

# Genesis 13:14-14:17—Lot Is Captured, Abram Rescues Lot

## Memory Verses

Genesis 12:1-3, 7 NKJV—*The unconditional promises given to Abraham*

Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> **I will** make you a great nation; **I will** bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> **I will** bless those who bless you, and **I will** curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants **I will** give this land.”

## Revision

**Genesis 13:1-13 NKJV**

**Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. <sup>2</sup> Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. <sup>3</sup> And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, <sup>4</sup> to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.**

**<sup>5</sup> Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. <sup>6</sup> Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. <sup>7</sup> And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.**

**<sup>8</sup> So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. <sup>9</sup> Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.”**

**<sup>10</sup> And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. <sup>11</sup> Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup> Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup> But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.**

## *The unintended and unforeseen consequences of sin*

Last time we saw that Abram and Lot’s ill gotten gain accumulated from their time spent in evil and worldly environments (Haran and Egypt), because of Abram’s unbelief, brought them grief. Abram and Lot’s servants began fighting over limited pasture because of the multitude of livestock that they had acquired while out of fellowship with God, and now this ill gotten gain is causing them to split up. This is a good example of how money is a good slave, but a terrible master. The Bible calls the worship of wealth idolatry. Money has been the cause of many broken relationships and marriages.

Ephesians 5:5 NLT

You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

Lot is an example of a believer whose faith has been shipwrecked. Lot will make it to heaven, but he won’t have any reward—he’ll have nothing to show for his life.

### Sin is it's own punishment

The Bible also tells us that God doesn't need to do much to discipline us when we sin, because generally speaking, the natural consequences of sin are severe enough to wake us up to why God says that it is wrong. Remember that God doesn't arbitrarily make up rules for what is right and wrong—God is not a cosmic “kill-joy” who does everything He can to stop us from enjoying ourselves. Rather, God wants to protect us from those things that will hurt us, so He defines those hurtful things as being sinful. And like any loving Father would, God tells us to stay away from them.

Proverbs 5:22-23 NLT

An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him. <sup>23</sup> He will die for lack of self-control; he will be lost because of his great foolishness.

### Repentance is returning to your First Love (choosing to put God first once more)

Remember, we serve who or what we choose to love the most. Abram returned to his First Love, Lot on the other hand, did not. Abram gave up worrying about temporary things, while Lot was still focused on increasing his wealth. Jesus warned about having money as an idol. An idol is anything that we choose to love more than God.

Matthew 6:24-26 AMP

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions, or whatever is trusted in).

<sup>25</sup> Therefore I tell you, stop being perpetually uneasy (anxious and worried) about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; or about your body, what you shall put on [*this describes Lot*]. Is not life greater [in quality] than food, and the body [far above and more excellent] than clothing?

<sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father keeps feeding them. Are you not worth much more than they?

### We become like what we serve

Remember, we become like what we serve. If we serve God with all our body, soul, mind, and strength, we become like God—kind, selfless, intelligent, articulate, powerful, self-controlled, wise, and most importantly free from the negative, destructive, and addictive power, influence, and consequences of sin. We saw that Abram repented of his sin of idolatry and had started to grow into a true man of God, making wise and selfless decisions, becoming a great leader, and being concerned about how what he did affected those around him, especially any unbelievers.

Lot on the other hand did not repent of his idolatry. So instead of becoming more like his Saviour, he became more like, and increasingly a slave to, his idol—his wealth. Consider the following Scriptures that warn us about having idols or habitual sin in our lives.

John 8:34

Jesus replied, “**I tell you the truth, everyone who sins [habitually] is a slave of sin.**”

2 Peter 2:19-22 NLT

They [the false teachers] promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. **For you are a slave to whatever controls you.** <sup>20</sup> **And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before.**

<sup>21</sup> It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to know it and then reject the command they were given to live a holy life. <sup>22</sup> They prove the truth of this proverb: “A dog returns to its vomit.” And another says, “A washed pig returns to the mud.”

Romans 6:16 NLT

Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? **You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death**, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

Romans 1:21-23 NLT

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. **As a result, their minds became dark and confused.** <sup>22</sup> **Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools.** <sup>23</sup> And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

Daniel 5:23b NKJV

And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, **which do not see or hear or know**; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.

Psalms 115:1-8 NKJV

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth. <sup>2</sup> Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?" <sup>3</sup> But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

<sup>4</sup> Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. <sup>5</sup> **They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; <sup>6</sup> they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; <sup>7</sup> they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat.** <sup>8</sup> **Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.**

Isaiah 37:18-20 NLT

"It is true, LORD, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed all these nations. <sup>19</sup> And they have thrown the gods of these nations into the fire and burned them. But of course the Assyrians could destroy them! They were not gods at all—only idols of wood and stone **shaped by human hands.** <sup>20</sup> Now, O LORD our God, rescue us from his power; then all the kingdoms of the earth will know that You alone, O LORD, are God."

Habakkuk 2:18-20 NLT

**"What good is an idol carved by man, or a cast image that deceives you? How foolish to trust in your own creation—a god that can't even talk!** <sup>19</sup> What sorrow awaits you who say to wooden idols, 'Wake up and save us!' To speechless stone images you say, 'Rise up and teach us!' Can an idol tell you what to do? They may be overlaid with gold and silver, **but they are lifeless inside.**

<sup>20</sup> But the LORD is in His holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."

Psalms 115:8 says that, **"Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them."** So what can we learn about how worshipping idols (habitual sin or addiction) affects us, how they change us and what they conform us to be like:

- A. John 8:34, 2 Peter 2:19—We will become enslaved or addicted to our idols.
- B. 2 Peter 2:20-22—A believer who chooses habitual sin will make an absolute mess of their lives. Practically speaking (not eternally), they are worse off than if they had stayed an unbeliever. Why? Because Satan hates believers and will do everything he can to utterly destroy their lives, and make their lives as miserable and useless as possible while living down here on this earth.

- C. Romans 6:16—Addiction, habitual sin, or idols will lead to death, practically speaking, meaning a wasted and miserable life (a believer can never lose their salvation, they cannot become unsealed—see Ephesians 4:30 and 2 Timothy 2:19)
- D. Romans 1:21-23—Sin causes the mind of any sinner to become dark and confused. They claim to be wise, but actually are utter fools.
- E. Daniel 5:23b—The believer addicted to any sin will cease to see, hear, or know the spiritual truth that can set them free and bring them joy.
- F. Psalm 115:1-8—Idolatry or habitual sin will cause us to lose function and usefulness for the kingdom of God. We will become spiritually “senseless”, unable to sense or respond to the things of God: **“They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; <sup>6</sup> they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; <sup>7</sup> they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat.”**
- G. Isaiah 37:18-20—Idols are made in the image of a man—they are **“shaped by human hands”**—they are a reflection of man’s evil desires and his evil nature. What a man worships reveals his heart—who he is and what he loves.
- H. Habakkuk 2:18-20—Idols are deceptive and will lead you away from the truth. Idols are dead on the inside; like satan, they only kill, steal, and destroy (see John 10:10).

Unfortunately, as we continue in Genesis, we will see that all of these are true for Lot.

### **Outline: (Genesis 13:14-14:17)**

1. God repeats His unconditional promise of the land and nation of Israel to Abram (13:14-17)
2. Abram obeys God and builds a new altar (13:18)
3. Lot is taken captive and then rescued by Abram (14:1-17)

### **1. God repeats His unconditional promise of the land and nation of Israel to Abraham**

#### **Genesis 13:14-17 NKJV**

**And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; <sup>15</sup> for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. <sup>16</sup> And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. <sup>17</sup> Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.”**

v 14 **And the LORD said to Abram**: This time, God doesn’t *appear* to Abram, but rather only speaks to him. How God did this, we don’t know, but it could have been a vision (while Abram was awake), or via a dream (while Abram was asleep), or an audible voice.

v 14 **After Lot had separated from him**: Here we see again that God waits for Abram to obey before He gives further revelation of Himself to Abram—**after Lot had separated from him**. This is also what happened back in Genesis 12:7, when God patiently waited for Abram to obey His initial command to actually enter the land of Canaan. God then told Abram specifically which land he and his descendants were to inherit forever—the land of Canaan. As mentioned previously, this is the way that God works; God gives a command, a revelation of Himself, and it’s only when we have obeyed God’s previous command that we then receive more revelation from God.

