



Lot and Abram Divide the Land

Genesis 13

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Abram and Lot Go to Egypt

Abram and Lot had gone south into Egypt because of a famine in the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:10). In Egypt, Abram pretended to be Sarai's brother because Sarai was beautiful and Abram was afraid Pharaoh would kill him and take her. Pharaoh did bring Sarai into his palace, but he treated Abram very well, giving him sheep, cattle, servants, and a lot more. But then God began to inflict diseases on Pharaoh's household because of Sarai. When Pharaoh realized what was happening, he sent Abram and Sarai away.

Abram Returns to the Promised Land

Abram and Lot headed north, back to the land God had promised to Abram's descendants. This was another long journey of hundreds of miles. The travelers would travel from one source of food and water to the next, but they would have to stay at each place long enough for the flocks and herds to recover.

As Abram returned to Canaan, he again "called on the name of the Lord." Perhaps the incident in Egypt reminded Abram of who God is and of how blessed he was to be chosen by God.

Abram Concedes the Best Land to Lot

In Genesis 13:5 we discover for the first time that Lot was wealthy. It became apparent that a single area wasn't sufficient to support both of their families' flocks and herds.

In this situation and culture, etiquette dictated that Lot allow Abram to take whatever he deemed was rightfully his, because Abram was the more powerful and wealthy as well as the respected elder.

So Abram's offer probably shocked Lot. Abram, to keep peace within his family, was willing to give up what was rightfully his. Lot, thinking only of himself, made a choice his entire culture would have deemed unthinkable.

God Reaffirms Promises to Abram

After Lot left, God spoke again to Abram, expanding on the promise made earlier. God's command to Abram to walk around the land likely came from the custom that a new landowner would walk the boundary of the land he was purchasing. God was telling Abram that he had given Abram that land.

The Jesus Connection

Jesus' message of an unselfish and servant heart is central to improving our relationships. Thank Jesus for showing us how to be servants to all, for his sake.

Think about a relationship that's important to you. How would it improve if you put each other first? Look for an opportunity in the coming week to put that other person first, and see if it changes anything. You can pray for that person and write your prayer here.

