

## Lesson V.

## ABRAM AND LOT

August 4, 1901

Genesis 13: 1-18. Vs. 7 to 18 only printed, as recommended by the International S.S. Lesson Committee. Commit to memory vs. 7-9. Read Genesis chs. 13, 14.

7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Ab'ram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle; and the Ca'naanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

8 And Ab'ram 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 Jo'r'dan, that it was well watered everywhere, before the Lord destroyed Sod'om and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zo'ar.

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

**Revised Version**—1 Arc; 2 Take; 3 Like; 4 Guest; 5 So; 6 Moved; 7 As far as; 8 Now; 9 Against; 10 By the oaks; 11 Arc.

## EXPLANATION

**Connection**—Shortly after the events of our last lesson, Abram went down to Egypt with his whole household, leaving the land of promise for a time. This was because of a famine (Gen. 12: 10). Later he returned and took up his residence in Canaan, where he remained till his death.

1-6 Abram, though a man of faith, was by no means perfect. He was led into sad deception in Egypt, and through him Sarai, his wife, also (ch. 12: 11-18). Pharaoh, King of Egypt, sent him away and he returned into the south: the southern part of the land of Canaan. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. In these the possessions of flockmasters consisted. Silver and gold were used for ornaments and money. Having reached Canaan, he went on his journeys; journeying from station to station as his herds and flocks needed pasturage, even to Bethel, afterwards a memorable place. (see last lesson, v. 8.) There, at the altar which he had built (ch. 12: 7), he called upon the name of the Lord. This is worthy of special mention here, because of his lapse in Egypt (noted above). Lot, his nephew, had now become rich in his own right (v. 6, and "required miles of grazing ground," so that there was a scarcity of the necessary subsistence for their flocks, because the land was overcrowded (compare ch. 36: 7); for their substance was great. They were experiencing the troubles of prosperity.

7. There was a strife between the herdmen. Quite naturally they felt responsibility each for their own master's property and strove for the best situation, with the use of wells for watering. This was not an uncommon experience at this period. (Ch. 21: 25; 26: 19-22; Ex. 2: 16, 17.) The Canaanite the "lowlander" and the Perizzite the "highlander" dwelled in the land. These tribes are taken to represent all the people of the land. It was shameful and perilous to quarrel in the face of such foes.

8, 9. Let there be no strife, I pray thee. Abram was the stronger of the two and might have taken his own way. He was also the wiser and more generous and so sought for peace. We be brethren;

12 Ab'ram dwelled in the land of Ca'naan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sod'om.

13 But the men of Sod'om were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.

14 And the Lord said unto Ab'ram, 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 Ab'ram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mam're, which is in He'bron, and built there an altar unto the Lord.

and should therefore love one another. (Ex. 2: 13; Ps. 133: 1; Acts 7: 26.) If thou wilt take the left hand. He offers Lot his choice. He is willing to take what remains for the sake of peace. (Rom. 12: 18; Heb. 12: 14.)

10, 11. Beheld all the plain of Jordan. It was a fertile region, rich in pasturage, with abundant water supply. Before the Lord destroyed Sod'om and Gomorrah; then flourishing cities. The garden of the Lord; an expression denoting the highest fertility and beauty. Like the land of Egypt; then and still very fertile. Zoar; the southern limit of this fertile plain of Jordan (Gen. 19: 22). Then Lot chose him all the plain; without reference to the rights of Abram, thinking of self only.

12, 13. Lot . . . pitched his tent toward Sod'om; and this notwithstanding the fact that the men of Sod'om were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly. His choice was, worldly advantage, at any cost. How dreadful that cost was, we shall learn in a subsequent lesson.

14, 15. The Lord said unto Abraham. Note that God waited till Abram was separated from Lot and had proved his faith by his choice. Then he richly rewarded him. Abram had the blessing of both Matt. 5: 9 and 5: 5. For all the land which thou seest. This is taken to represent the whole land of Canaan, the "promised land."

16, 17. I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth. As the land was large, so would Abram's posterity be for its occupation. This promise reached out still further. It referred to his spiritual posterity. (Ch. 22: 17; 26: 4 and 28: 14; Luke 1: 55; Gal. 3: 29.) Walk through the land. He is to survey it all deliberately, that his faith in the promise may be strengthened, and that he may the better understand how great a promise it is.

18. By the oaks of Mam're (Rev. Ver.). A well, perhaps dating back to Abram's time, is still there and Hebron is now called El-Kuilil, "The Friend," after Abram, the friend of God; so long lingers the memory of a good name.