

toServe Bible Study - ITB-05

Answer Sheet for English Standard Version (ESV)



In The Beginning Series

Twelve Lesson Study on the Book of Genesis

This Lesson - Genesis Chapter 17 - 20

Genesis 17 describes God's appearance to Abram, who is now 99 years old. Twenty-three years have passed since God first promised to make Abram a great nation and to give to him and to his descendants the land of Canaan. During that time Abram and his large company have lived in different parts of the region. He has grown quite wealthy and God has appeared to him several more times to restate and expand on the initial covenant promises.

Still, Abram has only one son. Ishmael, born to him by his wife's servant Hagar, is now 13. Abram and his wife Sarai, who has been barren for their entire marriage, seem to have resisted attempting to have children through other women before the events of Genesis chapter 16. At this point they likely assumed that God's promises and blessing to Abram would pass through Ishmael. After all, at 99 and 89 respectively, they were well past the window for conceiving or bearing children. That's when God appears to Abram again. This meeting is different than those earlier encounters, however. This time, in addition to the familiar and seemingly impossible promises, God also has requirements for Abram.

God commands Abram to walk with Him and to be blameless. Abram would, indeed, be the father of nations. Kings would come from him. To confirm that fact, God changes Abram's name to Abraham. While Abram means "exalted father," the name Abraham sounds like the Hebrew phrase for "father of a multitude." The land of Canaan would belong to Abraham and his descendants forever.

Chapter 17

1. (Genesis 17:2) When the LORD appeared to Abram and said “*walk before Me and be blameless/perfect*”, what did the LORD tell Abram He would do and what would the outcome be?

*"I may make my covenant between me and you,
and may multiply you greatly."*

2. (Genesis 17:4) What did God tell Abram he would be the father of?

multitude of nations.

3. (Genesis 17:7) God established/confirmed a covenant between Him and who?

Me and you and your offspring.

4. (Genesis 17:8) What did God promise to give to Abraham and his descendants?

all the land of Canaan.

5. (Genesis 17:11) What was the purpose of God telling Abraham that every male must be circumcised?

it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

6. (Genesis 17:14) What did God say would become of any male who is not circumcised?

"shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

7. (Genesis 17:15-16) What four things shall happen to Abraham's wife Sarai?

1. *As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah.*

2. *I will give you a son by her.*

3. *she shall become nations;*

4. *kings of peoples shall come from her.*

8. (Genesis 17:17) What did Abraham do and say after God said that Sarai would have a son by him? Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself,

"Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old?"

Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

9. (Genesis 17:19) Who names Abraham's son through Sarah? God

10. (Genesis 17:19) What is the main point that God makes about Isaac in verse 17:19?

I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

11. (Genesis 17:20) What are the three ways that God said He will bless Ishmael after He heard what Abraham said?

1. make him fruitful and multiply him greatly.

2. He shall father twelve princes,

3. make him into a great nation.

12. (Genesis 17:22) After reading this verse, **in your own words**, describe where you think God and Abraham were when they were having the conversation in verses 17:1-21?

13. (Genesis 17:24-25) How old was Abraham when he was circumcised? 99 years old

How old was Ishmael? 13 years old

Chapter 18

Understanding Chapter 18

The events here take place not long after God's visit with Abraham in chapter 17.

This visit from the Lord is quite different, however. It's not clear, at first, if Abraham even recognizes the three men who appear outside of his tent as the Lord and two angels in human form. In either case, Abraham runs to show them deep respect and hospitality. He tells Sarah to bake them bread and has a young calf slaughtered for them to eat as they rest in the heat of the day.

1. (Genesis 18:10-12) How did Sarah respond to herself when she heard the Lord say to Abraham that she was going to have a son? Sarah laughed to herself, saying,

"After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"

2. (Genesis 18:14) As the LORD was talking with Abraham He heard Sarah laugh after He told Abraham that she was going to have a son.

How did the LORD respond to her laughing? Is anything too hard for the Lord?

3. (Genesis 18:15) How did Sarah respond when God said "*Why did Sarah laugh*" in verse 13? Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh,"

Why did Sarah say she denied what she did? for she was afraid.

How did the LORD respond to what Sarah denied? He said, "No, but you did laugh."

4. In verse 16, scripture says; *the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom.*

In you own words, why do you think they were looking toward Sodom?

Why did Abraham bargain with God in regard to Sodom and Gomorrah?

When God revealed His plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah due to the wickedness of those cities, Abraham asked God to spare the people. In fact, Abraham engaged in a lengthy conversation to mediate for the cities.

