

Lesson II.

ABRAM HELPING LOT

October 13, 1918

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Abram's journey southward was extended as far as Egypt, whither Abram went because of famine in Canaan. Fearing that the Egyptians might covet Sarah, his wife, for her beauty and kill him to get possession of her, he resorted to deceit. Pharaoh discovered this deceit through the plagues which God sent, and dismissed Abram from Egypt. From Egypt, he returned to the altar he had built between Bethel and Ai and worshiped God. Chs. 12 : 10 to 13 : 4.

GOLDEN TEXT—A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.—Proverbs 17 : 17.

*Memorize Matt. 25 : 32, 33. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 13 : 5-11 ; 14 : 14-16.

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.

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 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 Jor'dan, that it was well watered every where,

Revised Version—¹are ; ²take the right ; ³Plain (capital "P") ; ⁴like the ; ⁵goest ; ⁶so Lot ; ⁷led forth his trained men ; ⁸Omit own ; ⁹as far as Dan ; ¹⁰by night ; ¹¹Omit by night.

before the Lord destroyed Sod'om and Gomor'rah, ⁴even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of E'gypt, as thou comest unto Zo'ar.

11. ⁶Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jor'dan ; and Lot journeyed east : and they separated themselves the one from the other.

Ch. 14 : 14 And when A'bram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.

15 And he divided himself against them¹⁰, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Ho'bah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.

16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Abram helping Lot, Gen. 13 : 5-11 ; 14 : 14-16.

T.—Abram rewarded for help, Gen. 13 : 12-18.

W.—The need of others revealed, Gen. 13 : 16-23.

S.—Providing for the home, 1 Tim. 5 : 1-8.

Th.—Abram praying for others, Gen. 18:23-33.

F.—Serving others, Rom. 12 : 9-21.

S.—Devotion to parents, Matt. 15 : 1-9.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

1. **THE SEPARATION.**—5-7. Lot also... had flocks. He had a separate establishment of his own and shared in the blessings of Abram. Not able to bear them. It was impossible to procure water and pasturage while traveling together. Prosperity often has drawbacks. There was... strife ; about the watering of the cattle. Such quarrels were common. The herdsmen of Genar and Isaac quarreled, Gen. 26 : 20. Abram reproved Abimelech regarding the well of water, Gen. 21 : 25. Moses came to the rescue of the priest of Midian's daughters against the shepherds, Ex. 2 : 17. The Canaanite ; the people of the land who dwelt in walled cities. Perizzite ; the "hamlet-dwellers" or inhabitants of the open villages and country. The presence of these people would intensify the difficulty about pasture and water. Abraham and Lot had not the country to themselves. Moreover, for Abram and Lot to quarrel was dangerous, because these natives of the land, seeing their division and coveting their possessions, might attack them.

8, 9. Abram said unto Lot. Abram sees the difficulty and suggests a solution. Let there be no strife... we be brethren. Strife was unseemly for kinsfolk, as well as dangerous. Whole land before thee ; meaning the unoccupied pastureland. Orientals have a dignified, elaborate way of conducting negotiations. Separate thyself ; the only practical solution. If thou wilt take the left ; generous as well as practical : another fine characteristic of Abram. The

land was his by promise. By relationship, destiny, character, position, he is the greater. Lot the lesser but he treats Lot as more than an equal. He is willing to make a sacrifice to avoid strife.

10. Lot lifted up his eyes ; accepting the generous offer.

All the plain of Jordan. The high ground at Bethel commanded an extensive view. Well watered ; by the Jordan and its tributaries,—ideal pasture lands. Lot looks shrewdly and selfishly. Before

the Lord destroyed Sodom ; leaving a scene of desolation. As the garden of the Lord ; as the Garden of Eden. Like the land of Egypt ; famous for its rich soil. Comest unto Zoar ; probably Zoan, a fertile district near the delta of the Nile.

11. Lot chose him all. Abram made a generous offer. Lot had the opportunity of making a generous choice. He met generosity with selfishness. Lot's



"LET THERE BE NO STRIFE, I PRAY THEE"

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto.