

Genesis 13: Strife and Separation

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What evidence do we see in this chapter that Abram is growing in faith?

In this chapter we run into one of the recurring themes of Genesis: eastbound and down.

In this chapter, we get the first indication of murmuring in the camp. This starts at the bottom and works its way up.

The source of the strife between herdsmen is wealth and demonstrates an uncharitable spirit.

Abram and Lot were also at the mercy of the land's inhabitants. (Gen 13:7)

Abram shows himself to be a gracious peacemaker—willing to put Lot's interests ahead of his own in order to avoid family conflict. Lot goes right along with this gesture.

How does wealth often lead to strife within families?

Along with wealth comes responsibility and a form of hardship.

How does Lot's choice remind us of Eve's choice in the Garden? How does that work out for him?

Abram and Lot provide an interesting contrast between two very wealthy men. What were they each trusting?

Consider the wisdom of the following verses: Eccl 5:10-15; Prov 30:7-9

What happens to Lot's possessions in the end? What about Abram's possessions? (Gen 19:16; 25:5)

What is the description of Sodom even at this point in time? (Gen 13:13)

How might the natural abundance of the valley contribute to the depravity of the cities?

Was Lot a preacher of righteousness in Sodom? Or did his presence there serve to delay God's judgment? (In either case, his presence was a blessing.)

How does Lot's example illustrate the danger of becoming too friendly with the local culture? In the end, did he win their approval? (Gen 19:9)

What promises does God repeat in this chapter? To whom does He repeat them? Who is notably missing from the scene at this point? (Gen 13:15-16)

What new metaphor does God use in describing the outworking of His promise? (Gen 13:16)

What is the significance of Abram "getting up" and going through the land to look at it?

God's promises are notably one-sided. Abram's part is to respond in faith.

Timeline: Chapters 12-15 occur in a ten year period from the time Abram enters Canaan. (Gen 16:3)