

# Genesis - Lesson 13

Genesis Chapter 13

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Memory verses for this week: *1Pe 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 1Pe 4:2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*

**Introduction:** We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as we cover the separation of Abraham in chapter 13.

## I. Abram's Separation from Egypt (world)

*Gen 13:1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.*

*Gen 13:2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.*

Abram returns back to Canaan with his wealth. Verse 1 points out that he went up out of Egypt. Egypt in Abram's day typified the world. Separation from the world is always an upward path. Abram's nephew, Lot went with him. As part of the family he was strongly attached to Abram. Verse 2 points out that Abram was rich.

He may have gained much of this in Egypt. This wealth soon became a snare. Look down at verses 5 and 6. Wealth can be a bane or a blessing, depending on how you use it. To Abram it seems to have been a blessing, but not to Lot.

*Psa 62:7 In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.*

*Psa 62:8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.*

*Psa 62:9 Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.*

*Psa 62:10 Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.*

No doubt it was at this time that they brought Hagar out of Egypt, and this proved to be a curse. Abram and Sarai did not have the patience to wait on the Lord, and tried to bring the offspring God had promised by their efforts. This did not work out like they had hoped.

*Gen 16:1 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.*

*Gen 16:2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.*

*Gen 16:3 And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.*

*Gen 16:4 And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.*

*Gen 16:5 And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.*

## **II. Abram Returns to Bethel**

*Gen 13:3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;*

*Gen 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.*

After a time in Egypt, Abram returns to his worship from which he had come. He returns to Bethel (House of God). Separation is not only from something, but also to something. He returns to the altar and worship. All those months in Egypt, we have no record of an altar or worship in Egypt.

## **III. Abram's Separation from Lot.**

*Gen 13:5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.*

*Gen 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.*

*Gen 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.*

*Gen 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.*

*Gen 13:9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.*

Sometimes when we are blessed, we are happy and things go well. But sometimes, wealth brings strife. In the case of Lot, it brought strife because Lot was disobedient Christian brother. Abram and Lot let wealth come between them. This may have been a blessing to Abram, but it was no help to Lot. The herdsmen between the two groups could not get along and there became strife before the enemy which is Satan. If the devil can get God's people fighting before the world, he is pleased. In verse 8, Abram pleads for peace.

Abram had a plan for peace which he proposed to Lot. His plan was generous and cordial to the fullest extent. He tells Lot to select whichever direction he wanted to go, and he would go the opposite direction.

Adam Clarke said this about the situation between Abram and Lot.

**Their substance was great** - As their families increased, it was necessary their flocks should increase also, as from those flocks they derived their clothing, food, and drink. Many also were offered in sacrifice to God.

**They could not dwell together** - 1. Because their flocks were great. 2. Because the Canaanites and the Perizzites had already occupied a considerable part of the land. 3. Because there appears to have been envy between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. To prevent disputes among them, that might have ultimately disturbed the peace of the two families, it was necessary that a separation should take place.

#### IV. Wealth Brings Greed

*Gen 13:10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.*

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

Lot had his choice, and in this case wealth brought greed. In reality, Lot should have offered Abram first choice. It was he who came along and it was Abram who was wealthy to begin with. Lot lusted after the wealth and beauty.

*Jas 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

*Jas 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

*Jas 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

*1Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

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

*1Jn 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

*1Ti 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*

*1Ti 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

*1Ti 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing*

out.

*1Ti 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

*1Ti 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

*1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

*1Ti 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

Lot had not forgotten Egypt. Although Lot was out of Egypt, the love of Egypt and the world was not out of him. This area changed with the destruction of Sodom when God brought destruction to both Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot looked towards the best the world had to offer, and chose the well watered plains of Jordan. It was the wrong choice.

*Gen 13:12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.*

*Gen 13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.*

The wealth Lot acquired caused backsliding. Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom which typified the world. He did not move into Sodom at the first, but later on he did.

Lot saw all the great things of the world that Sodom offered. God's evaluation of Sodom is seen in verse 13. God hates sin and is upset with the wicked every day.

*Psa 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.*

*2Pe 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*

*2Pe 2:21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.*

Many are making the same kind of mistake today. All that glitters is certainly not gold. Satan is a liar, but God is always truthful and we can be sure if He warns us against things, we need to pay attention to the warnings. All commandments are for our own good.

*1Jn 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.*

*1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.*

*1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

## V. After Abram's Separation the Covenant Revealed

*Gen 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:*

*Gen 13:15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*

*Gen 13:16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.*

*Gen 13:17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.*

*Gen 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.*

God never called Lot to come with Abram, and God did not start using Abram until he separated himself from Lot. Blessing came after separation. Too many today want all of God's rewards and blessings, while they continue to live in unbelief.

*Matthew Henry said this about God's visit to Abram.*

We have here an account of a gracious visit which God paid to Abram, to confirm the promise to him and his. Observe,

When it was that God renewed and ratified the promise: *After that Lot was separated from him*, that is, 1. After the quarrel was over; for those are best prepared for the visits of divine grace whose spirits are calm and sedate, and not ruffled with any passion. 2. After Abram's humble self-denying condescensions to Lot for the preserving of peace. It was then that God came to him with this token of his favour. Note, God will abundantly make up in spiritual peace what we lose for the preservation of neighbourly peace. When Abram had willingly offered Lot one-half of his right, God came, and confirmed the whole to him. 3. After he had lost the comfortable society of his kinsman, by whose departure his hands were weakened and his heart was saddened, then God came to him with these good words and comfortable words.

### **Abram's Rich Reward is detailed in these last verses.**

1. The extent of the reward. All the Land Abram could see would be his.
2. The recipients of the reward. To Abram and his descendants.
3. The magnitude of his offspring. v. 16 says God would make his seed as the dust of the earth... they could not be numbered.
4. The survey of the land. v. 17 tells him to walk up and down to see the extent of the land.

5. The altar and the worship. v. 18 Again Abram builds an altar unto the Lord.

### **Contrast Between Abram And Lot.**

1. Abram walked by faith; Lot by sight.

2. Abram was noble in spirit and generous; Lot grasping, greedy and worldly.

3. Abram looked for a city whose builder and maker was God;

*Heb 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*

*Heb 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

Lot looked for a city built by man to be destroyed by God.

4. Abram the father of all believers; Lot the typical backslider of the ages.

5. Abram was made "heir of the world,"

*Rom 4:13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*

While Lot lost all his possessions and died in a cave.

*Gen 19:30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.*

### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Who went up out of Egypt with Abram?

Lot, his nephew.

2. What did Abram do soon after he returned to Bethel, that he probably did not do down in Egypt?

Called on the name of the Lord and worshipped the Lord.

3. Why was there strife between the men of Abram and the men of Lot?

So many cattle that they were arguing over the grazing.

4. Who made the generous offer for settling the strife?

Abram

5. What was the mistake made by Lot in regard to the land?

Chose the best for himself and pitched his tent toward Sodom. (Way of the world.)

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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**Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.**