

JESUS OR THE WORLD!
GENESIS CH13:5-18

ILLUSTRATION

The Real and fake marshmallows!

ABRAM SPEAKS! V5-9

Writers Richard and Tricia Johnson put it this way:

- “We might imagine Abram with his wife, nephew and a few servants travelling the land as a small, vulnerable group. But in fact 'Abram PLC' is a major organization with a large annual turnover, and employs hundreds of people; in Ch23:6 the Hittites describe him as 'a mighty prince' among them. Even allowing for oriental flattery, Abram is clearly a feared, or revered, figure.
- In Ch14:14 he sends out a military force of over three hundred trained men 'born in his household', so he must have been the head of a community of around a thousand people.
- It is, then, all the more to his credit that he chooses to live the life of a semi-nomad rather than building a secure city, for he senses that such a life is more appropriate to his calling from God.
- The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that 'he lived in tents ... For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God' (Hebrews Ch11:9-10). He wants to be free to move, not just when his flocks demand it, but also when his walk with God, his spiritual pilgrimage, demands it.
- By now Lot and Abram have both built up great wealth (verse 5). Not surprisingly, in a land of scarce resources, with each group needing access to pasture lands and water, quarrels break out between the herdsmen (verse 7). Inevitably, the groups have to separate before the situation becomes more serious (compare Ch36:7)” (Cited in Discovering Genesis, Richard and Tricia Johnson, PG 74).

LOT SPEAKS! V10-13

- Is Lot a righteous man? According to 2nd Peter Ch2:7-8 ***“and he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);”*** - Yes!
- Here Lot, sees with his eyes, only the things he wants to see!
- Lot lifted his eyes, and saw that the Jordan Valley was like the Garden of the Lord (Eden, but failed to recognise the evil in the Garden, Satan, and the evil in Sodom, “great sinners.”
- ***A.W. Tozier said “The man or woman who is wholly and joyously surrendered to Christ can’t make a wrong choice.”***
- East – Ch3:24, Ch4:16, Ch11:2 + Ch13:11! - East, at this point is moving further away from God's presence in His Garden – Adam and Eve, Cain, Just before the tower of Babel, and now Lot! What do you think will happen to him?
- Lot ends up living in Sodom – Ch14:12; Ch19:3-11; and then living outside of

the promised land Ch19:30!

- And that is the last time we hear of Lot in Genesis! (He is also mentioned in Deuteronomy 2:9, 19; Psalm 83:8; Luke 17:28-29, 32; and 2 Peter 2:7)

GOD SPEAKS! V14-18

- Now God speaks! v14-v18!
- God instructs Abram to lift up his eyes (like Lot did in Ch13:10, only seeing what he wanted to see! - a valley with plenty of water, but full of “wicked, great sinners against the Lord!)
- Abram faced the test of the famine (Ch12:10 - Ch13:4) and failed, but now faced the test of the family feud, and passes (Ch13:5-18)!
- From his elevated position, as Bethel is one of the highest places in Israel, sitting at an elevation of 2900 ft. (886 m. - Snowdon is 3559 ft – 1085 m.) above sea level, Abram looks v14 – north, south, east and west! Scientists say we can on a clear day from 3000 Ft we ***could see as far as 72 miles!***
- Israel lies at the junction of three continents: Europe, Asia and Africa. Long and narrow in shape, the country is about 290 miles in length and 85 miles in width at its widest point! ***All the land from there that Abram could see, God promised to him!***
- ***Imagine going up Snowdon and looking out on a clear day, and God promising you, all the land that you see!***
- ***V16 – And now, God promises Abram that his offspring will be too many to count!***
- Now walk through the land, the land that will be yours and your off spring, that you just can't count!
- V18 – No wonder Abram builds his 3rd altar to God after - Ch12:7 – Shechem; Ch12:8 – Bethel; and now here Ch13:18 - Hebron

APPLICATION

1. Abram is learning through the different tests, to trust God more!
2. He doesn't take matters into his own hands, but leaves it to the Lord!
3. He travels through the land and builds another altar to God, to worship Him!