What is also very interesting here is that Abram is willing to give up part of the land that was promised to him. But what does God do? God promises him the entire land, including the portion that Lot had claimed—God gives back to Abram what he was willing to give up, plus everything else (Later Lot’s descendants, the nations of Ammon and Moab, will settle outside of the Promised Land). We need to learn that we can never outgive God. God will never allow Himself to be in debt to any man—God always gives more than what He asks for. We should never be afraid to give up everything for God.

Mark 10:28–31 NLT

Then Peter began to speak up. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said.

<sup>29</sup> “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, <sup>30</sup> will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.”

“If my house burned down tonight, I know there are one hundred people or more in this Fellowship who would say, “Stay with us.” So, I can travel anywhere in the world and find Christians who would say, “Come on in.” The same is true for you. We have brothers and sisters a hundredfold, parents a hundredfold, houses a hundredfold. Even this side of heaven, you just can’t outgive God. And Abram finds this out.” (Jon Courson)

v 14-17 **“Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; <sup>15</sup> for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. <sup>16</sup> And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. <sup>17</sup> Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.”**: The promise of the land and the nation was made to Abram before he left Ur of the Chaldeans (see Genesis 12:1–3, Acts 7:2–4). God is now repeating this promise, as He will several more times in the coming chapters that cover Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s lives. Again, these are unconditional promises, that by God repeating so many times, underscores the fact that God is absolutely serious about keeping these promises—Israel will always be God’s chosen people, and the land of Israel will always belong to Israel.

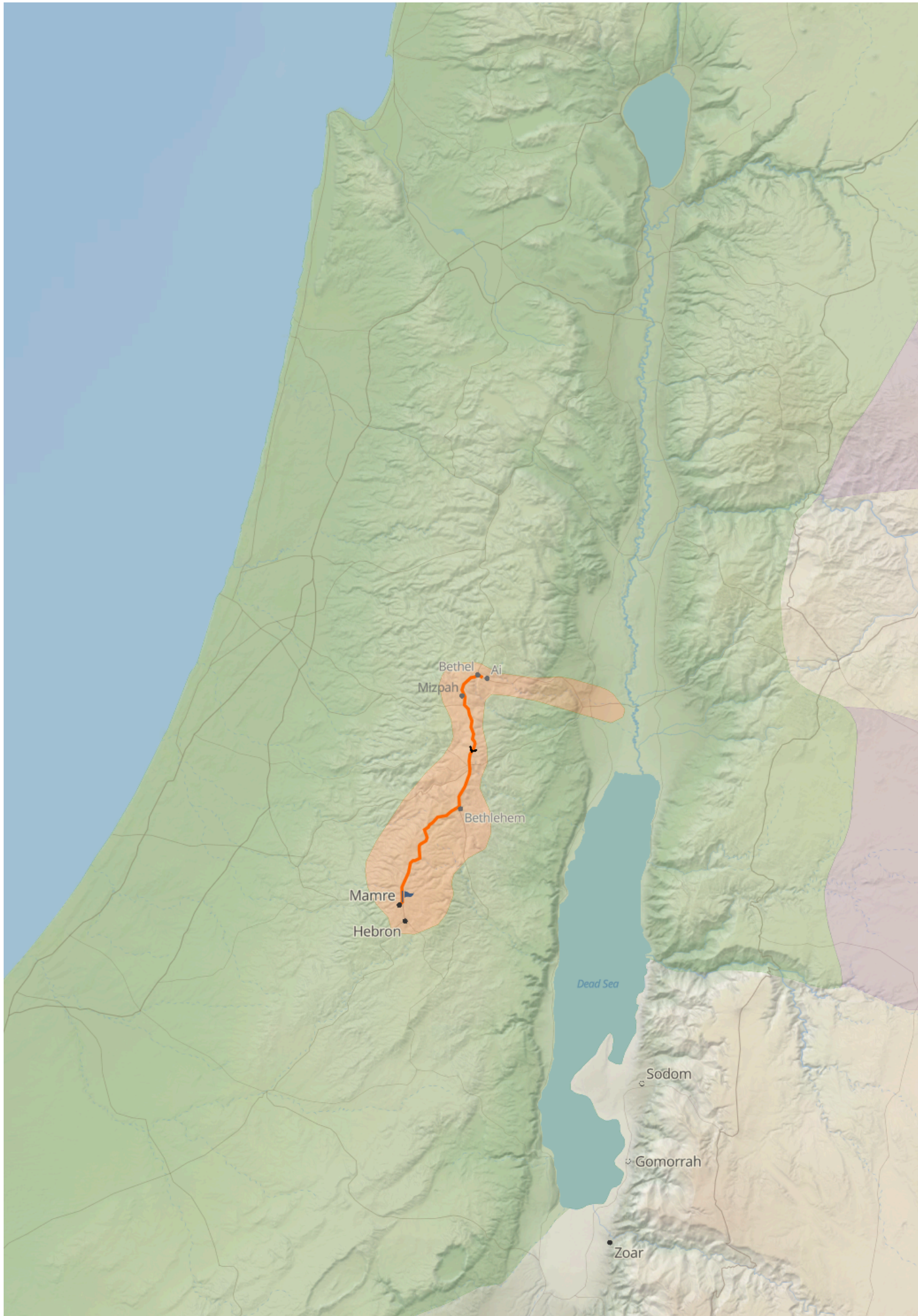
v 16 **I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth**: Keep in mind that Abram is now in his late seventies or early eighties, and still childless. But Abram doesn’t doubt, he worships instead. He is learning to walk by faith. In fact, it will be another 20 years or so before faith becomes sight (when the promise is actually fulfilled).

