showed him that the dream meant that America would slide into a recession, a time of famine. God uses famine to position His people where He wants them to be.

Where does God want me?

Time to reap seeds sown before the famine. Learn how to trust God. Famine is a time of opportunity, but also a temptation to move away from God.

Abram went to Egypt.

We have cycles of feast and famine.

Bishop Rogers and Pastor Carlson challenged us to stay strong, don't drift off, and set your roots deeper in Jesus Christ. Speak life!

Times of death and famine increase our character. Churches can experience revival in a famine. God overruled Abram's decision to remain in Egypt. God pronounced a curse against Pharaoh and Egypt.

Genesis 13:1-2 Abram and Lot are together. This is an early picture of the Exodus from Egypt.

Exodus 12 talks about the Israelites plundering Egypt.

When we're in the place God wants us we experience His blessings. Egypt is an illusion. There is a temptation to leave the Promised Land. Abram learned a lot in Egypt. He never forgot those lessons. Abram had a greater love toward God because of God's grace.

Genesis 13:8-13

The Promised Land was a lush garden. Lot looked to the South. Lot was more concerned with looks than with the people lived there. All of us have choices that seem to good to us on the surface (it looks good) but it's often not. Choices look better on the surface. Abram stayed away and settled in Canaan. Either our choices bring us closer to God or we find out too late, sometimes years later, that those choices hurt us. No one can take God's promises from me.

There's a fork in the road – will we live like Abram by faith or like Lot who made choices based on his five senses? The answer to that question will determine the rest of our lives. The Dead Sea is named the Dead Sea because nothing lives near there now. However, before Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed it was full of life and was the area Lot desired to live. Lot made the choice he thought was life.

## School of the Bible Notes – Program #46

The land of Israel is a living museum of the Bible.

Genesis 12 – the Lord first brings Abram to the land of Israel. Abram is the center person of the book of Genesis, next to Jesus. Israel is the center nation of the world.

Abram and Lot are foundations of the Christian life and examples of mistakes we still make today. Lot went to the south, a lush valley. It looked good. Lot went to the area of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abram learned his lessons from his time in Egypt and chooses to go north to Jerusalem. Go with the Lord! He'll never lead you wrong.

All of us face difficult choices. Some of us drift away from God in the way of Lot.

One decision can often determine the course of our lives.

Spiritual men make mistakes, but they also learn from them.

Abram learned his lessons and his relationship with his wife Sarai was restored.

Lot's name means “regret.” Lot is an example of a carnal Christian who ends up losing his family and everything. He didn't realize where his decision would lead.

God's mercy is shown in the fact that God brought Lot out of the city, but Lot still doesn't learn his lesson. Lot was stubborn despite the fact that he had many opportunities to change. Lot went his own way. Eventually he finally got it and stayed on the right path. The Dead Sea wasn't always there.

There are 2 bodies of water in the land of Israel, which teach us a major principle.

In the north there is the Sea of Galilee where Jesus did His public ministry. Abram lived in northern Israel. Abram made the wise choice and was blessed. The melted snow from nearby Mt. Hermon and some springs flow as water into the Sea of Galilee. The waters of the Sea of Galilee flow out to the Jordan River. The Sea of Galilee reminds us of a spiritual Christian because Jesus is the source and He gives us His life giving water.

In the south there is the Dead Sea. It is the lowest spot on the earth. It is a picture of the lowest a society can go. The Dead Sea reminds us of God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah. No water flows in or out of the Dead Sea. That's why it's called the Dead Sea – nothing lives in the Dead Sea.

These 2 bodies of water remind us of our lives. The Dead Sea is a picture to us of our flesh, the things we desire, our possessions, and the process of death. The Sea of Galilee reminds us that Jesus is our Life Giver. We should be teaching others about the living water of Jesus.

Mt. Hermon was the place of Jesus' Transfiguration. It is in the extreme north part of Israel. The Transfiguration is a picture of Jesus' glory.

God is teaching us through geography. In the book of Ezekiel it talks about the Dead Sea living again.

