

Genesis 17-20
“*Recognizing God’s Hand*”

~LET’S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled this message: **“Recognizing God’s Hand.”**

~INTRO~

TONIGHT...

- We take the next step forward in our overview of (Genesis)...
 - With an unfolding distinction between the life of Lot...
 - And the faith of Abram.

REMEMBER... LAST WEEK...

- We read about the strife that erupted between the herdsmen of
 - Abram & Lot... which lead to a division (Gen. 13:9).
- Lot went to the plain of Jordan (Gen. 13:10-11)...
 - And Abram moved to Hebron (Gen. 13:18).

LOT FOLLOWED THE DESIRES OF HIS EYES...

- While Abram chose to trust God.

ULTIMATELY...

- Lot draws closer & closer to a compromised life!
 - By settling into Sodom where people...
 - Totally rejected God (Gen. 13:13).

HERE’S THE POINT...

- Lot allowed his life to be built around...
 - What he knew to be wrong!

LET ME GIVE YOU A QUICK...

- Visual about the allurement of sin.
 - Flip to (James 1:13-16) NKJV

FIRST...

- a) Don’t say God is tempting you.
- b) Because God is not tempted by evil.
- c) And God does not temp YOU with evil.

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NOW...

- As we resume the story... the focus returns to Abram.
 - [\(Chapter 16\)](#) closed by saying Abram was 86-yrs old...
 - And [\(Chapter 17\)](#) opens with Abram being 99-yrs old.

CHAPTER #17

IDEA #1 – NEW IDENTITY:

GOD APPEARS TO ABRAM IN [\(Gen. 17:1\)](#)...

- And after 13-years of silence...
 - Says... “*I Am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.*”

THE N.T. SAYS THE SAME THING TO US...

- [\(1 Peter 1:13-16\)](#) NKJV

SO... AFTER YEARS OF WRESTLING BEFORE GOD...

- Abram views life differently...
 - And God made a promise & changed his name [\(Gen. 17:5\)](#).
 - It’s an act of GRACE!!!
 - [\(Eph. 2:1-9\)](#).

IN [\(vv.6-8\)](#)...

- God says He will bring the promise to pass in Abram’s life.
 - This is the Sovereignty of God in action.
 - (*Supreme power and authority*).

WHEN WE REST ON GOD’S...

- Character & ability we can affirm the truth of [\(Rom. 8:28\)](#) NKJV.

BACK TO [\(Gen. 17:9\)](#)...

- The next thing we see is the responsibility of man!
- Simple put... there are two indisputable rails of truths...
 - God has things He will do...
 - And you have things that you are to do.

IN ABRAHAM’S CASE... IT WAS circumcision...

- A physical act with a spiritual meaning = “*voluntary obedience.*”

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- Circumcision applied to Abraham...
 - Along with any male born in his house...
 - Or bought with his money.

LOOK AHEAD TO [\(Gen. 18:19\) NKJV](#)

- The responsibility of man is to lead everyone in his household!

OK... ONE LAST NOTE [\(Gen. 17:15\) + \(vv.17-19\)](#)

- God also name changed Sarai TO Sarah...
 - Contentious TO Princess.
- God does not bless the work of our flesh.
 - His work is a work of grace started / sustained / & finished...
 - By His own hand [\(Phil. 1:6\) NLT](#)