

Lot's Folly (Genesis 13:1-13)

By Joshua Rose (1/17/2021)

Introduction

1. Abram, exalted father, channel of blessing.

a. An example of obedience through faith.

*"In appointing him no certain place he proveth so much more his faith and obedience."**

He expresses a willingness to renounce everything ungodly because he deemed trustworthy and better the promises of Yahweh.

b. A symbolic journey. Gen. 12:1-4

Babylon to Harán, Harán to Canaan, Canaan to Egypt.

It was a journey to be repeated later in Israel's history.

c. Upon his arrival in Canaan, God reveals to Abram that he had arrived at the land his descendants would inherit. v. 12:7

d. He then builds an altar, v. 12:7, and then another, v. 12:8.

*"It was not enough for him to worship God in his heart, but it was expedient to declare by outward profession his faith before men, whereof this altar was a sign."**

e. He calls on the name of Yahweh, a practice began before the flood. Gen. 4:26. (In Spanish, invoked.)

*"And so (Abram) served the true God and renounced all idolatry."**

He's near Salem (peace), where a certain mystery priest is based out of. Melquisedec, king of righteousness, king of peace, priest of the Most High God. Hebrews 7:1-2.

And Beth-él (house of God).

Beth-él was the same place Jacob would stay where he dreamed of angels climbing and descending to and from heaven.

Lot witnesses all these things first-hand!

2. Lot, fatherless but received by Terah, then Abram. v. 11:28, 31.

a. Lot follows Abram all the way to Canaan. v. 12:4

b. Lot descends to, then later ascends from Egypt with Abram. v. 13:1.

c. Lot participated in the exodus from the idolatrous lands.

I. Out of Egypt: v. 13:1-4

1. God's grace manifest.

a. Despite the danger presented, God holds fast to his promise to bless Abram and those who bless him, while cursing those who cause him harm.

1. He keeps his wife, and all his possessions.

2. God judges the nation that threatens the promised Son. v. 11:17.
- b. Abram had become rich, and leaves Egypt full, just as Israel would do years later.
 1. Egypt is “the iron furnace,” representing the hard labor of slavery to sin and death. Deut. 4:20.
 2. He who escapes slavery to sin finds abundant riches in Christ. Ephesians 4:7-10
2. Abram returns to Canaan.
 - a. After having survived the drought, he happily returns to his land.
 - b. He returns to the “house of God,” where he continues worshiping Yahweh.

II. Thinking to get Paradise: Lot’s folly. v. 13:5-13.

1. Lot also has become rich.
 - a. Of Abram it can be said:

*“His great riches gotten in Egypt hindered him not to follow his vocation.”**
 - b. Lot’s riches lead him to make a critical decision based on the dilemma they faced. v. 13:6.
2. The situation becomes critical as arguments ensue over land rights.
 - a. Dissension ensues.

*“This incommmodity came by their riches, which break friendships, and as it were, the bond of nature.”**
 - b. Abram humbly takes charge as the peacemaker. v. 13:8.

*“He cutteth off the occasion of contention: therefore the evil ceaseth.”**
 - c. His motivation, in part, is the holiness of God’s name. The mention of the Canaanites and Perizzites imply the potential for blaspheming the name of Yahweh.
3. Abram diffuses the situation by offering Lot, though him being the younger, preference of land.
 - a. Once again, Abram shows trust in God’s promise, believing that Canaan has been given to him. He offers up the land knowing Lot won’t choose Canaan.
 - b. Lot’s folly is this: choosing to leave Abram for riches and a land contaminated and soon to be destroyed in God’s wrath.

*“Lot thinking to get paradise found hell.”**
 - c. The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Lot preferred riches over a life near the blessed, exalted father. Lot was influenced by what his eyes saw, and the temporal blessings that followed. Lot did not inquire his elder, wiser uncle for advice, nor the Lord, nor did he differ to Abram to choose first.

III. A Righteous Soul Vexed: Lot’s Redemption. 2 Peter 2:6-9; Luke 17:28-33.

1. Lot stood fast in the midst of unbelievable sin.

- a. Sodom and Gomorrah were made examples so that people should fear God and the impending judgment which is to come.
 - b. He dwelt among them, and his soul despised their deeds.
 - c. The Lord delivered Lot from the city, sparing him because he feared Yahweh.
2. He did not turn back.
 - a. Lot went out of Sodom, guided by the angels.
 - b. Lot believed that judgment was upon them and fled to safety.

IV. Conclusion

1. Just as Lot bore witness to the one God had chosen to be the father of many nations, even participating in the benefits, we must always consider Jesus, the fulfillment of all good promises made to us. We have been called out of Egypt to live in the riches that God has given to us in Christ.
2. We must consider Lot's folly, in leaving Abram and the promised land where God's angels ascended and descended, for personal gain. One of Lot's descendants would be the glowing example of rejecting her homeland and embracing the God of Israel. Ruth, the Moabite, clung to Naomi and refused to return to the same side of the river where Lot insisted on going. He lost everything, and ended up living in a cave. She gained everything, by losing it all.
3. We are called to live like Lot, in the midst of a perverse generation, holding fast to the One who is able to carry us through to the patrimony that awaits us. Judgement will soon be upon us and we are to be ready for the one who will save us from the fire of his wrath which will come and destroy all who reject his salvation.

* From notes in the Geneva Study Bible