Genesis 13:14-18 Abram began to walk out the promise of the land and began building altars again. Abram was willing to sacrifice everything to the Lord.

God confirms His promise to Abram in a special way. Satan works through strife. Abram is so convinced of God's promises; he let Lot take advantage of him. Honor others before yourself. God has given me everything. Abram has grown spiritually. Abram started walking through the land.

Spiritual principle: "claim it!"

The promises of the Bible are our spiritual land. We need to walk through the Bible, claim it, and defend it. Many people understand God's blessings, but they don't walk them out. Step out in faith. Walk it out! Get involved! Walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

#### **School of the Bible Notes – Program #47**

Genesis 13

Abram is a man of God. He has a spiritual choice to make. God renewed His promises to Abram. God does the same thing with us today.

Genesis 13:17 – walk through the land

The land was given to Abram, but Abram was required to walk through it.

Matthew 21:22 is a promise that Bishop Rogers and his family held on to during the difficult times, especially when Bishop first started as pastor of a church. The church couldn't afford to pay him. The family had to live by faith and trust God to meet their needs as given in Philippians 4:19.

Bishop Rogers encouraged the viewers to write down their needs, pray to God for His provision, then claim God's promises as your own and believe Him for the answer.

If American Christians would truly walk out the Bible, our whole country would turn upside down.

Bishop Rogers told the story of a man who gave him a hard time about being a pastor and to give up because the church couldn't pay him. Years later, after Bishop Rogers moved on in the ministry, he went to visit this same man in a nursing home. The man went senile, but the Lord restored the man's mind when Bishop Rogers came to visit him.

Bishop Rogers eventually led the man to the Lord.

Genesis 14

Whenever we make decisions in the flesh, someone has to bail us out. Children many times choose to go the way of Lot. When we get to a place of difficulty, God will bail us out, but there will also be a price to pay. Bishop Rogers and Pastor Carlson discussed the question of Abram grieved over Lot's poor decisions. They said that Abram probably did grieve for Lot because, as parents, they've often grieved over their own children's poor decisions. Bishop Rogers and Pastor Carlson said that they desire to equip people with God's wisdom, not just knowledge and understanding. Poor decisions lead to many lost years and many tears of regret. Sometimes people are willing to trade in the great for an illusion. God forgives, restores, brings you out, and gives you a future.

Lot didn't learn his lesson. He drifted back into same problems. You need to walk through the land and defend God's promises. Genesis 13 and 14 are Bible passages that are rarely preached on. However, the Holy Spirit chose to put these chapters in the Bible in order to teach us some profound lessons.

When Bishop Rogers' children were going through hard times, he would go to the church, walk the altar, and pray to God for his children.

God says in the book of Isaiah that we need to "remind God of His promises."

It's time we claim our children for the Lord.

“I deserve a lot, but someone rescued me.” That’s a picture of Jesus.

God supernaturally rescued Abram in Genesis 12. Abram is now in a position to rescue Lot in Genesis 14.

Genesis 14:13-14

The land of Dan - archaeology shows that the land is beautiful and contains the headwaters of the Jordan River.

Everywhere Abram put his feet was his. He had to walk out his inheritance. We need to do the same.

Genesis 14:15,16 – Abram now had the resources to rescue Lot.

People need to fight for the land. We face many of the same issues today.

### **School of the Bible Notes - Program #48**

Genesis 14-16 connected to ethnic and religious tensions. Reminder that there were be trouble in the land of Israel through Revelation. Open your Bible, don’t rely on the 6:00pm news, to find out about current events.

Genesis 14: Abram – given promises in Genesis 12, Lot – his nephew

Two choices – faith or choose according to senses. Two attitudes: short term gain vs. long term faithfulness. When the Lord introduces two people in the Bible: Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, Abram & Lot and others throughout the Bible, He is teaching us the 2 different ways to approach God’s word to receive the blessings of faithfulness, and heed the warnings against choosing your own way. Good vs. evil

Flesh is a stumbling block to spiritual growth. The Lots in bringing good things to our life. Be generous, grateful, and thankful to receive spiritual and physical blessings from God.

