

## Genesis 13 – Walking By Faith Not By Sight

### I. Abram Acts Based On Faith In God (1-9)

#### A. Abram Rekindles His Trust In The Promise (1-4)

##### 1. Abram Returns To the Land (1-2)

- a. Abram is now more wealthy from his sojourn in Egypt
- b. Abram is probably still repentant and shamed for his behavior in Egypt
- c. Abram will continue to suffer consequences for his faithlessness in Egypt

##### 2. Abram Returns To His Faith (3-4)

- a. Abram returns to his path from the beginning
- b. Abram returns to the altars he made at the first
- c. Abram has grown in his faith because of Egypt
  - i. Abram returns to calling on the name of the Lord
  - ii. Abram chooses to trust in God rather than follow his own plans
  - iii. Abram's new added wealth does not distract him from his faith

#### B. Abram Faces Another Test of Faith (5-7)

##### 1. The Land is Unable To Sustain Abram and Lot (5-6)

- a. Lot is also very wealthy (5)
  - i. The list of Lot's possessions looks similar to Abrams ("tents" means the people who dwell in them. i.e. his servants)
  - ii. Lot may have increased because of Abram's increase in Egypt
    - Did Abram give Lot some of his wealth?
    - Did Lot maneuver to earn his wealth?

##### b. Abram and Lot cannot dwell together with their abundance (6)

- i. Abram and Lot both had vast herds of cattle and sheep (donkeys, camels, servants, etc.)
  - Notice that the abundance of their herds and servants is the cause of the problem
  - Perhaps this sudden burst of wealth (from Pharaoh) was not God's immediate intention
- ii. There is not enough pasture for grazing for all to be sustained together
- iii. The main problem seems to be the lack of enough water for everyone together (see v.10)
  - Once again "the Land" that God brought Abram to seems to be failing him

- This was supposed to be the bountiful promised land and here again, the land is insufficient to provide for them.
- 2. The Men's Herdsman Begin to Quarrel Over Provisions (7a)
  - a. Each man's herdsman was responsible for his herd
  - b. Each would lay claim to water and food for his own herd
    - i. The servants would each be held accountable to their master, so they only worried about tending to their own flocks' needs.
    - ii. Strife and Fighting over water sources will be common in the patriarchs in Genesis
- 3. Hostile Nations Around Them Prevented Expansion Together (7b)
  - a. Abram and Lot cannot just expand their operations where they are
  - b. Other nations dwell in the land and lay claim to nearby water sources and pasture land
  - c. Abram and Lot must separate and each journey to a part that will sustain them
- C. Abram Allows Lot His Choice of Land (8-9)
  - 1. Abram Seeks Peace With Lot (8)
    - a. Abram does not want any strife with Lot
    - b. Abram desires unity with "his brother" (i.e. relatives)
      - i. Unlike Cain, Abram realizes that he is his brother's keeper
  - 2. Abram Offers Lot Whatever Land He Desires (9)
    - a. Abram acts in Faith by giving Lot his choice of land
    - b. Abram is the one to whom the land is promised
      - i. God made no covenant promise to Lot
      - ii. Abram had the right to say "all this land is mine"
      - iii. Abram did not fight to keep what he had (as he did in Egypt with his wife)
        - Abram acted in Love trusting that God will fulfill his promise regardless of what Lot chooses to do
        - Abram has learned from his time in Egypt and now leaves the responsibility for the promise to God

## II. Lot Acts Based On What He Sees (10-13)

- A. Lot Lifts His Eyes To The Better Portion of Land (10)
  - 1. Lot's Eyes are Lifted to the Jordan Valley
    - a. Lot bases his decision on what his eyes see
    - b. Lot surveys the land and notices the plains by the Jordan
  - 2. Lot's Eyes See it as Plentiful and Abundant

- a. It was well watered
  - b. It was like the garden of the Lord
    - i. The land is compared to the garden in that it is fertile and abundant
    - ii. Lot believes he will have no trouble finding water and vegetation there
  - c. It was like the land of Egypt
    - i. The Nile's flood stages provided abundant fertile ground in the midst of Egypt
    - ii. Lot believes this land will be as that fertile ground
  - d. (This was before the destruction of Sodom decimated the land)
    - i. This is a foreshadow of what is coming
    - ii. Although Lot didn't know it, this land he has chosen will be destroyed by God
- 3. Lot is Being Deceived By the "Lust of the Eyes" in the same way Eve was
  - a. Rather than trust the promise and stay with Abram (I will bless those who bless you) Lot chooses what He sees
  - b. God's Word often seems counterintuitive to what we "see" as a better way
    - i. Our eyes are not to be trusted, they can readily deceive us and lead us astray
    - ii. We are to walk by faith in the Word of God
- B. Lot Chose The Land That Looked Better (11)
  - 1. Lot Journeys Eastward to the Jordan Valley
  - 2. Lot and Abram Separate From Each Other
    - a. What Should Lot have Done?
    - b. "I will bless those who bless you"
    - c. Lot makes his choice without any concern for Abram
      - i. This would be the greatest mistake of Lot's life
- C. Lot Moves Inadvertently Toward The Wickedness of Sodom (12-13)
  - 1. Abram Settled in the Countryside of Canaan
  - 2. Lot Moved Toward the City of Sodom
    - a. This is the first step – "moving toward"
    - b. Next time we see Lot he will be "sitting in the gate" of the city – and finally living within the city
  - 3. The Men of The City Were Exceedingly Wicked
    - a. 2 Peter 2:8 tells us Lot was a righteous man "vexed" with the sin of the Sodomites
      - i. However, here Lot has not grown in his faith the way Abram has
      - ii. Lot is just like many of us, he is simply doing what he thinks is best for himself

- b. Lot cannot pass up the opportunity to prosper himself – (though he knows the promise is made to Abram) – he separates from Abram.

### III. Abram is Blessed Through Faith (14-18)

#### A. God Expands His Promise To Abram (14-17)

##### 1. God Promises Abram The Abundance of Land (14-15)

- a. “Lift Up Your Eyes”
  - i. This is the same phrase used of Lot “seeing” the better land toward Sodom
  - ii. It is God that tells Abram to “lift up his eyes”
- b. “Look in Every Direction”
  - i. Lot chose the land “toward Sodom” and “the plain of the Jordan”
  - ii. God tells Abram to look at the land in every direction
- c. “The Land Will Be Given to You and Your Seed”
  - i. The promise that was previously made to Abram’s “seed” alone is now made to “you and your seed”
  - ii. The promise will expand again later in Genesis
- d. Abram waits on God to give the land, while Lot simply takes what he believes to be the best portion

##### 2. God Promises Abram The Abundance of Seed (16)

- a. “Your descendants will be as the dust of the earth”
- b. “Your descendants will be too many to number”
  - i. The promise of seed is expanded
  - ii. Now instead of just a great nation, Abram’s seed will be innumerable

##### 3. God Tells Abram To Walk Through His Land (17)

- a. He is commanded to symbolically sojourn in the land, claiming it as the promise of God
- b. Where Abram walks, God will give him the land

#### B. Abram Continues To Worship By Faith (18)

##### 1. Abram Moves His Tent To Hebron

##### 2. Abram Builds an Altar To the Lord

- a. Abram walks by faith, trusting that the Lord will deliver what He has promised
- b. Abram devotes his time and attention to the Lord rather than trying to acquire or keep the land that was promised.