

THE SEPARATION OF ABRAM AND LOT

Old Testament Lesson #8

A famine in Canaan (KA-nan) forced Abram and Lot into Egypt. While they were there, God blessed them greatly. When the drought was over, they journeyed back to Bethel (BETH-el), with their greatly increased wealth, and Abram built an altar there.

When Abram and his nephew Lot returned to Canaan, they each had flocks and herds and tents and servants. Abram and Lot had accumulated so many flocks and herds that the land could not support them all. The Canaanites (KA-na-nites) and Perizzites (PER-I-zites) were living in the land with their flocks and herds as well, and grazing land was scarce. With competition for the land to support the animals, strife resulted. Even Abram's and Lot's herdsmen were arguing, so they decided to separate.

Abram invited Lot to choose the portion of land he would prefer to settle in. Lot decided to move to the rich pastures in the plain of the Jordan, which was toward the east, near the cities of Sodom (SOD-om) and Gomorrah (go-MOR-ra). Abram lived in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved close to Sodom. The men of Sodom were very wicked.

As soon as the two men had parted company, the LORD said to Abram, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever." God told him his offspring would be as numerous as the dust of the earth, and told Abram to walk through the land because God was going to give it to him.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The land had been promised to Abram, not Lot, so Lot, out of respect for his uncle, should have commanded his herdsmen to stop the strife.
- Abram could have commanded his nephew to obey his directions, but did not.
- God had already promised Abram the land (Genesis 12:7).
- Lot's choice to live near the men of Sodom set circumstances in motion that led him to poverty and near ruin.

The Separation of Abram and Lot

- I. A famine forced Abram and Lot to move to Egypt.
 - A. They returned to Bethel with much wealth.
 - B. They needed much land to support their large flocks and herds.
- II. Abram and Lot shared the land.
 - A. It belonged to the Canaanites and Perizzites.
 - B. The land couldn't support all the animals.
 - C. Even the herdsmen of Abram and Lot argued about it.
- III. Abram allowed Lot to choose which land he wanted, and they separated.
 - A. Abram stayed in Canaan.
 - B. Lot moved near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, where wicked men lived.
 - C. God promised Abram that all the land he could see would someday belong to his offspring.

ANSWER KEY:

Lot, chose, to, live, on, the, rich, plain, of, the, Jordan, He, moved, close, to, Sodom, a, city, of, wicked, people, Abram, lived, in, Canaan

Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.