

Lesson VII.

LOT'S CHOICE

February 17, 1907

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—From Bethel, Abram "journeyed . . . toward the South" (Gen. 12 : 9, Rev. Ver.), that is, the southern district of Judah, known as the Negeb. In consequence of a famine such as not infrequently occurred in Palestine, which depends upon the rainfall for its fertility, Abram, accompanied by Sarai and Lot, and taking all their followers and possessions, went to Egypt, where famines were extremely rare, owing to the yearly rise of the Nile. Gen. 12 : 10-17 tells of Abram's deceit and its consequences. Abram is sent away from Egypt, with his wife and nephew and all his possessions.

GOLDEN TEXT—Take heed, and beware of covetousness.—Luke 12 : 15

Memorize vs. 8, 9. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 13 : 1-13. Read Genesis, chs. 13, 14, 19.

1 And A'bram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the ¹south.

2 And A'bram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

3 And he went on his journeys from the ¹south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and ²Hai.

4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first : and there A'bram called on the name of the LORD.

5 And Lot also, which went with A'bram, 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 A'bram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle : and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

Revised Version—¹South (capital S); ²Hai; ³are; ⁴take the right hand; ⁵Plain (capital P); ⁶like the; ⁷goest; ⁸S.; ⁹as far as Sodom; ¹⁰Now.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I. B. R. A.)—M.—Lot's choice, Gen. 13 : 1-9. T.—Lot's choice, Gen. 13 : 10-18. W.—Abram rescues Lot, Gen. 14 : 8-16. Th.—God's presence sought, Ex. 33 : 12-19. F.—Evil companionship, 2 Cor. 6 : 11-18. S.—The right way, Ps. 1. S.—Danger of covetousness, 1 Tim. 6 : 3-12.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE JOURNEY.—1-5. Egypt; "a great grain-producing country, and so a natural refuge in time of famine" (compare Gen. 41 : 37; 42 : 1, 2). **The South** (Rev. Ver.); the Negeb (see Between the Lessons). Abram . . . very rich. Chap. 12 : 16 tells of the possessions which Abram "had", that is, "received" from Pharaoh. **His journeys**; literally, pluckings up, that is, of the tent pegs, when it was time to begin their march. "Journey" here seems to mean a day's travel. **Even to Beth-el**; retracing the route by which he had gone into Egypt. **At the beginning**; when first he had come into Canaan from Haran. **Called on . . . the Lord**; against whom he had so grievously sinned in Egypt. Abram's return from Egypt to Bethel is a picture of the sinner's return from his wanderings to God (see Luke 15 : 11-24).

II. THE STRIFE.—6, 7. **Bear them**; furnish water and pasture for their numerous flocks and herds. **Substance**; wealth, consisting mainly in cattle and sheep. **Strife**; probably about the water supply, v. 10. "Wells are still a common subject of contention amongst Arab tribes." **The Canaanite**; a general name for the inhabitants of Palestine before Abram's descendants got possession of it. **The Perizzite**; supposed by some to be the name of a separate tribe dwelling about Bethel, by others, to denote inhabitants of the country as distinguished from dwellers in the town.

III. THE OFFER.—8-10. **Brethren**; near relatives. **The whole land**; "the unoccupied country, where they could pasture their cattle"

8 And A'bram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we ³be brethren.

9 ¹Is 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 ⁴depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the ⁵plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, ⁶even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou ⁷comest unto Zoar.

11 ⁸Then Lot chose him all the ⁵plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east : and they separated themselves the one from the other.

12 A'bram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the ⁵plain, and pitched his tent ⁹toward Sodom.

13 ¹⁰But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.

Before thee. Abram, though the older and more powerful of the two, with generous courtesy, offers Lot his choice. **Lifted up his eyes**; looked abroad, perhaps from a conspicuous hill which stands a little east of Bethel.



"LET THERE BE NO STRIFE, I PRAY THEE"

From the hill near Hebron, where Abram and Lot stood, the view includes the beautiful and fertile plains of the Jordan valley. Sodom and Gomorrah were still standing.

The description of the scene emphasizes Abram's generosity and Lot's grasping greed. **Sodom . . . Gomorrah**; cities lying to the south of the Dead Sea. **Garden of the Lord**; Eden. **Egypt**; noted (see Between the Lessons) for its fertility. **Zoar**;

east of Bethel. **Plain of Jordan**; the lower and broader part of the Jordan valley, beginning about 25 miles north of the Dead Sea, and supposed by some to include the Dead Sea itself and the small plain at its southern end. **Well watered**; a most desirable district. In Ezek.

16 : 48-50, the sin of Sodom is traced back to its material prosperity and its ease of living. The description of the scene emphasizes Abram's generosity and Lot's grasping greed. **Sodom . . . Gomorrah**; cities lying to the south of the Dead Sea. **Garden of the Lord**; Eden. **Egypt**; noted (see Between the Lessons) for its fertility. **Zoar**;