

ABRAHAM AND LOT OR WHEN LOSS IS GAIN

Gn 13:5-18

Banská Štiavnica, 20th March 2016

Genesis 13:5-18 And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, ⁶ so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, ⁷ and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land. ⁸ Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." ¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. ¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. ¹³ Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD. ¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵ for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. ¹⁷ Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." ¹⁸ So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION: WHAT KIND OF HOPE WE HAVE?

- 0.1. THE OLD WORLD
- 0.2. THE HOPE OF THE UNSEEN
- 0.3. THE HOPE OF THE UNIMAGINABLE

1. FAMILY TIES SEVERED

- 1.1. LOT – JUST FOLLOWING ABRAHAM(?)
- 1.2. SEPARATION AND NO HARD FEELINGS

2. WEALTH ACQUISITION STOPPED

- 2.1. THE "LOSS"
- 2.2. THE PROMISE

3. SOCIAL STATUS LOST

- 3.1. ABRAHAM THE NOMAD
- 3.2. ABRAHAM THE PRINCE

4. TO REMEMBER**0. INTRODUCTION: WHAT KIND OF HOPE WE HAVE?**

[WRIGHT *Prekvapení nádejou*] Mnohí ľudia takmer zabudli, čo vzkriesenie naozaj znamená a zamenili túto konečnú a pevnú nádej za vágne a hmlisté predstavy o „posmrtnom“ živote. Tým sa však z nášho života stráca nielen konečná nádej Božieho nového stvorenia a nášho miesta v ňom, ale aj jasný pohľad na realitu, v ktorej práve žijeme, a ktorá umožňuje túto nádej. V skratke, kresťanské evanjelium potvrdzuje starovekú židovskú vieru o Bohu, ktorý stvoril svet ako dobrý a krásny, a chce ho obnoviť a dokončiť s ním svoj pôvodný zámer. Veľa kresťanov podľa hlo presvedčeniu, že súčasný svet vôbec nie je „dobrý“ a najlepšie je z neho uniknúť. Vzkriesenie hlása úplne opačný pohľad: keď Ježiš s Nazareta vstal z mŕtvych, živý Boh tým povedal áno všetkému dobru stvorenstva a spustil plán jeho záchrany a transformácie. Kniha *Prekvapení nádejou* preto nie je len o konečnej nádeji, ktorá je samozrejme kľúčová, ale je aj o tom, čo vzkriesenie Ježiša Krista znamená pre náš život a naše poslanie tu a teraz. So srdečným

pozdravom a priáním Nádeje. – N. T. Wright (1948) je popredný novozákonný teológ a svetový odborník na dejiny raného kresťanstva. V súčasnosti pôsobí ako profesor Novej Zmluvy a raného kresťanstva na Teologickej fakulte Univerzity St. Andrews v Škótsku. Tom Wright v minulosti slúžil ako biskup diecézy Anglikánskej cirkvi v Durhame a pôsobil na významných univerzitách v Oxforde, Cambridge, McGill v Toronte a iných. Svojím vplyvom ďaleko prekročil hranice vlastnej anglikánskej tradície a jeho dielo s veľkým záujmom čítajú ľudia z protestantského aj katolíckeho prostredia. Okrem knihy Prekvapení nádejou napísal viac ako 35 odborných a populárnych kníh, napríklad *Simply Christian*, *How God Became King*, *Simply Good News* a iné. Svoj celoživotný výskum teológie apoštola Pavla zhrnul v monumentálnom diele *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*. (<http://www.martinus.sk/?uItem=232072>) 18. 3. 2016

Počet strán: 336 strán **Väzba:** brožovaná väzba **Rozmer:** 148×210 mm **Jazyk:** slovenský jazyk

[WRIGHT] Jews like Saul of Tarsus were not interested in an abstract, timeless, ahistorical system of salvation. They were not even primarily interested in, as we say today, 'going to heaven when they died'. (They believed in die resurrection, in which God would raise them all to share in die life of the promised renewed Israel and renewed world; but that is very different from the normal Western vision of 'heaven'.) They were interested in the salvation which, they believed, the one true God had promised to his people Israel.¹

- [PIPER] "...in my judgment, what he has written will lead to a kind of preaching that will not announce clearly what makes the lordship of Christ good news for guilty sinners or show those who are overwhelmed with sin how they may stand righteous in the presence of God."²

0.1. THE OLD WORLD

- **2Pt 3:10** ...the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. (οἱ οὐρανοὶ ροιζήδων παρελεύσονται στοιχεῖα δὲ καυσούμενα λυθήσεται καὶ γῆ καὶ τὰ ἐν αὐτῇ ἔργα εὐρεθήσεται)

0.2. THE HOPE OF THE UNSEEN

- **Rom 8:24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

0.3. THE HOPE OF THE UNIMAGINABLE

- **1Cor 2:9-10** "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" - ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

1. FAMILY TIES SEVERED

- **Mt 10:34-36** "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.
- **Gn 12:1** Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
- **Gn 13:9** Separate yourself from me (הִפָּרֵד נָא מֵעָלַי). If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.
- **Gn 14:16** Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman **Lot** with his possessions

1.1. LOT – JUST FOLLOWING ABRAHAM(?)

- do you know the *CALL OF GOD?* – or just the *call of your relatives?*
- **Dan 11:32** ...the **people** who **know** their **God** shall stand firm and take action. (וְעַם יִדְעֵי אֱלֹהֵיוּ יִחְזְקוּ וְעָשׂוּ)
- N.T. WRIGHT → "collective" salvation

1.2. SEPARATION AND NO HARD FEELINGS

- Abraham rescued Lot – *and his possessions!*
- forgiveness with active involvement!
- **Heb 11:16** they desire a better country, that is, a **heavenly** one...

¹ WRIGHT, N. T. *What Saint Paul Really Said*, Grand Rapids : Eerdmans, 1997, p. 32-3

² PIPER, J. *The Future of Justification*, Wheaton : Crossway Books, 2007, p. 15.

2. WEALTH ACQUISITION STOPPED

- **Heb 10:34** ...you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.
- **Gn 13:10** ...the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar.

2.1. THE "LOSS"

- **Heb 11:13** [Abraham, Isaac, Jacob] These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

2.2. THE PROMISE

- **Gn 13:14** ...The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look..."
- **Gn 15:1** After these things the word of the LORD came to **Abram** in a vision: "Fear not, **Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.**"

3. SOCIAL STATUS LOST

- social status ...the degree of honor or prestige attached to one's position in society³
- who and what you are in the eyes of people around you...

3.1. ABRAHAM THE NOMAD

- **Gn 13:17** Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.
- **Heb 11:13** ...strangers and exiles on the earth (ξένοι και παρεπίδημοί εισιν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς)

3.2. ABRAHAM THE PRINCE

- **Gn 23:6** ...you are a **prince of God** among us (נְשִׂיא אֱלֹהִים אַתָּה בְּחַיְכֶנּוּ). Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs...
- **Heb 11:16** Therefore **God** is **not ashamed** to be called their **God**, for he has prepared for them a city.

4. TO REMEMBER

- The loss of relationship with people is more than compensated by a deeper experience of God.
- The loss of wealth is more than compensated by the promise of eternity.
- The loss of worldly status is more than compensated by the place in the Kingdom of God.

³ (<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/social-status>)