

June 28, 1861.

THE SEPARATION OF LOT AND ABRAHAM.—GEN. 13 Chap.

I. While Abraham was on his journey to the promised land there was a famine in the country through which he passed. His faith in God's power failed him in these circumstances and he went aside into Egypt. His faith failed him again when in Egypt, chap. xii. 14-20, and after remaining but a short time, he returned to Bethel where he had been before he set out to Egypt. He made no progress in departing from the path of duty.

Abraham was *very rich*, v. 2. Lot was not rich but had some possessions. He does not appear to have been married but had herdmen. Though not so rich as Abraham, the possessions of both were so great that they could not dwell together.

II. There was strife between Abraham and Lot's herdmen, and between Lot and Abraham, on their account. Lot doubtless began the strife with Abraham in defence of his herdsmen, but by a soft answer he turned away wrath, v. 8. Abraham pled that they were brethren, as descended from the same parents, Gen. xi. 27. Followers of the same Lord, Psal. cxxxiii. 1, therefore they should not quarrel.

"The Canaanite and perizzite were then in the land." This is inserted by the inspired writer, as if to shew that wrong as it was in itself for brethren to strive, it was still more so in the presence of idolators.

III. Lot selfishly took the offer which his uncle gave him, v. 9. He ought to have given his uncle, as the elder and richer, the preference. He looked about him and chose a place well adapted for the pasturage of flocks, and for the increase of his substance. He was not at all influenced by higher considerations, and his choice involved serious, temporal, and spiritual injury.

He seems to have separated from Abraham without compunction, and dwelt among the wicked without consideration.

IV. When Lot left Abraham the Lord came to him, v. 14. Lot chose his portion for himself, but God chose the portion for Abraham. It was a larger portion. It was an enduring portion. It included not only land, but children. Abraham removed from Bethel to Mamre, and built there an altar to the Lord, v. 14-18.

V. Abraham was a believer. Everywhere

he had his altar, chap. xii. 8; xiii. 4-18. He was given to prayer, v. 4. He was humble minded, v. 8, and was ready to make sacrifice for peace, v. 9.

Lot also was a believer, 2 Peter ii. 7, but he did not walk so close with God. In his conduct he set the temporal before the spiritual, the things of time before those of eternity. And his sad experience is a warning to all others, to avoid the rock on which he split.

LOT IN SODOM.

CHAPTER, XIII. 10.

How hurtful was the choice of Lot,  
Who took up his abode  
(Because it was a fruitful spot)  
With them who fear'd not God!

A pris'ner he was quickly made,  
Bereav'd of all his store;  
And, but for Abram's timely aid,  
He had return'd no more.

Yet still he seem'd resolv'd to stay,  
As if it were his rest;  
Although their sins from day to day†  
His righteous soul distress'd.

A while he stay'd, with anxious mind,  
Expos'd to scorn and strife;  
At last he left his all behind,  
And fled to save his life.

In vain his sons-in-law he warn'd,  
They thought he told but dreams;  
His daughters, too, of them had learn'd,  
And perish'd in the flames.

His wife escap'd a little way,  
But died for looking back;  
Does not her case to pilgrims say,  
"Beware of growing slack!"

Yea, Lot himself could lug'ring stand,  
Though vengeance was in view;  
'Twas mercy pluck'd him by the hand,  
Or he had perish'd too.

The doom of Sodom will be ours,  
If to the earth we cleave:  
Lord, quicken all our drowsy powers,  
To flee to thee, and live.

† 2 Peter ii. 8.