

From the CALL OF ABRAHAM - To the Destruction of Sodom

Quote:

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:”

Hebrews 11:8, 9

Mark These notes in your margin in
Genesis 11-13:

Genesis 11:31

“to go into the land of Canaan” - The destination was not as yet known to Abram (Heb 11:8).

“Haran” - Means “crossroads”. All four men were now at a crossroads in life. Only some would be prepared to continue on and leave the world as God had called them to.

Genesis 11:27-13:18 - Abraham As a Stranger and Pilgrim

11:27-30 - Descendants of Terah

11:31-32 - First Call at Ur (See also Acts 7:2-3)

12:1-3 - Second Call at Haran

12:4-5 - Abram and Lot Enter Canaan

12:6-9 - The Promise Confirmed in the Land

12:10-20 - Abram in Egypt

13:1-13 - Lot Leaves Abram

13:14-18 - Abram Is Promised the Land For Ever

Genesis 12:1

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram” - Should be in the present tense. RV has “Yahweh said”. Here Yahweh gave Abram a message of hope and vision (vv2-3 - see Prov 29:18).

“Get thee out” - Lit - “Go for thyself” (See Acts 7:4). In order to become sons of God we all need to separate from anything that is holding us back - even family (2 Cor 6:16-18; Acts 15:14).

Genesis 13:3

“between Bethel and Hai” - See ch 12:8 - Bethel meaning “House of Ail” was on the west. Hai means “Ruin” was on the east. It was from here that Abram and Lot would separate and Lot journeyed east toward ruin (13:11).

Genesis 13:6 - Belongings and business had got in the way of the truth. Many of these belongings were obtained while they tarried in Haran (12:5), and while in Egypt (12:16).

Genesis 13:10 - "**Lot lifted up his eyes**" - Lot means "veiled". He failed to see the spiritual implications of the decisions he made. He was spiritually short sighted. Abram on the other hand looked up in v14 and saw a vision of the kingdom.

COLOUR "**lifted up his eyes**" in v10 RED and "**Lift up now thine eyes**" in v14 GREEN. and draw a line linking them.

Mark above or below Genesis 13 or on an insert

THE SEVEN STEPS OF LOT'S RUIN.

The lack of spiritual foresight, resulted in Lot making decisions which seemed right from a worldly perspective, but which brought spiritual ruin to an "ecclesia" that probably numbered more than fifty.

1. *There was STRIFE between the herdmen (Genesis 13:7):* The wealth they had acquired had gendered strife. Abram was keen to calm the situation (v8), but Lot seemed to do nothing to stop it. Strife is a work of the flesh (Gal 5:20; 1 Cor 3:3; Jas 3:16), and therefore these events mark the commencement of Lot's decline.
2. *He BEHELD the well watered plains (v.10):* The attractiveness of what Lot "beheld" caused him to fail to consider the dangers that were also there.
3. *He CHOSE the appealing plains (v.11):* cp Psa 119:30,173
4. *He JOURNEYED east towards the plains (v.11):* See Prov 27:10; Heb 10:25.
5. *He DWELT in the cities of the plains (v.12):* Note Psa 1:1; Ruth 1:2-4.
6. *He PITCHED his tent towards Sodom (v.12):* The decline continues when there is a preference for the world (Sodom) and all it has to offer than for Abram (or the ecclesia).
7. *He SAT IN THE GATE of Sodom (ch.19:1):* Now involved in the affairs of Sodom. His family had been so ensnared that they could not leave. These are a warning to people living at the end of any age: Lk 17:28-32; 21:34-35; Prov 7:6-23 - esp v23.

At this point - the mercy of Yahweh intervened and destroyed Sodom, rescuing Lot.