

The Book of Genesis

The Book of Genesis

The Separation of Abraham and Lot

- I. The Return from Egypt (Genesis 13:1-4)
- A. Abram and his company left Egypt and returned to the land of Canaan.
1. This story illustrates an important lesson about faith, even when one sins.
 2. Though Abram had made a mistake and gone in the wrong direction, it was still possible for him to return.
 - a. Recognition – of his lost condition
 - b. Repentance – a change of mind toward his actions
 - c. Return – a change of direction in his life
 - d. Restoration – of salvation and fellowship
 3. True faith will motivate one to restoration when he has sinned.
- B. Note that Abram had to return to the place where he went astray (from the south [the Negev] back to Bethel).
- C. Then, he could come to the altar and call upon Jehovah.
- D. Note what verse 1 teaches about how the Bible authorizes – by implication.
1. Did Lot go down into Egypt?
 2. The Bible does not explicitly state this fact in Genesis 12:9-20.
 3. However, it does state that Lot went up out of Egypt.
 4. Therefore, the Bible teaches by implication that Lot went down into Egypt.
 5. This is just as binding and authoritative as a direct statement.
- II. The Conflict with Lot (Genesis 13:5-7)
- A. Both Abram and Lot were blessed with abundant households and livestock.
- B. In fact, when they dwelled together, the land was not able to support them.
- C. Thus, the servants of Abram and the servants of Lot began to argue with one another – likely about the use of land by each man’s flocks and herds.
- D. Abram was well aware that the inhabitants of the land were present and watching the actions of his household (cf. 1 Cor. 6:6; Phil. 2:14-15; Col. 4:51; Thes. 4:12; 1 Pet. 2:12).
- III. The Separation from Lot (Genesis 13:8-13)
- A. Abram sought unity and peace among the two households.
1. His motive: “for we be brethren.”
 2. Brethren ought to labor for unity (Eph. 4:1-6).
 3. They ought to strive diligently to work out their problems in love.
 4. And, if a separation must occur, it should be done in kindness (Rom. 12:18).
- B. The best solution to the conflict was a separation of the two groups.
1. This was a problem caused by growth due to the blessings of God, not by animosity or hatred.
 2. It also related to God’s command to Abram to separate from his father’s house (cf. Gen. 12:1).
- C. Generously, Abram allowed Lot to choose which land he would inhabit.
- D. Lot chose the fertile plain of Jordan toward the east; however, he soon drifted southward toward the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
1. Lot looked with physical eyes rather than spiritual.

The Book of Genesis

- 2. He did not learn the lesson of the sojourn in Egypt.
 - E. Abram continued to dwell in the land of Canaan.
- IV. The Promise of Jehovah (Genesis 13:14-18)
- A. It is significant that God spoke to Abram after he was separated from Lot.
 - 1. Lot “lifted up his eyes” in selfishness and human ambition.
 - 2. Abram “lifted up his eyes” in faith and humble trust in the word of God.
 - B. Abram was told to look in all directions and all the land he saw would become an inheritance for his offspring.
 - C. God added to the promise by stating that Abram’s descendants would be as numerous as the dust of the earth.
 - D. He was commanded to walk through the land, to view the gift that God would grant to him and his children.
 - E. Abram ended his journey at Hebron, about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem, and one of the highest points in Canaan.