## **2. Abram obeys God and builds a new altar**

Genesis 13:17-18 NKJV

**Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.” <sup>18</sup> Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.**

v 18 **Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD**: The map below shows where Abram moved to (the orange line). He went south from Bethel to Mamre. Lot on the other hand went and lived on the plain on the other side of the dead sea, near Sodom. As you can see from the topographical map, the runoff from the mountains would have fed many rivers, making it a very fertile area for farming and grazing animals.



Bethel  
Ai  
Mizpah

Bethlehem

Mamre  
Hebron

Dead Sea

Sodom

Gomorrah

Zoar

**Mamre** comes from a root word that means to “feed or graze on the fat of the land”. **Hebron** means “communion”.

“Mamre meaning “Fatness,” and Hebron meaning “Communion,” Abram is saying, in type, “I’m not interested in the people, pleasures, prosperity, politics, or perversity of Sodom. Instead, I’m going to enjoy the fatness, the richness, the satisfaction which comes from Communion.”” (Jon Courson)

v 17 **Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you:** Lot had settled down in the town of Sodom, in a nice house, with an important role as a civil leader in the town. Abraham, in contrast, chooses to obey God and spend his life as a nomad, living in tents, and wandering through the land, discovering and learning about what God had given him.

David Guzik has a good application: “As a token of Abram’s reception of the land by faith, God wants Abram to explore the land of promise, to walk through it as if it were his, though he did not have a record of ownership to the land yet.

In the same way, God wants us to explore a land of promise, for us—His Word—where God has given to us exceedingly great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4), where He has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). He wants us to walk through this land, possessing it by faith.”

v 18 **And built an altar there to the LORD:** Abram builds another altar. Again, an altar is a place of death, where we die to self—this is the heart of worship. But an altar was also a place where animal sacrifices were offered. Whenever Abram sacrificed a lamb or calf or goat etc, he would have been reminded of the promised sacrifice, the coming Seed (the Messiah or Saviour) that God had promised to send. This Seed would be a perfect human who would offer himself up as a substitute for all of sinful mankind. This is what motivates us to be willing to give everything up for God, to be willing to die to self: We are only willing to give everything up for God, because God had promised, and now indeed has, given everything up for us, His very own life. Abram lived his entire life with a constant awareness of His need for a sacrificial atonement and covering for his sin.

1 John 4:19 NKJV

We love Him because He first loved us.

### **3. Lot is taken captive and then rescued by Abram**

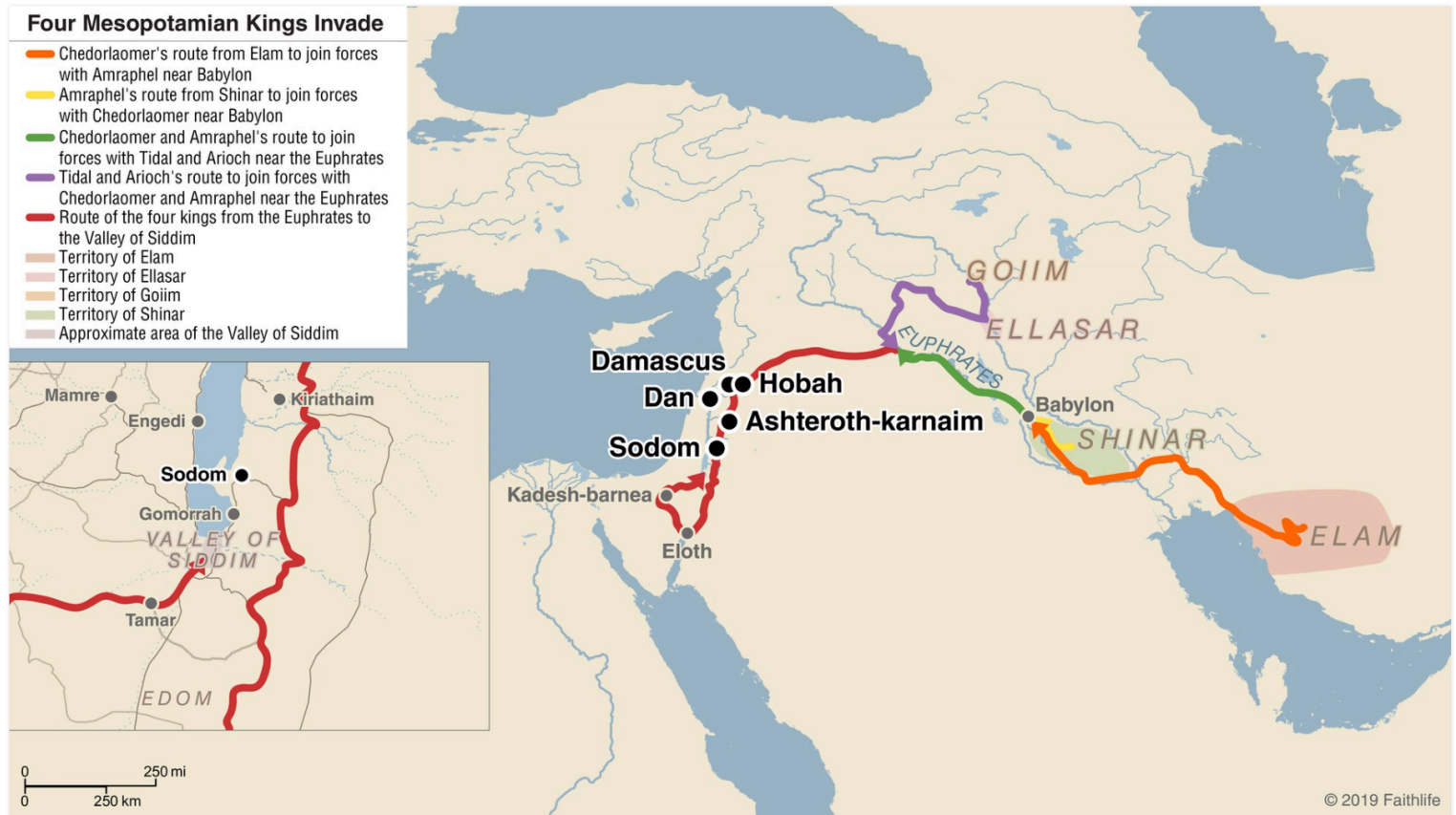
*The four kings of the cities in the region of Sodom and Gomorrah rebel against the confederation of five kings of nations ruling over them, resulting in them being plundered and kidnapped*

