

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Choosing God's Best"
Genesis 13:5-18
Study-33

"GOD GIVES HIS BEST TO THOSE THAT LEAVE THE CHOICE TO HIM"

Our passage focuses on two people, Abram, and his nephew, Lot. Lot makes a series of bad choices! These bad choices lead to a series of bad consequences! The Apostle Peter said regarding Lot **2 Peter 2:7**

Abram - was trusting in God and was holding onto the promises that God had made to him.

Thought Of Our Passage: "God Gives His Best To Those That Leave The Choice To Him"

- 1. Verses 5-13 Lot's Choice**
- 2. Verses 14-18 Abram's Promise**

1. Verses 5-13 Lot's Choice:

Genesis 13:5 Now Context – Abram was tested by the Lord.
(Faith that can't be tested can't be trusted) Genesis 12:10-20
Abram came into the land of Canaan. He encountered a famine, so he left Canaan and went down to Egypt.

Abram feared that his wife would be taken from Him, so he rehearsed with his wife a lie to say that Sari was his sister. **Genesis 13:1-2**

(Abram Returns With The Spoils of Egypt)

Genesis 13:3-4 Abram returns to the place of his beginning.
Abram repented and it shows by the life that he lives.
and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Abraham's life is marked by two things:

- 1. The Alter – (A Worshipper)**
Abram, a worshipper of the true and living God.
- 2. The Tent – (A Pilgrim, Sojourner)**
Being a stranger, a pilgrim

Genesis 13:5 Lot, who went with Abram,
God had told Abram to separate from his family. **Genesis 12:1**

also had flocks and herds and tents.
We learn that Lot became wealthy

Genesis 13:6 And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, Abram and Lot had many herds of livestock and there was not enough grazing for them.

Genesis 13:7 Range War: And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Just not enough grazing land

Amos 3:3 Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?

Does the Bible teach against having riches? (3 Thoughts)

1. God's Concern, How Did We Gain Our Riches?

Did it come by honest means?

Did you cheat, use extortion, theft, and contraband?

2. Riches Are Not The Result Of Our Goodness But God's Gracious Blessings:

3. Our Riches Belong To God And We Are His Stewards: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

And there was strife People living for the flesh. **James 4:1**

Now the Canaanite (City People) and the Perizzite (Rural People) were dwelling then in the land. Meant less grazing land for them.
Philippians 2:14-15

Genesis 13:8 So Abram said Notice it was the spiritual one Abram that speaks up!

Abram Was A Peacemaker: "Please let there be no strife between you and me, I believe the rededication of Abram prepared him for this conflict. **Genesis 13:4**

nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers.
This strife had come between them two.
It had grown and now it trickles down. **Proverbs 17:14**

**Genesis 13:9 Abram Was A Debtor Not a Creditor:
"Is not the whole land before you?**

Please separate from me: The spiritual one, Abram **Philippians 2:4**

Please separate from me; This is a hard lesson, **Luke 14:26**

if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left." Abram is gracious. Abram had the first choice, as he was the elder **2 Timothy 2:24-25**

Abram could offer the land because his heart was in heaven not earth. (Hebrews 11:13-16)

Genesis 13:10

Lot's 4 Steps Downward:

1. Lot Lifted Up His Eyes: And Lot lifted up his eyes Here is the carnal Christian. The temptation that led to Eve's fall **Genesis 3:6 delight to the eyes, 1 John 2:16 lust of the eyes** Lot did not pray or build an altar! **2 Peter 2:7** Lot was saved but miserable.

David saw Bathsheba, Achan saw the silver and a garment

Physical beauty small compensation for the destruction ahead: Sodom would be laid to destruction. (5 Cities of Sodom Genesis 19)

Genesis 13:11

2. Lot Choose For Himself: So Lot chose for himself

We choose to be holy or unholy.

John Phillips said, "Lot was weak in his devotions, worldly in his desires, and wrong in his decisions"

3. Lot Separated Himself: all the valley of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.

Genesis 13:12 Contrast Of Abram In The Land Of Promise and Lot In The Land Of Perversion: Abram settled in the land of Canaan,

4. Lot Settled In Wicked Sodom: while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. His choice was based on materialism and not spiritual values!

Genesis 13:13 What a place to live!

Genesis 19:14 for the LORD will destroy the city." But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.

Genesis 13:12 and moved his tents as far as Sodom.

Genesis 14:12 for he was living in Sodom.

Genesis 19:1 Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.

**Lot made a series of bad choices!
These bad choices lead to a series of bad consequences!**

2. Verses 14-18 Abram's Promise:

Genesis 13:14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, Interesting that when Abram finally broke ties with Lot that God spoke to him.

**God Told Abram To Lift Up His Eyes:
"Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are,
Ephesians 3:20**

**northward and southward and eastward and westward;
What Lot chose was going to be Abrams anyway.**

**Lot had chosen land that he would lose!
It looks like Lot got the best! Abram's people still possess it!**

**Verse 15 The Land Was Abram's Forever:
Genesis 13:15 descendants forever.**

**God said to Abram "I will give" (15)
It was said of Lot "Lot chose for himself" (11)**

Verse 16 - Future Posterity: Genesis 13:16

**Lot lost his family, (Genesis 19:3-38)
God was going to make Abram a Nation.**

**Verse 17 The Land Abram Walked Would Be His: Genesis 13:17
God was giving Abram a fill-in-the-blank check! Galatians 3:16**

**Genesis 13:18 The Tent – Sojourner/Pilgrim: Mamre, "Vision" which
are in Hebron, nineteen miles southwest Jerusalem Hebron - "joined
together, fellowship, communion"**

**The Altar – Worshipper/True God: there he built an altar to the
LORD.**

Application:

1. When There Is Strife Between Ourselves And Others, We Should Do All Within Our Power To Be At Peace Even If That Means Giving Up Our Rights:
2. Trusting In God's Promises Allows His People The Goodness Of Generosity That Brings Blessing To The Giver:
3. When We Put God First Like Abram Leaving The Decisions Up To Him, Living For The Spiritual Not The Earthly Seeking To Be A Witness For Him We Will Find Fellowship With Him: