

Abraham and Lot – A Contrast in Character

Genesis 13



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¹ So Abram went up from Egypt into the Negev. He took his wife and all his possessions with him, as well as Lot. ² (Now Abram was very wealthy in livestock, silver, and gold.) ³ And he journeyed from place to place from the Negev as far as Bethel. He returned to the place where he had pitched his tent at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai. ⁴ This was the place where he had first built the altar, and there Abram worshiped the Lord.



⁵ Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents. ⁶ But the land could not support them while they were living side by side. Because their possessions were so great, they were not able to live alongside one another. ⁷ So there were quarrels between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen. (Now the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land at that time.)



⁸ Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no quarreling between me and you, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are close relatives. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself now from me. If you go to the left, then I’ll go to the right, but if you go to the right, then I’ll go to the left.”



¹⁰ Lot looked up and saw the whole region of the Jordan. He noticed that all of it was well-watered (before the Lord obliterated Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, all the way to Zoar. ¹¹ Lot chose for himself the whole region of the Jordan and traveled toward the east. So the relatives separated from each other.



¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, but Lot settled among the cities of the Jordan plain and pitched his tents next to Sodom.
¹³ (Now the people of Sodom were extremely wicked rebels against the Lord.)



¹⁴ After Lot had departed, the Lord said to Abram, “Look from the place where you stand to the north, south, east, and west. ¹⁵ I will give all the land that you see to you and your descendants forever. ¹⁶ And I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone is able to count the dust of the earth, then your descendants also can be counted.



¹⁷ Get up and walk throughout the land, for I will give it to you.” ¹⁸ So Abram moved his tents and went to live by the oaks of Mamre in Hebron, and he built an altar to the Lord there.



"You cannot grasp the perishable in one hand and the immortal in the other. Eventually you'll have to let go of one to grasp the other. Which will be worth grasping with both hands?"

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE CLING
TO EGYPT**

Abram Brought Some of Egypt Back With Him.

^{13:1} So Abram went up from Egypt into the Negev. He took his wife and all his possessions with him, as well as Lot.
² (Now Abram was very wealthy in livestock, silver, and gold.)

- Abram leaves Egypt behind.
- But his Family cannot let go of Egypt
 - Sarah has Hagar
 - Lot's has Egypt's wealth and memories



Crave to Experience God more than the Experience of Egypt

³ And he journeyed from place to place from the Negev as far as Bethel. He returned to the place where he had pitched his tent at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai. ⁴ This was the place where he had first built the altar, and there Abram worshiped the Lord.

- Abram craved to leave Egypt behind and re-experience God.
- He went to the place where he had an earlier experienced with God.
- He worshiped him again.

Abram's heart focus was on God, not Egypt.

Love of Egypt Divides Families

⁵ Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents. ⁶ But the land could not support them while they were living side by side. Because their possessions were so great, they were not able to live alongside one another.

- Lot was occupied with the perishables
- Lot was in line for Abram's inheritance.
- What Lot had, he gained by being "in" the blessing of Abram.



Focus on Egypt causes conflict

⁷ So there were quarrels between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen. (Now the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land at that time.)

- Putting Egypt before family causes fighting.
- Non-family takes notice of the family quarrels.



Place God before Egypt – resolve conflict

⁸ Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no quarreling between me and you, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are close relatives.

- Abram’s focus on his God put him above (rather than “in” the quarreling).
- Family peace is more important than holding onto Egypt.



Peace in God is better than the riches of Egypt

⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself now from me. If you go to the left, then I'll go to the right, but if you go to the right, then I'll go to the left."

- Abram gives Lot Egypt so he can gain God.
- Abram had wisdom to know that Egypt's grasp on Lot was stronger than God's.



The Carnal Man Sees Egypt

¹⁰ Lot looked up and saw the whole region of the Jordan. He noticed that all of it was well-watered (before the Lord obliterated Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, all the way to Zoar.

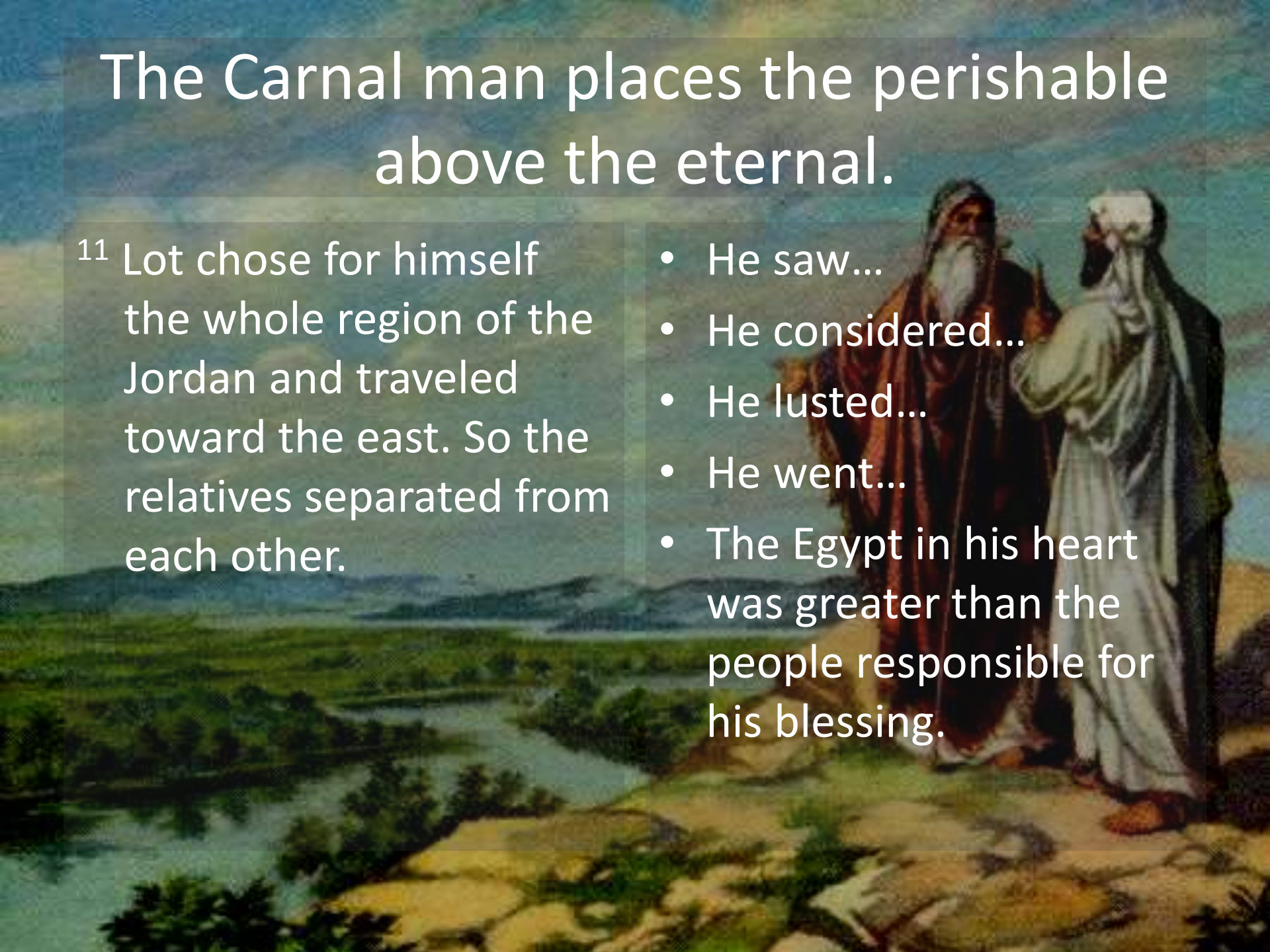
- Lot looked and saw...
- The physical, the lure and beauty, opportunity, riches.
- He was blinded to the dangers of evils that lured him.



The Carnal man places the perishable above the eternal.

¹¹ Lot chose for himself the whole region of the Jordan and traveled toward the east. So the relatives separated from each other.

- He saw...
- He considered...
- He lusted...
- He went...
- The Egypt in his heart was greater than the people responsible for his blessing.



The closer we get to sin the farther
we get from God.

¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, but Lot settled among the cities of the Jordan plain and pitched his tents next to Sodom. ¹³ (Now the people of Sodom were extremely wicked rebels against the Lord.)

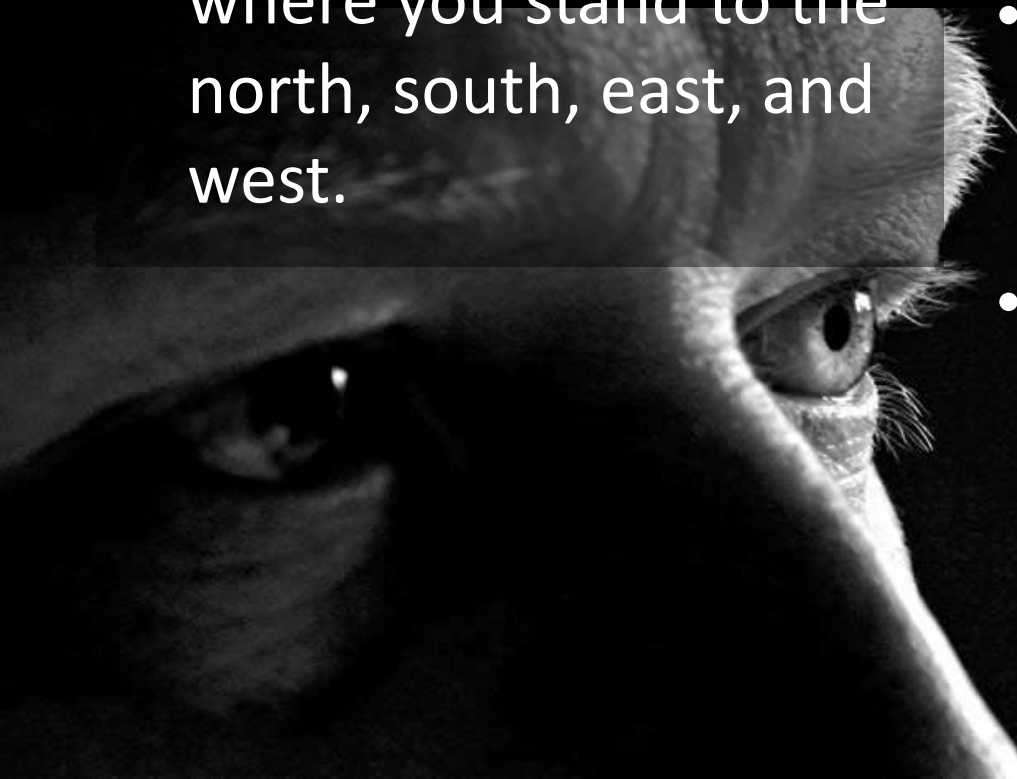
- He saw Sodom, He moved next to Sodom, Later he'd move into Sodom
- The closer we get to the promise of the world, the farther we get from God's promise.

MUSIC BY ROBERT RODRIGUEZ,
JOHN DEBNEY AND GRAEME REVELL

The eyes of faith see bigger and better things

¹⁴ After Lot had departed, the Lord said to Abram, “Look from the place where you stand to the north, south, east, and west.

- Lot’s presence impeded Abram’s communion with God.
- God opens and directs the eyes of those who seek Him.
- The Spiritual man sees a bigger world than the carnal man.



God Promises More than Abram's Physical eyes can see.

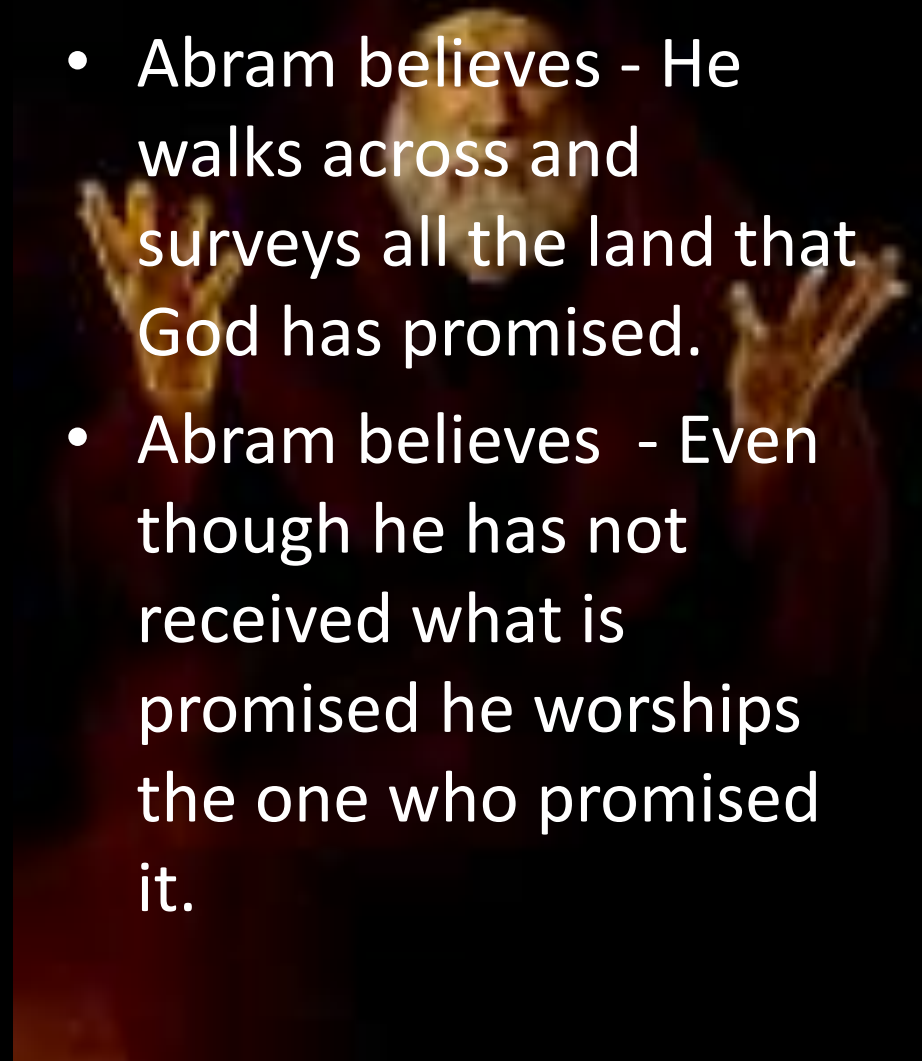
¹⁵ I will give all the land that you see to you and your descendants forever. ¹⁶ And I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone is able to count the dust of the earth, then your descendants also can be counted.

- The carnal man wants it all and in the end gets little or nothing.
- The Spiritual man wants God. God gives him all the carnal man wants, plus what he cannot see.
- Abram gets:
 - Fellowship with God
 - Promise of all the land
 - Promise of more descendants than he could count.

The Spiritual Man Acts on his Belief

¹⁷ Get up and walk throughout the land, for I will give it to you.” ¹⁸
So Abram moved his tents and went to live by the oaks of Mamre in Hebron, and he built an altar to the Lord there.

- Abram believes - He walks across and surveys all the land that God has promised.
- Abram believes - Even though he has not received what is promised he worships the one who promised it.



Lot was a Righteous but Carnal Man

2Pe 2:5-10 and if he turned to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when he condemned them to destruction, having appointed them to serve as an example to future generations of the ungodly, **and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man in anguish over the debauched lifestyle of lawless men**, (for while he lived among them day after day, that righteous man was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) if so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from their trials, and to reserve the unrighteous for punishment at the day of judgment, especially those who indulge their fleshly desires and who despise authority.

Be a Lot? Or Be an Abram?

- Be A Lot?
 - Keep Egypt in your heart
 - Desire what the eyes of the flesh offers
 - Loose it all
- Be an Abram?
 - Leave Egypt behind and seek God
 - Desire what only the eyes of faith can see
 - Get Fellowship with God and see where his eyes will direct you



“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot loose”



JIM ELLIOT