

Tower of Babel/Call of Abram (Gen 11-12) parallel with the War and Land Promise (Gen 14-15)

THE QUESTION OF HUMAN GREATNESS

Without God: Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." (11.4)

With God: Now YHWH said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (12.2)

THE QUESTION OF OCCUPATION AND CONTROL OF LAND AND PROPERTY

Without God: So the enemy took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way; they also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who lived in Sodom, and his goods, and departed....When Abram heard that his nephew had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, three hundred eighteen of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and routed them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. Then he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his nephew Lot with his goods, and the women and the people. (14.11-12, 14-16)

With God: After these things the word of YHWH came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."... Then he said to him, "I am YHWH who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."