

Life Before the Effects of Sodom

Genesis 13:1-8

Introduction:

“Traveling with Abraham must have been a spiritually meaningful experience: altars, obedience, family, children, all driven by his desire to please and honor God.”

I. The spiritual state that Lot enjoyed sojourning with Abraham.

A. Lot experienced the spiritual energy of following God’s Will.

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country,

Genesis 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him:

B. Lot experienced the spiritual enrichment of following God’s Word.

Genesis 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: (V.3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

“God blesses you to make you a blessing.”

- Adrian Rogers

Genesis 13:5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. (This chapter begins and ends with Abraham praying at an altar he built.)

Genesis 13:4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 13:18 Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

II. The strife Lot encountered while sojourning with Abraham.

A. A strife grew between them because their positions were so great.

Genesis 13:6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

B. B. A strife grew between them because their philosophies were so different.

Genesis 13:7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

How Were Their Philosophies Different?

- ◆ Abraham lived by the Word of God and was constantly building altars to communicate with Him.
- ◆ Lot never built an altar, as far as we know, and he never used Abraham’s altar either.
- ◆ Abraham lived with the philosophy; I don’t want anything God doesn’t want me have.
- ◆ Lot lived by the philosophy, if I’m going to have something I’m going to have to make it happen.

- ♦ Abraham saw the city life and all of its trappings as repulsive and knew it would bring him constant conflict with the Lord.
- ♦ Lot was fascinated by the city life and embraced it with all of its trappings.

III. The separation that Lot embraced while sojourning with Abraham.

A. It was a separation that was revealed by the Lord.

Genesis 13:4 . . . and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

“Abraham was not greedy and did not grasp for the best; he could allow lot to choose first because he entrusted his future to God-the definition of walking with God by faith.”

- David Jeremiah

Genesis 13:8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

What Controlled the Way Lot Saw His Future?

- ♦ Lot looked for what was appealing to the eyes. ***Genesis 13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.***
- ♦ We associate with people who share our values. The strife between Abraham and Lot reveals that they didn't share the same priorities, goals, or purposes in life. ***Genesis 13:7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.***
- ♦ Lot made a premeditated decision to move his family into Sodom. ***Genesis 13:12 . . . Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. 2 Peter 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds);*** (He kept looking, watching, meditating, and then he began to participate.)
- ♦ Lot couldn't be satisfied with living only for the Lord. He refused to deny the feeling that what he wanted laid outside the will of God.

B. It was a separation that would reveal their longings.

Lot Planned His Options From What He Could Get In Sodom.

Genesis 13:11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

Genesis 13:12 . . . Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. (V.13) But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

Abraham planned his options from what he could receive from the Lord.

Genesis 15:1 . . . Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

What Controlled Abraham's Future?

- ♦ Abraham wanted his future to be mapped by the Lord. He trusted that whatever he wanted or needed could be found in the Lord. ***Genesis 13:4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.***
- ♦ Then Abraham discovered many wonderful opportunities in the Lord. ***Genesis 13:14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: (V.15) For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.***
- ♦ Abraham was adamant about everyone knowing that God had given him his blessings. ***Genesis 14:23 . . . I will not take anything that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:***