

Genesis 13:1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him.

2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold.

3 He went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,

4 to the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

5 Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.

6 And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together.

7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land.

8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers.

9 "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left."

10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.

11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.

12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom.

13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.

14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;

15 for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.

16 "I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.

17 "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."

18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

V.1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him.

V.2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold.

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1. "to the place where his tent had been at the beginning"

a. Last week we saw that Abram went down to Egypt b/c of a famine

b. In O.T. Egypt often represents the world

i. Abram was not supposed to go there for help

ii. Israel was not supposed to turn to Egypt for military aid

iii. Kings were forbidden to purchase horses from Egypt (animals of war)

iv. When Joseph was there – Egypt was run a Hyksos Pharaoh not an Egyptian

c. So Abram repented & is back to where he started

d. We all stumble at times & need to repent

i. We do that according to **1 Jn.1**

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

V.5 Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.

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V.7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land.

1. "there was strife...the Canaanite & the Perizzite were...in the land"

a. The Canaanites & Perizzites had seen Abram & Lot worship God

b. The strife was causing a poor testimony

c. In fighting among believers is a poor testimony

1 Corinthians 6:1 Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?

V.7 Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?

d. There are times when it can't be helped

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

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V.9 "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left."

1. "if to the left, then I will go to the right"

a. Even though Abram was older he allowed Lot to pick the land

b. Abram is becoming a great man b/c he isn't interested in being a great

c. The world's philosophy is different

i. To the world – life's goal to get ahead

ii. But that only works in this present life

iii. Christ explains the principle of greatness

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.

²⁶ "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,

V.28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Mark 9:33 They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, "What were you discussing on the way?"

³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

V.10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.

1. "Lot lifted up his eyes & saw all the valley...well watered...like a garden"

a. Lot was driven by a different motive

b. He was driven by the lust of the eyes

i. He looked the wrong direction too long!

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

ii. Sin is never static

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?

c. Lot didn't fall suddenly

James 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

d. This may not look like that bad of a sin

i. But it will be the biggest mistake Lot will ever make

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, **either** of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

e. Abram & Lot did more than separate physically – they separated in lifestyle also – one unto life, the other unto death

V.11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.

1. "So Lot chose for himself"

a. Lot is a selfish man

i. Every man is selfish by nature

Romans 3:10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

¹¹ THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

¹² ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

- b. That is why the world is the way it is
- c. But Lot is a believer!
- d. He should be different!
- e. Abram & Lot the perfect a picture of two saved people going two different directions
 - i. Can believers go 2 different ways? Yes!

- f. You as a believer don't have to live for Christ
- g. But your old sin nature is of no value to God
 - John 3:6** "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- h. Old nature has no redeeming qualities or eternal purpose
 - i. You won't have it in eternity
 - ii. So to live by it here is a total waste of time
- i. Not being controlled by old nature isn't easy
 - i. A believer battles it all their life
 - Galatians 5:17**(NIV) For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

- j. Paul wrote about this Romans 7
 - Romans 7:19** For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

- k. So how do we control the old nature instead of it controlling us?
 - l. Only a believer has a new nature – born again
 - Titus 3:5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
 - 1 Peter 1:23** for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.
 - i. The is why no matter how nice, kind, loving someone is – unless born again they are eternally lost

m. A believer has 4 things working in his behalf

i. #1. The Word of God – you must know that Word

Psalm 119:11 Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and
profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for
training in righteousness;

¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for
every good work.

ii. #2. We have an interceding Savior

Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded
permission to sift you like wheat;

³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail;
and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen
your brothers."

Romans 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus
is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the
right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever
those who draw near to God through Him, since He always
lives to make intercession for them.

iii. #3. We are empowered by indwelling Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves
to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our
adequacy is from God,

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the
riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through
His Spirit in the inner man,

iv. #4. Your volition – the decision to live for Christ

1. You decide to live for Him

Colossians 3:8 But now you also, put them all aside:
anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from
your mouth.

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new self who is
being renewed to a true knowledge according to the
image of the One who created him—

2. Middle voice – picture of you taking off your dirty clothes & you putting on clean clothes

b. This is why legalism never works – it is taking the flesh to combat the flesh & that won't work

Galatians 5:12 I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

V.16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Colossians 2:23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

c. Abram was fulfilling the Law 600 years before it was written

Galatians 5:14 x For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

V.10 x Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.

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1. "So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan"

a. No believer controlled by his old sin nature is happy

i. Lot is an example

2 Peter 2:7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men

⁸ (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds),

⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from

temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

V.12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom.

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V.14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;

V.15 for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.

V.16 "I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.

V.17 "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."

1. "all the land which you see, I will give it to you" (**V.15**)

a. Why not try a novel approach to life

i. Let God give you what He wants you to have!

ii. You know that doesn't mean becoming lazy

iii. But instead of straining to get ahead – just work hard

iv. That is what Christ said we were to do

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

²⁵ "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

²⁶ "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

²⁷ "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸ "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

²⁹ yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

³⁰ "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!

³¹ "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'

³² "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

³³ "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

V.18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there **he built an altar to the LORD**.

1. "Abram moved his tent &...dwelt by the oaks of Mamre...in Hebron"
 - a. Abram is in fellowship w/ God
 - i. "Mamre" – means fatness/richness
 - ii. "Hebron" – means "association/communion"
 - b. This is why you can't ever follow the crowd
 - i. The majority will ever walk this path
 - ii. But if you choose to walk it I promise you that you will be eternally thankful you did!