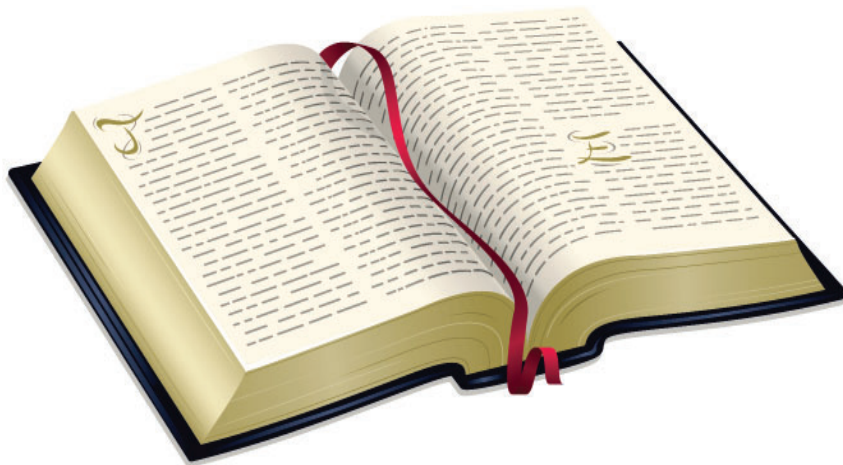


toServe Bible Study - ITB-04

Answer Sheet for New Living Translation (NLT)



In The Beginning Series

Twelve Lesson Study on the Book of Genesis

This Lesson - Genesis Chapter 13 - 16

The story of Abraham (originally Abram) and Lot begins with Abraham's father, Terah. Terah left Ur of the Chaldeans and traveled west to Haran with Abraham, Abraham's wife Sarah (originally Sarai); and Lot, Abraham's nephew. Terah died in Haran (Genesis 11:32).

In Genesis 12:1-3 Abraham received a calling from the Lord: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." This promise included a land, a nation, and a people. Abraham obeyed, taking Sarah and Lot with him, along with their servants and possessions, and settled at Shechem (Genesis 12:6).

After a brief time in Egypt during a famine (Genesis 12:10-20), they returned to Canaan. There Abraham's and Lot's servants were involved in arguments over grazing areas for their large herds of livestock. Abraham and Lot agreed to part ways, with Abraham giving Lot first choice of land. Lot chose the land of the plain of Jordan, near Sodom and Gomorrah, because of the rich pastureland there. Abraham settled near Hebron (Genesis 13). Lot's choice proved to be a foolish one, as the wickedness of Sodom was very great (verse 13).

The grass was greener near Sodom, but greener is not always better.

Please read Genesis Chapter 13 Check

Chapter 13

1. The first four verses in Genesis 13 end with 'There Abram called/worshiped on the name of the Lord'. **In your own words**, what does that mean to you?

2. (Genesis 13:6-7) What were the two main reasons that Abram and Lot had to split up and go in separate directions?

1. land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together.

2. disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot

3. (Genesis 13:8) What reason did Abram give Lot why they should not be quarreling/be no strife/allow conflict?

we are close relatives

4. (Genesis 13:10) When Abram told Lot they should split up Abram allowed Lot to pick the direction for Lot to go and Abram would go in the opposite direction.

Why did Lot choose the plain of the Jordan Valley?

The whole area was well watered

5. (Genesis 13:12-13) Abram lived/dwelted/settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot pitched his tent near/toward Sodom. What does verse 13 say about Sodom?

the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the Lord.

6. (Genesis 13:15-16) After Lot had parted/separated/gone from Abram, what two things did the Lord promise Abram?

1. I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants

2. I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted.

7. (Genesis 13:18) After the Lord made the promise to Abram where did Abram move to?

Abram moved his camp to Hebron and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre.

What did he do when he got there? he built another altar to the Lord.

Please read Genesis Chapter 14 Check

Chapter 14

Meaning of Genesis 14:1

Genesis 14 is an action-packed story of war between ancient city-states with a surprising conclusion.

For 12 years, the four kings of an eastern group of city-states—Elam, Shinar, Ellasar, and Goiim—had ruled over the city-states in and around Canaan. Finally, the kings of five cities grouped around the south end of the Dead Sea rebel. A year later, the four kings arrive in the region to reestablish their rule.

Following a southerly route along a line east of the Jordan River, the four kings defeat every city, king, and people group in their path all the way to the edge of Canaan's southern wilderness. Then they turn back north, eventually arriving at the Valley of Siddim near the Dead Sea. There the five kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar have gathered their forces to take their stand against the eastern kings.

The battle, apparently, doesn't last long. The five kings are defeated, and their forces flee, some falling into the tar pits in the region. Others escape into the hills. The enemy raiders descend on Sodom and loot all of their possessions, provisions, and many of their people.

1. (Genesis 14:9-12) Who were the four kings and the names of their kingdoms who took Abram's nephew Lot and all of his possessions?