When Lot fails, he ends losing his wife, his daughters fall away; Eli lost his sons; King Saul’s son Jonathan dies with his – carnal man loses out on what God has for him and their family suffers as a result. When sin comes, it profoundly affects others. We want to be vessels of blessing, not cursing in our families. The characters that pursue God are not perfect. They sin, but then choose to repent. Abram is not a picture of perfection. Abram is learning and coming back to the Lord, and eventually comes to the point when he’s willing to sacrifice his son on the altar in Genesis 22. God is looking for a humble person. Perfection comes by following God. God desires to restore us. We need to be willing to repent.

Melchizidek – Genesis 14:17

One of the passages people overlook. This is a communion service. Genesis 14 is constant fighting, then at the end comes Melchidizidek and a communion service. This is the first clear communion scripture. People are migrating up – meeting in the city of Jerusalem. People today are fighting over Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a hot potato – people are fighting who owns it.

The King of Righteousness – not just a king of a physical kingdom – this king is a king of the people who would be righteous before the Lord. Abram brings a tithe to Melchidizidek.

Goal: how Old Testament and New Testament work together. The best way is to interpret the Bible with the Bible.

Hebrews 7

This talks about the priesthood. The 1<sup>st</sup> time the Bible talks about Jerusalem.

saalem (shalom) – a city of peace – Jeru – to see or look at – Jerusalem = you shall see peace there.

Jerusalem – Jesus died in that city – brought the city peace. Some people believe that Melchidizidek is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ. If you can explain God, He’s not God. Melchizidek has no parents.

Abram offers Melchizidek a tithe. The tithe is introduced before the law and it is given joyfully. Abram delights to give this tithe. The tithe is a picture of Jesus Christ. My thoughts and feelings for the tithe reflect my heart toward Jesus.

### **School of the Bible Notes – Program #49**

Genesis 14: Melchizidek – not only the King of Righteousness, but the King of Salem (peace = Jerusalem). The majority of kings were buried in the city of Jerusalem. Where there’s conflict, God wants to bring peace. After a time of battle, we need a time of peace and communion with God. The only answer to battle is peace with the Lord. We have peace in the midst of battle when we’re in communion with the Lord. First principle of prosperity is

righteousness. Our true wealth comes, and true peace comes, when we are in right standing with God. Some people give the tithe grudgingly, but we need to give the tithe joyfully and realize that the tithe is holy. Jesus is holy. The tithe represents Jesus. We honor and love Christ by giving the tithe. The tithe is not based on legalism or the law. All our provisions come from You.

Genesis 14: Abram has a conversation with the King of Sodom

Know who your Source is so that we can remain stable in times of economic and physical famine. In the end, the Lord alone is our Source.

King of Sodom = the world's system who think they own us.

Dangers of borrowing – the borrower is servant to the lender (the bank)

One reason we are experiencing an economic downfall in the U. S. is that we have forgotten who our Source is.

Genesis is the foundation of economic freedom. Jesus is the only Source in your life. If the U.S. falls apart, it up to the Lord to take care of us. We are not bound to the world's system. Always remember Who your Source is.

Between Genesis 14 & 15 – Lord, where are you? We don't know how long it was between Genesis 14 & 15. Abram was given promises, but God waited for a while to fulfill those promises. Abram began to doubt God's provision. We do the same thing today.

Genesis 15:1-6

This is a period of waiting for the provision. We know the Lord has spoken, but we're in a period of transition.

Throughout the Bible there are seasons of waiting. Expect those seasons. During those seasons of waiting, sometimes doubts arise. The Lord is watching us all along.

Number of stars is in the billions. Abram only saw 1,000 stars with his "naked eye," but he didn't realize how many billions of stars there were and how many descendants (billions) he would have. He thought he would only have 1,000 descendants. The clearer a promise is, the greater the battle will be to attain it. Write it down – you'll need it. God gives Abram some visual evidence. Again, write it down, you'll need it. God shows Abram the 400 years of bleak history of his descendants. Sometimes we don't understand, but God's timing is always perfect.