

God of Our Fathers: Genesis

Lesson 8: Abraham and Lot

Lesson Introduction

- Describe a relationship in which you typically took the back seat.
- How did you feel about the relationship?
- How was the situation resolved eventually?

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, learners will:

- Describe some of Lot's major characteristics
- Examine the relationship between Lot and Abraham
- Discuss the significance of Lot in the biblical account
- Express understanding of who God is

Background for the Scripture

We discovered in Genesis 11:27-28 that Abraham was the head of an extended family, which included his nephew Lot the son of Haran. Both Abraham and Lot were grazers, whose herds grew after the family settled in the Negev (Tullock, 1997, p. 46). Conflict between the herdsmen of Abraham and Lot began to grow over time; that's when uncle and nephew decided to part ways. Abraham settled the matter by giving Lot first choice of the land. Lot decided to move his household and his herds to the Jordan valley near Sodom; Abraham settled in the hills.

Metzger and Coogan reported: "Throughout these stories, Lot is portrayed as a less than heroic figure, who has no respect in his own family, is hesitant, and is tricked by his daughters" (Metzger & Coogan, 1993, p. 467). Another source has reported that in this text, Abraham's foresight stands in contrast to Lot's shortsightedness (Meeks, 1993, p. 21). Yet, Abraham maintained his concern for Lot throughout their relationship together, as evidenced by Abraham's rescue of Lot following his capture during a time of war.

Genesis 13 (KJV)

13 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

² And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

³ And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;

⁴ Unto the place of the altar, which he had make there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

⁵ And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

⁶ And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

⁷ And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

⁸ And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

⁹ Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

¹¹ Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

¹² Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

¹³ But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

¹⁴ And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

¹⁵ For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

¹⁶ And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

¹⁷ Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

¹⁸ Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

Examining the Scripture

1. Who was Lot? Describe some of his major characteristics.
2. What were some of the reasons that Lot and Abraham went their separate ways?

Applying the Scripture

1. Reflect on this statement: It has been suggested that Abraham did not begin to move forward until he cut ties with Lot.
2. Evaluate the statement above and find evidence in the scripture to support your position.

Quest to Know God Activity

1. What does this scriptural account reveal about God?
2. List two or three characteristics you discerned about God as you went through this lesson.
3. What statement can you make about the God of our fathers that you can pass down to future generations?