

## Genesis 13:1-18

Genesis is the book of beginnings. If you understand Genesis 12 and on, you will have an easier time understanding the rest of the bible.

- 1 ¶ **And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.** Abraham made a mistake by lying to the Pharaoh and not trusting God. Anyone God uses for His will is not perfect, and God does not sugarcoat their shortcomings. Egypt is the symbol of the world, so anytime we see people going into Egypt it's like they're going into the world, and it always brings a problem. But they come out of Egypt with some more trouble. Abraham came out of Egypt with his wife, but also with a new handmaiden who was a ton of trouble. "Abraham went up out of Egypt" is a geographically correct statement, because he traveled north.
- 2 **And Abram *was* very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.** Abraham came out of Egypt a very wealthy man.
- 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;** He comes right back to where he was before.
- 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.** Abraham had already been there, had already built an altar before, and he calls upon the name of the Lord.
- 5 ¶ **And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.** Lot is still using Abraham as a role model and follows him around.
- 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.** Their herds and people had grown so much in number that the land of Canaan wouldn't sustain them all anymore, so now they have an issue.
- 7 **And there was a strife between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.** It reaches a point where they are fighting amongst themselves over who will get the best grazing land and living land. This is an example to us Christians that when we're battling over material goods, like when someone dies and there is a battle over the estate. It is an ugly situation. The uncle and nephew are battling over material goods in front of unbelievers of God. It sets a bad example for the way of God.
- 8 **And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we *be* brethren.** Listen Lot, we worship the same God and this shouldn't be an issue with us. We're setting a bad example to the nonbelievers. Take what you want and I'll take the other. Abraham was the older and had the right to first choice, but as a believer in God, he gave his nephew Lot first choice, and set a good example of the way of the Lord to the surrounding nonbelievers. In those days, this gesture of Abraham meant a lot.
- 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.**
- 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 you comes into Zoar.** Notice where Lot was standing at this time, he really had to look down onto the valley of Jordan. But the wording here is on purpose. At this time, if you go over there today, it is a desert. But in the bible times, it was lush with greenery and water. Lot lifting up his eyes is a Hebrew term for "hey, I got the advantage, and I'm going to take advantage of it." Instead of thinking spiritually what's best for me, he thought physically and went for all the better material things that he could see. This right here says a lot about Lot, looking physically at the world and not through God. Lot ended up losing everything because he took advantage of this here situation.

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- 11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.** Abraham said go ahead, Lot, you got the best land and I'm not going to argue with you. Go ahead and take it. Today, Lot's descendants are looked upon as degraded human beings.
- 12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom.** Abraham went down and lived with the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah. He took his family, daughters included, his animals, and all his people.
- 13 But the men of Sodom *were* wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.** The way these people lived physically was the worse of the worst. They were the greatest sinners physically at that time.
- 14 ¶ And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now your eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:** The Lord came to Abraham after Lot left, because Lot was hindering Abraham's connection with God. After Lot was separated from Abraham, God told him to look around to all four points of the compass.
- 15 For all the land which you see, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.** God promises Abraham that He will give it to Abraham and all his descendants forever. It is true to this day.
- 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.** Watch the news and look at the gatherings in the Mideast. It is packed with people. God says Abrahams' descendants would be so numerous we can't count them. All the Israelites came from Abraham.
- 17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.** God is giving Abraham everything in sight. We are still not to be swayed by material things, but focus on the spiritual things.
- 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.** Abraham and Sarai are buried in a cave in Hebron. It has limited access, but you try to can visit that sight. Those who try to go in there say a spiritual being blocks the entry, or so the story goes today.
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