

## • LESSON 9 (March 1) • Genesis 13-14 •

# The Beginning of Lot's Troubles

So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. (Gen 13:1)

Let's take a moment to review:

- ❖ How had Abram come to be in Egypt?
- ❖ Who was Abram's wife?
- ❖ Who was Lot?

Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD. And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land. (Gen 13:2-7)

- ❖ How had Abram come to be so very rich?
- ❖ What might we most naturally expect to hear Abram say to Lot in view of the situation being described? And what right would Abram have to say what might come most naturally?

Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD. (Gen 13:8-13)

- ❖ What does this encounter reveal to us about Abram? And about Lot?

The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.” So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD. (Gen 13:14-18)

- ❖ What is the LORD promising Abram?
- ❖ What does the LORD want *from* Abram?

Take the time to carefully read Genesis 14.

- ❖ What happens to Lot in the beautiful Jordan Valley?
- ❖ In Genesis 14:13, Abram is referred to as “the Hebrew” for the first time. What does that designation mean?
- ❖ How is Lot rescued and in what way is this an early fulfillment of God’s promises to Abram?

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley). And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Possessor of heaven and earth;  
and blessed be God Most High,  
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.” But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share.” (Gen 14:17-24)

- ❖ It is fascinating to realize that reference to this Melchizedek will show up long after the days of Abram (Psa 110:1-4; Heb 5:1-10; 6:19-20; 7:1-22). Who was this man and why is he referenced in such profoundly important terms in connection with Jesus?