

“Lot Chose For Himself”

Genesis 13:1-18

RETURN TO THE LAND. v.1-4

1. Abram left Egypt and traveled back toward Canaan. v.1-2 Ref. Psalm 34:19

- Abram was very rich. **v.2** Lit. ‘weighty’ or ‘heavy’ or ‘severe’ in livestock, silver & gold
-NOTE: Israel plundered the Egyptians of the same things during the Exodus (3:22; 10:26; 11:2; 17:3)

2. Abram entered Canaan again and returned to the place between Bethel and Ai. v.3-4

- Abram re-traced his path back to where he called on the name of the LORD. Ref. 12:8
- Abram called on the name of the LORD again. **v.4** → What do you suppose that looked like?

CONFLICT OVER THE LAND. v.5-9

1. Abram’s nephew Lot continued to travel with him—and he also had lots of animals. v.5-6

- The land could not support the herds of both Abram and Lot. **v.6**

2. A family conflict arose between their herdsmen. v.7

3. Abram’s plan: Let Lot choose. v.8-9

- As the authority (elder and leader), Abram had the right to choose. But he deferred to Lot.

LOT’S CHOICE. v. 10-13

1. Lot followed his eyes—looking for wealth. v.10

- He saw the Jordan Valley was well-watered. It was like the garden of the Lord (Eden)—like Egypt.
- Similar language is found in Gen. 3:6: So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

2. Lot chose for himself. v.11

3. Lot’s descent into sin and ‘salt-lessness’. v.12-13 Ref. Psalm 1:1 // Ephesians 2:1-10

- Lot looked toward Sodom. **v.10**
- Lot pitched his tents near Sodom. **v.12**
- Lot later ended up living in Sodom. Gen. 14:12
- Lot became one of the leaders of the Sodom. Gen. 19:1: Lot sat in the gateway of Sodom

→ **v.13:** Narrator’s note on what was to come... A great difference between what Lot saw—and what was real.

-**1 John 2:15-17:** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

-**Proverbs 23:4-5:** Do not weary yourself to gain wealth; Cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings; Like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.

-**Mark 8:36:** For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?

-**James 1:14-15:** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

GOD REAFFIRMS HIS PROMISE TO ABRAM AND HIS OFFSPRING. v.14-18

1. The LORD directed Abram to lift up his eyes and look in every direction. v.14 Ref. v.10

-same phrase as Lot in v.10

2. The LORD promised the land to Abram and his offspring forever. v.15

Abram gave up prime real estate in Canaan because he was trusting in the LORD’s promise.

3. The LORD promised to multiply Abram’s children—even though he was old and Sarai was barren. v.16

4. The LORD directed Abram to walk through the whole land—believing His promise. v.17

5. Abram settled in the land—and built another altar to the LORD. v.18

From the HEIDELBERG CATECHISM...

6. Did God create man so wicked and perverse?

A. No. God created man good and in his own image, that is, in true righteousness and holiness, so that he might truly know God his Creator, love him with all his heart, and live with God in eternal happiness, for his praise and glorify.

7. Then where does man's corrupt nature come from?

A. From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise. This fall has so poisoned our nature that we are all conceived and born in sin.

8. But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

A. Yes, unless we are born again by the Spirit of God.

9. But doesn't God do man an injustice by requiring in his law what man is unable to do?

A. No, God created man with the ability to keep the law. Man, however, at the instigation of the devil, in willful disobedience, robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts.

10. Will God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

A. Certainly not. He is terribly angry with the sin we are born with as well as our actual sins. God will punish them by a just judgment both now and in eternity, having declared: "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law."

11. But isn't God also merciful?

A. God is certainly merciful, but he is also just. His justice demands that sin, committed against his supreme majesty, be punished with the supreme penalty—eternal punishment of body and soul.

Lyrics to "Gold" by Imagine Dragons:

First comes the blessing of all that you've dreamed
But then comes the curses of diamonds and rings
Only at first did it have its appeal
But now you can't tell the false from the real
Who can you trust? (Who can you trust?)

When everything, everything, everything
You touch turns to gold, gold, gold
Everything, everything, everything
You touch turns to gold, gold
Ooh, gold, ooh, gold, ooh, gold, ooh, gold

Statues and empires are all at your hands
Water to wine, and the finest of sands
When all that you have is turning stale and it's cold
Oh, you no longer feel when your heart's turned to gold
Who can you trust? (Who can you trust?)

When everything, everything, everything
You touch turns to gold, gold, gold
Everything, everything, everything
You touch turns to gold, gold
Ooh, gold, ooh, gold, ooh, gold, ooh, gold

I'm dying to feel again (Again)
Oh, anything at all (Oh, anything at all)
But oh, I feel nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing!