

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Not Peace, But a Sword

Week of May 3, 2020 A.D.

Jesus said, "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." That is the topic for this lesson.

Read Genesis 12:1 – 3

1. Do you believe that "the Lord" who is mentioned in verse 1 is the God and the Creator of the universe and the Ruler of everything that has ever existed? If not, why not? If so, why? Do you believe that the Lord spoke to Abram the words which are written in verses 2 – 3? Do you believe that all of the promises of verses 2 – 3 apply to the descendants of Abraham (i.e. the Jewish people) for both time and eternity? Please explain your answers.
2. Please state the historical facts which support your belief that the promise or promises which God made to Abram in verse 3 are either (a) true or (b) false.
3. Has God blessed the nation of Israel in any ways which are historically unique to Israel? If so, how and why? Has God blessed the nation of America in any ways which are historically unique to America? If so, how and why?

Read Genesis 12:4 – 5 and Genesis 13:5 – 9

4. Why did Abram and Lot part ways? After they did part ways, did Abram and Lot still remain family and friends? In your opinion, would there be as much division and animosity among Americans today if the federal government was smaller and each state assumed more responsibility for managing its own affairs? In your opinion, can the American people survive as a nation without following the model of self-governance demonstrated by Lot and Abram? Please explain your answers
5. How is God involved in the affairs of governments and nations? How is God involved in the coronavirus? Are the American people looking to God for guidance on how to (a) cooperate with and love one another? and (b) be set free from the effects of the coronavirus? Is the American church looking to God for guidance on how to (a) cooperate with and love one another? and (b) be set free from the effects of the coronavirus? Are these fair and valid questions for Christians to ask and discuss? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Genesis 13:10 – 13

6. Why did "the Lord destroy Sodom and Gomorrah"? Was it a wise decision for Lot to "pitch his tents near Sodom"? Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "If God does not punish America for embracing abortion, homosexuality, adultery, and gay marriage, then God must apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah."

7. Are you uncomfortable with answering and/or discussing the contents of these sermon study notes? If so, why? If not, why not? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Genesis 14:8 – 12

8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Even though Lot was a righteous man, he had to suffer the loss of his freedom and the loss of his possessions because he chose to be tolerant, accepting, and/or silent while living among people who openly mocked and challenged the righteousness of God.”

Read Genesis 14:13 – 16

9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “God was pleased that Abram went into the enemy camp, engaged in physical battle, and took back (i.e. redeemed) the people and possessions that were stolen from Sodom and Gomorrah.”

Read Genesis 14:17 – 20

10. At the time that these events occurred, (a) did Abram have any children? (b) was Israel a nation? (c) had God given the ten commandments to Moses? (d) was there a tabernacle or a temple? and/or (e) were there any Jewish priests? How could Melchizedek be a priest of the God Most High? Would America have any economic problems if every American gave to God “a tenth of everything”? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Hebrews 7:1 – 10

11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Melchizedek can only be Jesus appearing on earth hundreds of years before Jesus allowed himself to be born as a human.”
12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “When Jesus came to earth as God in the flesh: Jesus went into the enemy camp; he engaged in a cosmic spiritual battle; and, he took back (i.e. redeemed) the people and the planet that Satan had stolen from Him.”

Consider: If the Christians in America refuse to enter into the enemy camp of politics, and if the Christians in America refuse to engage in spiritual warfare against the people who oppose the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, then the American Christians can expect America to suffer punishment as did Sodom and Gomorrah. “You think about that.” Amen.