

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

GENESIS 13:10-18

LESSON: DWELLING IN CANAAN — June 9, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

12:6-20 ¹Abram went to Shechem (Genesis 12.6); then to south Canaan (Genesis 12.9); from Canaan he went to Egypt because of famine, where he in unbelief lied to Pharaoh about Sarai being his sister. Abram had his wife, Sarai to lie and not say that they were husband and wife, and Pharaoh believed that Sarai was Abram's sister. So, Pharaoh took her as a wife (12:12). And Abram got rich because of this situation. God can't condone sin and deception for God's judgment upon Pharaoh was the suffering of great plagues upon his house (12:17). And then God publicly exposed Abram in his lie, for Pharaoh called him out asking why did he not tell him that Sarai was his wife. Evidently Pharaoh knew that he had committed the sin of adultery by these plagues. He commanded his men to send them away along with all they had. They were embarrassed and shamed publicly. That was God's punishment and chastisement for Abram and Sarai. For believers God corrects us in love (Genesis 12.18-20).

13:1-9 Abram leaves Egypt and traveled through the Negev (the South) with his wife, Sarai, and Lot, and with everything they owned. At this time Abram was very rich with many animals, silver, and gold. They then headed back to Bethel where they had camped before between Bethel (House of Bread) and Hai (Ai--Ruin). This was the place where Abram had built an altar earlier, worshiped and called on the name of the Lord. This is the place where he repented and got back into fellowship and worshiped God! (13:1-4). Lot was also very wealthy with sheep, and cattle, and servants. Then Abram and Lot faced a problem because the land could not support all their animals and servants, and strife arose between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle, and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelling in the land. So Abram told Lot that there should be no arguing between he and Lot or between his people and Lot's people because they are all brothers. Abram told Lot to separate himself because there was much land available before him, and he could choose any place he wanted. If Lot went to the left, Abram would go to the right, or if Lot went to the right, Abram would go to the left. Whatever the pasture of land Lot chose, he could have it. Abram just wanted to keep the peace (13:5-9).

LESSON: I. LIFE-CHANGING DECISIONS GENESIS 13:10-13

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. Abram had taken Lot in and treated him like a son and reared him, but this was the beginning of Lot's fall. He lifted up his eyes and was misled by the lust of his eyes, by what looked good to him. Abram had just offered him the first pick of the land. And he began to look for the most watered and fertile region which led him to selfishness and greed. When Lot looked and saw the whole Jordan Valley, He saw that it was well watered. This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. At that time the Jordan Valley all the way to Zoar was like the Lord's Garden. This was good land, like the land of Egypt.

"Zoar" was one of the five "cities of the plain" – a pentapolis apparently located along the lower Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea plain; the city where Lot and his family took refuge during the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

GJW **13:11** Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves

the one from the other. So, Lot chose all the plain of Jordan which was toward Sodom, thereby separating himself from Abram. Lot failed to see that he was already blessed because of Abram and instead of saying *"whatever you want to give me Abram"* or even allowing Abram to choose the best first. So when he separated himself from Abram, he separated himself from the blessings of God, because God is the "Blesser" of Abram!

13:12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. And we see that Abram occupies and resides in the land of Canaan, while Lot resided in the cities of the plain, pitching his abode toward Sodom.

13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly. The place of Sodom is described here, that Lot's atmosphere would drastically change for he would settle among men who were wicked and sinners beyond measure before God. This means they sinned openly before God. They did not try to hide their sin. In spite of all this, Lot moved there with all the worldly and ungodly of the earth. He would not avoid their lawlessness. It was ever before him when he left God.

II. HEART-SETTING PROMISES GENESIS 13:14-18

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:— After the separation of Lot and Abram, God tells Abram to lift up his eyes and look northward, southward, eastward, and westward from the place he is in now. This verse shows a contrast of Lot in 3:10 and Abram here lifting up his eyes.

- Lot lifted up his eyes to the world, but Abram lifted up his eyes to the Promised Land.
- Lot lifted up his eyes in self-sufficiency, but Abram lifted up his eyes in trust
- Lot lifted up his eyes with a selfish, greedy desire for gain, but Abram lifted up his eyes with a giving sacrificial desire for unity.
- Lot lifted up his eyes from an uncommitted worldly heart, but Abram lifted up his eyes from a committed spiritual heart.

It was after their separation that God could speak more blessings upon Abram—the one who is yoked to God; humble in heart; desiring unity; and committed in trust to God. Yoked up to someone who's greedy can stop you blessings.

13:15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. It didn't matter what piece of land Abram chose, it was always going to be the right land. Surveying all around him, God tells him that He will give him all the land he sees to his seed forever. What a contrast when God says I will give you and when you say I will take, which is what Lot did when he chose. God will always give His best to those that humble themselves. And do you see that God had to separate them first before He could bless Abram. He could not bless Abram with strife between them. When Abram and Lot faced that first problem of strife they became unequally yoked. Only one wanted to do it God's way. God could not pour out His blessing upon Abram until he separated from Lot. Now, God speaks and assures Abram again that these blessings will pour out upon him and his seed forever!

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. God gives the land to the seed forever and He will make Abram's seed as the dust of the earth. Now that's a lot because no man can number the dust of the earth. And that's the example of Abram's seed being numbered as well. We've got to remember that Sarai is barren—no child. But, this is the faithfulness of God who promises.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



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. Now, God tells Abram to do this by faith—Get up and walk through the length of the land and the width of the land, for every place his footsteps go is what He intends to give to Abram! Could you imagine this inheritance from anyone?

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. Abram moved his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron. By Abram building an altar unto the Lord in Hebron, this was the place where he formed an alliance with God. "Hebron" means league or alliance. Thus, the word is sometimes enlarged to mean joined together, fellowship, communion. This is the place where God and Abram were joined together in a very special way, the place where God fellowshiped and communed with Abram in a very special way.

SUMMARY:

Abram had taken Lot in and treated him like a son and reared him, but strife arose and they had to separate. Abram told Lot to choose the land he wanted and Lot lifted up his eyes to a land that he thought was better and he chose all the plain of Jordan which was toward Sodom, thereby separating himself from Abram. And Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, while Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. The place of Sodom is described here. Lot would settle among men who were wicked and sinners beyond measure before God. They sinned openly before God. This was a drastic change for Lot. (13 : 10–13).

And after the separation of Lot and Abram, God tells Abram to lift up his eyes and look toward the north, south, east, and west from the place he was in now, and that He will give him all the land he gazes upon to he and his seed forever, and make his seed as the dust of the earth. Now, God tells Abram to get up and walk through the length and the width of the land, and every place his footsteps go is what He intends to give to Abram! Abram moved his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron. By Abram building an altar unto the Lord in Hebron, this was the place where he formed an alliance with God (13 : 14–18).

