

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

From Darren:

Gen 11:1-13:4 - Abram makes a questionable (at best) choice regarding Sarai as they head into Egypt

Ps 5:1-12 - "Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly"

Pro 1:24-28 - Wisdom personified: She has been trying to reach us

Matt 5:1-26 - "...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." Glory be to God!

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Genesis 11:1-13:4

11 **1** At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. **2** As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there. **3** They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.) **4** Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world." **5** But the LORD came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. **6** "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! **7** Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other." **8** In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. **9** That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the LORD confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world. **10** This is the account of Shem's family. Two years after the great flood, when Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of Arphaxad. **11** After the birth of Arphaxad, Shem lived another 500 years and had other sons and daughters. **12** When Arphaxad was 35 years old, he became the father of Shelah. **13** After the birth of Shelah, Arphaxad lived another 403 years and had other sons and daughters. **14** When Shelah was 30 years old, he became the father of Eber. **15** After the birth of Eber, Shelah lived another 403 years and had other sons and daughters. **16** When Eber was 34 years old, he became the father of Peleg. **17** After the birth of Peleg, Eber lived another 430 years and had other sons and daughters. **18** When Peleg was 30 years old, he became the father of Reu. **19** After the birth of Reu, Peleg lived another 209 years and had other sons and daughters. **20** When Reu was

32 years old, he became the father of Serug. **21** After the birth of Serug, Reu lived another 207 years and had other sons and daughters. **22** When Serug was 30 years old, he became the father of Nahor. **23** After the birth of Nahor, Serug lived another 200 years and had other sons and daughters. **24** When Nahor was 29 years old, he became the father of Terah. **25** After the birth of Terah, Nahor lived another 119 years and had other sons and daughters. **26** After Terah was 70 years old, he became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. **27** This is the account of Terah's family. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot. **28** But Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, the land of his birth, while his father, Terah, was still living. **29** Meanwhile, Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. (Milcah and her sister Iscah were daughters of Nahor's brother Haran.) **30** But Sarai was unable to become pregnant and had no children. **31** One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai (his son Abram's wife), and his grandson Lot (his son Haran's child) and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans. He was headed for the land of Canaan, but they stopped at Haran and settled there. **32** Terah lived for 205 years and died while still in Haran.

12 **1** The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. **3** I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." **4** So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. **5** He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, **6** Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, the area was inhabited by Canaanites. **7** Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the LORD, who had appeared to him. **8** After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built another altar and dedicated it to the LORD, and he worshiped the LORD. **9** Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev. **10** At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner. **11** As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, "Look, you are a very beautiful woman. **12** When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife. Let's kill him; then we can have her!' **13** So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you." **14** And sure enough, when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone noticed Sarai's beauty. **15** When the palace officials saw her, they sang her praises to Pharaoh, their king, and Sarai was taken into

his palace. **16** Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels. **17** But the LORD sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. **18** So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. “What have you done to me?” he demanded. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? **19** Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!” **20** Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions.

13 **1** So Abram left Egypt and traveled north into the Negev, along with his wife and Lot and all that they owned. **2** (Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.) **3** From the Negev, they continued traveling by stages toward Bethel, and they pitched their tents between Bethel and Ai, where they had camped before. **4** This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the LORD again. **5** Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents. **6** But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together. **7** So disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. (At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.) **8** Finally Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives! **9** The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I’ll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I’ll go to the left.” **10** Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) **11** Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. **12** So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. **13** But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the LORD. **14** After Lot had gone, the LORD said to Abram, “Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. **15** I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. **16** And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! **17** Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you.” **18** So Abram moved his camp to Hebron and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. There he built another altar to the LORD.

Psalm 5:1-12

5 **1** O LORD, hear me as I pray; pay attention to my groaning. **2** Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I pray to no one but you. **3** Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD . Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly. **4** O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness; you cannot tolerate the sins of the wicked. **5** Therefore, the proud may not stand in your presence, for you hate all who do evil. **6** You will destroy those who tell lies. The LORD detests murderers and deceivers. **7** Because of your unfailing love, I can enter your house; I will worship at your Temple with deepest awe. **8** Lead me in the right path, O LORD, or my enemies will conquer me. Make your way plain for me to follow. **9** My enemies cannot speak a truthful word. Their deepest desire is to destroy others. Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with flattery. **10** O God, declare them guilty. Let them be caught in their own traps. Drive them away because of their many sins, for they have rebelled against you. **11** But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy. **12** For you bless the godly, O LORD ; you surround them with your shield of love.

Proverbs 1:24-28

1 **24** “I called you so often, but you wouldn’t come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. **25** You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered. **26** So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you— **27** when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone, and anguish and distress overwhelm you. **28** “When they cry for help, I will not answer. Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me.

Matthew 5:1-26

5 **1** One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, **2** and he began to teach them. **3** “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. **4** God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. **5** God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. **6** God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. **7** God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. **8** God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. **9** God blesses those who work for peace,

for they will be called the children of God. **10** God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. **11** “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. **12** Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way. **13** “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. **14** “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. **15** No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. **17** “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. **18** I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. **19** So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. **20** “But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven! **21** “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ **22** But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. **23** “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, **24** leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. **25** “When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. **26** And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny.