

RUSSELL SANDERS
10-23-2020
ABRAHAM – PART 10
THE RETURN TO BETH-EL

Chapter 13 of Genesis tells of Abram's return to the land God had promised him. Abram, Sarai, nephew Lot, and all their possessions left Egypt, escorted out by Egyptian soldiers who were to make sure of their total exit from Egypt.

Abram initially went to the dry place south of Beth-el, the Negev, for a brief period before returning to his place near Beth-el, the "house of God." It is the place where he had previously built an altar unto the Lord. He once again worshipped there as he called upon the name of the Lord.

It is the "promised land" to which God had sent him upon leaving Haran and his old life. Abram had returned to God and His will. The promise God had made Abram (Gen. 12:2), to make him a great name and a great nation, would soon be made a covenant as Abram remained there in obedience to God's plan.

This type of life scenario has been "played out" in the lives of millions of Christians over the years. They are called unto salvation. They respond and they follow God for a season, the early part of their Christian experience. They are "born again," a new life in God's "land of promise." They have the joy of the Lord. They have become "the house of the Lord" as His Holy Spirit has "tabernacled" within them. (I Corinthians 6:19) It is that "first love" of the Lord.

Unfortunately for many, as time goes by, they drift away into that "dry place" where they are not "feeling it" the same as at the start, like Abram in the Negev. Some even backslide into a former way of sin, as Abram did in going to Egypt (a type of sin bondage). Jesus spoke this about the "church" (the believers) in Ephesus (Revelation 2:4 NKJV) when He said to them, ***"I have this against you, that you have left your first love."***

Just as Abram returned to "the house of God", Beth-el, so we should return from the dry place to our "first love" for God. We should daily be refreshed in the joy of our salvation.

I Corinthians 6:19 (NKJV) says, ***"...your body is the temple (tabernacle) of the Holy Spirit who is in you..."*** A "temple" is made for worship. God cherishes your worship and praise and thanksgiving (Psalm 100). It is refreshing to your soul and your body.

Return to your Beth-el.