1. King Kedorlaomer of Elam
2. King Tidal of Goiim
3. King Amraphel of Babylonia
4. King Arioch of Ellasar

2. (Genesis 14:12) Where was Abram's nephew Lot living/dwelling when he was captured by the four kings? who lived in Sodom

3. (Genesis 14:13) How did Abram find out about his nephew Lot being captured?
one of Lot's men escaped and reported everything to Abram

Genesis 14:13

In this verse Abram is referred to as a Hebrew, the first use of this term in the Bible. This was apparently the name for a particular kind of outsider in Canaanite society. Abram is still living near Hebron, near the oaks (or large trees) on land owned by an Amorite named Mamre. Abram and Mamre are called allies, along with two of Mamre's brothers.

Genesis 14:14, Is Lot Abram's Brother or Son?

The apparent contradiction (in some Bible versions) comes from the translation of the Hebrew word *awkh*. This word in Hebrew can mean brother, half-brother, relative, partner, or something with a resemblance. As in our language, the contexts in which words are used determine their meaning. Genesis 11:27 makes it clear that Lot is Haran's son, not Terah's. This is confirmed by verses 11:31 and 12:5. The apparent conflict comes when Abram appeals to Lot on the basis of their close relationship. He refers to Lot as a brother, but his appeal is to their bond as close relatives.

4. (Genesis 14:14) When Abram heard of his nephew Lot being taken captive he put together an army.

How large was the army? 318 men

Where did the army come from? who had been born into his household

5. (Genesis 14:16) When Abram's army went after the ones that captured Lot, what all did they bring back?

all the goods that had been taken,
and he brought back his nephew Lot with his possessions
and all the women and other captives.

6. (Genesis 14:18) In this verse we learn of a new king, Melchizedek. What two things do we learn about him?

1. king of Salem
 2. priest of God Most High
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7. (Genesis 14:18-20) After all the battles when Abram had recovered everything, Melchizedek, king of Salem brought out bread and wine and blessed Abram.

What did Abram give king Melchizedek?

a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

8. (Genesis 14:22-23) What did Abram say to the king of Sodom as he raised his hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth?

I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you.

Meaning of Genesis 14:24

The king of Sodom has demanded that Abram return to him the people Abram rescued from the four kings from the east. Abram's response began in verse 22 and concludes here. Abram had taken an oath before God not to keep even a thread of the plunder for himself, he would return both it and the people to Sodom. In fact, from Abram's perspective, he never took it in the first place!

Why? Abram didn't want the king of Sodom (or anyone else) to be able to take the credit for his wealth. That credit belonged to God. Abram understood God to be the one who blessed him and made him successful. He wanted others to see that as well.

However, in this concluding verse, Abram does say that those who fought with him, his allies the brothers Mamre, Aner, and Eshkol, are entitled to their fair share of the plunder. Abram is not going to speak for them—this oath is his, and the burden is his. In the same way Abram will not repay the food his men have already eaten on the way; strictly speaking, he cannot, since it's already gone. Everything that can be returned to Sodom will be returned.

Please read Genesis Chapter 15 Check

Chapter 15

1. (Genesis 15:) What was the vision that came to Abram from the Lord?

"I will protect you, and your reward will be great."

2. (Genesis 15:2-3) At this point in Abram's life, **in your own words**, what do you think was Abram's greatest fear?

3. (Genesis 15:5) Write out the example that God used to show Abram just how large his family would grow?

"Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can.

That's how many descendants you will have!"

Understanding Genesis 15:6

For Christians, this is one of the key verses in all the Old Testament. Abram responded to God's latest promises with doubts, asking how God's promises could be true if he still did not have a son. And yet Abram also willingly received the reassurance of God's Word. After God showed him the stars and promised once more that Abram's descendants would be uncountable, Abram chose to continue to believe God.

It's important to note here that this is not the beginning of Abram's faith. It is a statement about his continuing belief in God. This is more than assumption: the Hebrew word used in this verse, from the root word 'aman', is in a form which implies something that occurred before this encounter. This moment of trust, during the vision of chapter 15, is not the instant where Abram "finally" came to faith in God. He has expressed faith in God—and that faith is the reason he is choosing to trust God now.

4. (Genesis 15:6-7) After Abram said he believed in the Lord, and the Lord accounted it to him for righteousness, what did the Lord say to Abram?

"I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans
to give you this land as your possession."

5. (Genesis 15:8-9) When Abram asked the Lord, "How shall I know that I will inherit it?" God responded by telling Abram to bring Him what five things?

1. a three-year-old heifer
2. a three-year-old female goat
3. a three-year-old ram
4. a turtledove
5. a young pigeon

6. (Genesis 15:10) Describe what God did with the animals and birds that Abram brought Him?

he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side; he did not,
however, cut the birds in half.

7. (Genesis 15:11) What did Abram do when the birds of prey/fowls/vultures came down on the carcasses?

Abram chased them away.

8. (Genesis 15:12-13) As the sun was going down a deep sleep fell on Abram. At this point what did God say to Abram about his descendants?

"You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land,
where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years.

9. (Genesis 15:14) What did God say would happen to the nation that Abram's descendants would serve?

I will punish the nation that enslaves them.

Afterward, what shall they come out with?

great wealth.

10. (Genesis 15:15) What did God say to Abram would happen to him in his old age?
you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.

11. (Genesis 15:17-18) When the sun went down what happened at the site where God placed the animal parts and birds?

Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses.

What happened on that same day? Lord made a covenant with Abram

12. (Genesis 15:18) Describe the covenant that God made with Abram?

"I have given this land to your descendants,
all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River".

13. (Genesis 15:19-21) List the 10 nations that were occupying the land that God promised Abram's descendants?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <u>Kenites</u> | 2. <u>Rephaites</u> |
| 3. <u>Kenizzites</u> | 4. <u>Amorites</u> |
| 5. <u>Kadmonites</u> | 6. <u>Canaanites</u> |
| 7. <u>Hittites</u> | 8. <u>Girgashites</u> |
| 9. <u>Perizzites</u> | 10. <u>Jebusites</u> |

Abrahamic Covenant

Covenants between God and humans are significant, of course. Often they include conditions from God which, if met by the people involved, will result in God keeping His end of the agreement. This covenant is different. Sometimes referred to as the Abrahamic Covenant, this was an agreement in which all the conditions and promises were on God's side. For example, in the prior passage God symbolically passes between the severed halves of the animals. This might have been a common ritual of that era, where both parties declared their obligations by walking through the middle of the carcasses. Notably, only God is shown to do this in the preceding verses—Abram's work is not part of this promise.

In defining this Promised Land, God begins at the southern border with the "river of Egypt," which many scholars identify as the Wadi el-Arish River, not the Nile. The northern border would be the great Euphrates River.

Please read Genesis Chapter 16 Check

Chapter 16

In the previous chapter the Lord had directly promised Abram that his heir would be his own flesh and blood (Genesis 15:4). Abram would have a son, and not merely a servant, as his heir. That specific promise does not seem to have been given to Sarai, Abram's wife. At the very least, she does not seem to trust God's work in the situation. It's also possible she doubted that Abram's heir was meant to be born through her. In any case it had not happened yet, and the ticking of the clock must have sounded quite loud as Abram was now well into his 80s and she in her 70s.

1. (Genesis 16:1) Abram's wife, Sarai had a maidservent/handmaid/slave/servant What was her name, and where was she from?

Maidservent's Name: Hagar

Her Nationality: Egyptian

2. (Genesis 16:2) Sarai, Abram's wife, was still childless. What did she offer Abram as a solution to giving him a child?

"Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her."

3. (Genesis 16:3) How long had Abram and Sarai lived childless in Canaan before Sarai had offered Hagar as a wife to Abram? ten years

4. (Genesis 16:4) Once Abram went into Hagar and she became pregnant/she had conceived, how did she treat Sarai?

She began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt.

5. (Genesis 16:5) After the way Hagar treated Sarai, how did she respond to Abram?

"This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms."

6. (Genesis 16:6) How did Abram respond to Sarai on how to handle the issue she had with Hagar?

“Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit.”

What did Sarai do? Sarai treated Hagar so harshly

How did Hagar respond? She finally ran away.

7. (Genesis 16:7) Where was Hagar when the Angel of the LORD found her?

Beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur.

8. (Genesis 16:8) When the Angel of the LORD found Hagar, what did he ask her?

Where have you come from, and where are you going?”

How did Hagar respond?

“I’m running away from my mistress, Sarai,”

9. (Genesis 16:9-10) The Angel of the LORD told Hagar to return to/go back to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.

What did the Angle of the LORD promise Hagar?

“I will give you more descendants than you can count.”

10. (Genesis 16:11) What name was Hagar to give to her child? Ishmael

11. (Genesis 16:12) What did the Angel of the LORD say that Hagar’s child would be like?

This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey!

He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him.

How will her child interact with his brothers/kinsmen/relatives?

he will live in open hostility against all his relatives.

Genesis 16 ends by reporting Abram's age at the time Ishmael was born.

God had promised to make of Abram a great nation and to give to him the land of Canaan. The initial promises had been given when Abram was already seventy-five years old (Genesis 12:4). The arrival of an heir had not happened yet, and from a human perspective seemed more and more unlikely. Even ten years after God's further promises (Genesis 16:3), Abram and Sarai were childless.

And so, Abram, at Sarai's urging, attempted to move things along through scheming and struggling on their own. The result was both conflict and blessing, with the promise of more conflict and blessing for generations to come. Hagar immediately conceived a son, but was at odds with Sarai (Genesis 16:4–6). And the child born to Sarai's servant Hagar was not the child of Abram's covenant with God. Ishmael would be blessed by God, but his descendants would be forever in conflict with others, especially their "kinsmen:" the other descendants of Abram (Genesis 16:11–12).

So, at 86 years old, Abram would obtain a son, but not the son of promise. In fact, Abram will wait another 13 years before God would reveal the details of His plan for the next stage of Abram's life.

