

Genesis Chapter 13 Commentary

1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

We see that Abram has to leave Egypt because of his deceit of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Pharaoh sent Abram away. Abram, still in disobedience because he is dragging Lot around with him, will now return to the land of promise, where he is supposed to be.

2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. 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; 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.

Again we note the silence of God in answering Abram. He is still in disobedience by having Lot with him. Next we see that they are parted from one another and God again speaks to Abram. This is a New Testament principle also, seen in:

- ***Joh 9:31 "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."*** Just as God is not answering Abram while he is in defiance of God's instructions, so God does not hear us when our hearts and minds are not seeking God in spirit and truth.
- ***1Jo 4:6; 4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."*** Those who recognize the gospel of Christ have evidence that they are children of God. Those who do not recognize the gospel of Christ give evidence that they are not God's children.

5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. 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. 7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

We see that the great wealth, and prosperity that Abram and Lot gained in Egypt, is now a source of conflict in their lives.

8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. 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 everywhere, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. 12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

We see; through peaceful resolution, Abram and Lot now go their separate ways and this brings Abram into compliance with God's first instruction given in: ***Ge 12:1-3; 1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.***

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: 15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever. 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. 17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee. 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 has finally got in compliance with God's instruction, and now God speaks to Abram again. God reminds Abram of the land of promise and the promised seed. God gives additional instruction for Abram to walk through all the land of promise to behold the greatness of God's promise to him.

Remember that originally; God told Abram to separate from all his family and to go to Canaan? God says the same thing to us in New Testament scripture in:

- ***Mt 19:27-30; 27 "Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? 28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. 30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first."***
- ***2Co 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"***

God is teaching us that we should dare to be different from the world. We are to walk in godliness and righteousness and be salt and light to the world around us. Great is the promise of God to us of an eternal home in the eternal place that Christ has gone to prepare for us. There, uncumbered with sin we will see the final fruition of God's promise of both a land and a multitude of nations, peoples, kindreds, and tongues. Praise the Lord for his faithful promises. Hallelujah!