

**ABRAHAM – .. “CALLED THE FRIEND OF GOD” -
(HIS THIRD DIALOGUE WITH GOD) - GENESIS 13:14-18**

Gen 13:14-18 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; [15] for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. [16] And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. [17] Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you." [18] Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre (instruction), which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

“after Lot had separated from him”:

- In chapter 12, we saw Abram’s lapse of faith, in going to Egypt. Here he’s back in the land, enjoying the God’s provisions. Now we see conflict and strife break out with Lot--an illuminating account of what occurs when strife and trouble break out between Christians in our Christian walk. Has this not happened to all of us?
- God had blessed. Possessions so great, that strife broke out between their herdsman. Canaanites and the Perizzites (enemies) dwelt in the land.
- Abram said, Please, let there be no strife between you and me and between our herdsman. But let us separate—if you take the left, then I’ll take the right, or if you go to the right, then I’ll go to the left!
- Lot: “who went with Abram”. Describes his whole life. He went with Abram! Wherever Abram was, Lot was. When Abram stopped, Lot stopped. “With Abram”.
- Lot is typical of many Christians, depending on others (not God), for faith and inspiration to act. They haven’t learned to walk alone with God, leaning on Him! On whom are you leaning? When there are no problems and as long as they have a close friend, a strong church, good radio Bible teachers, good seminars/conferences to attend, they get along pretty well. But when the going gets tough or whom they rely on, are weak or as here, when prosperity comes, they fail the test.
- Note the conflict of interest. Two prospering business partners, both of them Christians couldn’t get along because of their prosperity.
- For the stronger of the two, the man of faith, his purpose in business is primarily to benefit God’s work--to use the gifts God gives him to advance the work of God. What is your purpose in your work?
- Initially the other partner goes along with him and agrees that this is a worthy basis for the business. But as prosperous times comes, the second partner, who raised his standard of living, begins to look more to the material things of life--more concerned about personally prospering than anything else. When this occurs there is only one thing to do and that is to divide their ways!
- Notice it is the man of faith who takes the initiative. Lot would most likely let this situation continue until it broke out in serious conflict. Abram says, “Please let there be no strife”—let us divide-you choose. Take the left and I’ll take the right, or vice versa. Do you ever find yourself willing to take the lead in giving up your choices?
- There are a couple of reasons in the text for Abram proposing this division. There were enemies -the Canaanites and the Perizzites, in the land. Enemies are always lurking to take advantage of any strife or agreement between believers.
- Also Abram notes, “let there be no strife..for we are brethren”. We’re tied together. If I am hurting you, I am hurting myself—if you hurt me, you’re hurting yourself.

- Abram in his God given wisdom, takes the initiative. He is older and the acknowledged leader, superior to Lot is every way, yet he says to Lot. You take the first choice. Abram gives up his right to the first choice. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right...
- We see the choice that Lot makes. He chose what appeared to be the well watered garden-- the best choice for increasing business and his profit.
- Looking out for his own interests, he overlooked the fact that *"the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord"*. As today, life in this country, in the whole world, is becoming morally rotten, often hidden beneath an attractive prosperity. We need to consider this as we face the choices of life.
- Lot failed to do so. He "chose for himself"! Deceived by what he saw, he stumbled into heartache, loss and judgment.
- Abram, however, was content is letting God choose for him--though it seemed to be second best. Long before the true nature of Sodom became apparent to Lot, Abram saw it in its true light. Do you choose for yourself or do you usually let God chose for you--"not my will but yours be done"- "if the Lord wills"?
- How and when do we learn the inner nature of things as they really are? These are only revealed to the person with the tent and the altar? Those always praying, worshiping and moving toward the Lord! We're only pilgrims passing through-persons of prayer and worship. Our final dwelling place is not here on earth. Hold the earthly things very lightly! Are you a person of the tent and the altar?
- That as we read His Word, He unfolds to us through spiritual eyes, things of judgment, moral corruptness; the deadly character of what looks so attractive, being held in high regard by the world.
- So, *"Lot chose for himself"!* How revealing! Pitched his tent toward Sodom-every time he moved, he moved nearer to Sodom. Tragic!
- But what happened to Abram? How did it go with his letting God make the choices for him?
- *"Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; [15] for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.*
- Where, everywhere!! To the north, to the south, to the east, to the west!! All the land is his!
- This land is a symbol to us of the fullness of life when walking in the Spirit-a life of joy, power, love, glory and peace; the life of refreshing ministry to others. --"Eph 3:18 ...may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—[19] to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
- This is all ours, if we are willing to let God make the choices of life for us, for you, for me! Being in prayer and in His Word every day! Walking by the Spirit, trusting completely in Him!!
- Who are you choosing for? For yourself? Or for God?
- Who is making your choices? Yourself or God?
- May indeed, it be Him, and not us!