First, Abraham wanted God to spare the righteous people who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah. He asked, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” (**Genesis 18:23-25**).

Second, Abraham’s nephew Lot lived in Sodom. God did spare Lot and his two daughters, perhaps as a direct result of Abraham’s request. **Genesis 19:29** states, “*So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.*” Abraham certainly wanted to see his own extended family protected from God’s judgment.

Third, Abraham had compassion for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. While he understood God’s judgment of sin, Abraham asked God to spare the city even if as few as ten righteous people could be found (**Genesis 18:32**). God agreed to spare the city for the sake of ten righteous people. Apparently, fewer than ten righteous were found, since God did destroy the cities, sparing only Lot and his two daughters.

(God also planned to rescue Lot’s wife, but she died when she disobeyed God and turned back to look at the city as it was being destroyed.)

Abraham’s compassion for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah reveals the heart of a man who cared greatly for others, including those who did not follow God. In fact, the angelic visitors who visited Lot were threatened by men of Sodom who desired to have sex with them. Though Sodom’s citizens were wicked, Abraham did not wish to see their destruction.

Like Abraham, we are called to have great compassion for others, including those whose lives do not follow God’s ways. Also, we must ultimately accept God’s judgments, even when His decisions are not our desired choices.

Finally, consider how God did answer Abraham’s request by rescuing Lot and his daughters. Although Abraham’s mediatory work did not result in the sparing of the cities, it did bring about the salvation of Abraham’s nephew. Abraham’s prayers on behalf of others were important, just as our prayers are today.

Chapter 19

1. **In your own words**, why do you think Lot insisted that the two angels spend the night in his house with him after they said that they would spend the night in the open town square/street?

2. (Genesis 19:5) Before the two angels had layed down/gone to bed, the men of Sodom had surrounded the house and called out to Lot.

What did they ask Lot; what were they after?

“Where are the men who came to you tonight?

Bring them out to us, that we may know them.”

3. (Genesis 19:8) What did Lot offer the men of the city instead of the two men/angels?

I have two daughters who have not known any man.

Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please.

4. (Genesis 19:9) What did the men of the city say Lot was when he got to town and what is he acting like/become now? “This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge!

5. (Genesis 19:11) What did the angels do to the men who were at the doorway to stop them? they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house,

6. (Genesis 19:12-13) What did the two men/angels ask Lot? “Have you anyone else here?

Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place.

Why did they want Lot to take them out of this place?

we are about to destroy this place,

6. (Genesis 19:14) When Lot told his sons-in-law who were married to his daughters to “Get up, get out of this place for the LORD is going to destroy the city”, how did they respond?

he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

6. (Genesis 19:15) The next morning the angels told Lot to “Arise/hurry, take your wife and your two daughters”, or what would happen to them all?

lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.”

6. (Genesis 19:17) Once the men had brought Lot, his wife, and two daughters outside, what last minute instructions did one of the men give to Lot and his family?

“Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills,

What does Genesis 19:18-22 mean?

In the previous verses, two angels have forcibly removed Lot and his family from Sodom to save them from God’s impending judgment on the city. As predicted by God, there are not even ten righteous people left in the entire city, and Lot and his family have recently been rescued from a mob intent on raping their travelling guests. These strangers, the angels sent by God, then told Lot and his family directly, to run for the hills to save their own lives. They are not to look back, not to stop in the valley, or else they’ll be swept away with the citizens of Sodom.

Now Lot responds by complaining and criticizing the angels’ plan. For whatever reason Lot does not think he can make it to the hills, and will instead ask to stop in a smaller town outside of Sodom, called Zoar. Lot continues to come across as less and less likable and grateful. Still, the Lord will continue to be more and more merciful to him.

7. (Genesis 19:23-24) Once Lot reached the town of Zoar, what did the LORD do in Sodom and Gomorrah? _____

the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven.

8. (Genesis 19:26) Lot’s wife disobeyed one of the instruction given to them back in verse 17. What did she do wrong, and what did it cause? _____

Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

9. (Genesis 19:29) What was the main reason Lot escaped the fire and brimstone that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah?

when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered

Abraham and sent Lot out of the

midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

10. (Genesis 19:30) After requesting to go to Zoar instead of the mountains, why did Lot now want to leave Zoar and live in the mountains/a cave? _____

he was afraid to live in Zoar.

11. (Genesis 19:31-32) What did Lot's two daughters plot in order to preserve their family line?

Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him,

that we may preserve offspring from our father."

11. (Genesis 19: 36-38) Both of Lot's daughter layed with their father, and both had a child.

What did they name the first child? Moab

He became the father of what tribe? Moabites

What was the name of the second child? Ben-ammi

He became the father of what tribe? Ammonites

Understanding Genesis 19:37-38

On consecutive nights Lot's own daughters carry out this very plan. They make him so inebriated that he doesn't even realize what is happening (**Genesis 19:33, 36**). His own children sexually abuse him in order to become pregnant.

The son of the firstborn daughter was called Moab. This word sounds similar to the Hebrew term meaning "from father." He became the father of the Moabite people, who would later become enemies of Israel. Likewise the younger daughter bears a son named Ben-ammi, whose Ammonite descendants are also combative and hostile towards God's people.

Chapter 20

Meaning of Genesis 20

Abraham moves his great household from the region around Mamre south toward the border of the land of Canaan. We're not told the reason for this move. They settle in Gerar, between Kadesh and Shur. Gerar was south of Gaza, near the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, and within the borders of the Promised Land. Abraham travelled often throughout the land of Canaan during his lifetime.

The events of this chapter echo those of Genesis chapter 12, where Abraham succumbed to fear during his travels. There, Abraham lied about being married to Sarah, resulting in her being taken by the ruling Pharaoh as a wife. Only after God's intervention was the situation resolved. Here, strangely, Abraham seems to make exactly the same fearful mistake. Rather than simply acting in faith and being honest, Abraham and Sarah once again try to scheme their way towards a goal. And, as happened in other cases, the scheme backfires (Genesis 12:13–15).

1. (Genesis 20:1-2) As Abraham and Sarah journeyed/moved towards Gerar, once again Abraham told Sarah to tell everyone that they were brother and sister.

What did this result in? Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Who was Abimelech in the Bible?

There are actually several men named Abimelech in the Bible. Some translations, such as the NIV, spell the name Abimelek. Either way, the name means "father of the king."

Some of the Philistine kings are called "Abimelech." For example, the king of Gerar, who took Sarah into his harem, is called "Abimelech" in Genesis 20:2. The same name is applied to the king of Gerar during Isaac's sojourn there (Genesis 26:1). The king of Gath before whom David played the madman is also called "Abimelech" in the title of Psalm 34; however, 1 Samuel 21:11 identifies the king of Gath as Achish. This has led many scholars to believe that, among the Philistines at least, Abimelech was a title given the king, rather than a personal name—much as the Egyptians always called their king "Pharaoh."

But probably the most well-known Abimelech in the Bible is the headstrong and murderous son of Gideon in the book of Judges.

2. (Genesis 20:3) What did God tell Abimelech in a dream one night after he had sent for Sarah? “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken,
for she is a man's wife.”

3. (Genesis 20:4-5) What did Abimelech say to the Lord in his defense about Sarah?
“Lord, will you kill an innocent people? Did he not himself say to me,
‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’

4. (Genesis 20:6) How did God respond to Abimelech after he gave his defense about Sarah?
“Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart,
and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her.

5. (Genesis 20:7) How did God refer to Abraham in a dream to Abimelech?
he is a prophet

What did God tell Abimelech that Abraham would do for him?
he will pray for you, and you shall live.

What did God tell Abimelech would happen to him if he didn't release Sarah?
if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”

6. (Genesis 20:9) The next morning Abimelech called all his servants/officials and told them what all had happened, and they were afraid. Then he called Abraham.

What two things did he say to him?

1. “What have you done to us?”
 2. And how have I sinned against you,
that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin?
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7. (Genesis 20:10-12) **In your own words**, why did Abraham come up with this story about his wife, on this trip, in this land?

8. (Genesis 20:14-16) Confronted by God in a dream, Abimelech had proclaimed his ignorance and obeyed God's instructions to return Sarah to her husband.

(Genesis 20:3-6). Now, Abimelech does return Sarah, but he goes well beyond that.

What all did Abimelech first give to Abraham? Abimelech took sheep and oxen,
and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham,

What did Abimelech say about where Abraham could live? Abimelech said, "Behold,
my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you."

What did he say to Sarah about giving what to her brother? I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver.

7. (Genesis 20:17) What does this verse say that Abraham did next?

Abraham prayed to God,

What did God do as a result of this? God healed Abimelech,
and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children.

7. (Genesis 20:18) What does this verse say that God had done because of Sarah, Abraham's wife?

the Lord had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah,
Abraham's wife.