**Genesis 14:1-11 NKJV**

**And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations, <sup>2</sup> that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). <sup>3</sup> All these joined together in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). <sup>4</sup> Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.**

**<sup>5</sup> In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him came and attacked the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim, <sup>6</sup> and the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far as El Paran, which is by the wilderness. <sup>7</sup> Then they turned back and came to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and attacked all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazon Tamar.**

**<sup>8</sup> And the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out and joined together in battle in the Valley of Siddim <sup>9</sup> against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. <sup>10</sup> Now the Valley of Siddim was full of asphalt pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled; some fell there, and the remainder fled to the mountains. <sup>11</sup> Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way.**



**v 5 Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him came and attacked:** Simply put, the four kings from the north, from around the Euphrates area, lead by Chedorlaomer, defeated the five kings from the south, which included Sodom and Gomorrah. These five cities from the south agreed to pay tribute to the four kings from the north so that they could continue to live in their cities. But in the 13th year the five kings from the south rebelled, refusing to pay their annual tribute to the four kings from the north. The following year the four kings from the north, lead by Chedorlaomer, being very angry, came and attacked again, this time killing and destroying everything and everyone in their path (the nations on the way to Sodom and it' surrounding towns, see map above, the red line). They then plundered and took captive all the people from the five cities of the south, which included Sodom.

Once again, what we see in God's word agrees with what we see in God's world. Archaeology has shown this to be factual. The following quote is from David Guzik's bible commentary:

"Archaeologist Nelson Glueck documented the destruction left by these kings: "I found that every village in their path had been plundered and left in ruins, and the countryside was laid waste. The population had been wiped out or led away into captivity. For hundreds of years thereafter, the entire area was like an abandoned cemetery, hideously unkempt, with all its monuments shattered and strewn in pieces on the ground." (Cited in Morris)"

*Lot and his family is also taken captive*

### Genesis 14:12 NKJV

**They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.**

Lot is learning the hard way that those who sin like the world will be punished like the world. Abram is safe in the will of God. This verse has the feel of inevitability—if you play with fire then you will be burned eventually.

### Revelation 18:4-5 NLT

Then I heard another voice calling from heaven, "Come away from her, my people. Do not take part in her sins, or you will be punished with her. <sup>5</sup> For her sins are piled as high as heaven, and God remembers her evil deeds.

"Those believers who conform to the world must expect to suffer for it." (Spurgeon)

This is a warning shot that Lot chose to ignore. Lot will survive this traumatic event with his family and goods intact, but will foolishly continue to live in Sodom, even becoming a ruler among them. But the next time he wouldn't be so fortunate. When God eventually destroyed the cities of the plain around the Dead Sea, which included Sodom and Gomorrah, he lost all his possessions and even his wife. This is a picture of a believer being saved, but as through fire (see 1 Corinthians 3:15)—they are saved, but will experience shame and disgrace on judgement day when they stand before Christ. We'll come back to this later.

*Abram gathers an army and rescues Lot and the others kidnapped from the five southern towns*

### Genesis 14:13-17 NKJV

**Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram. <sup>14</sup> Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. <sup>15</sup> He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. <sup>16</sup> So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.**

**<sup>17</sup> And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him.**

v 13 **Abraham the Hebrew:** This is the first time the word **Hebrew** is used in Scripture. It refers to the Jews, the nation of Israel. It means to "pass over", most likely referring to the fact that Abram had "passed over" the Euphrates river.

v 13 **Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram:** As a godly man, Abram made friends with other godly, or at least morally upright people—Abram chose his friends wisely. Maybe they had become believers because of Abram's witness?

v 14 **Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive:** This is a beautiful picture of a fellow believer helping another believer when struggling with sin.

Galatians 6:1-2 NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly [mature] should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. <sup>2</sup> Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

v 14 **He armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house:** Here we see that Abram was no longer ruled by his money, rather he was using his money for good. Abram lived among evil and idolatrous nations, and so had to protect himself. He, probably out of necessity, had his own standing army of 318 men. These were **born in his own house**, and were therefore raised according to Abram's godly standards.

We also see that Abram continues to demonstrate godly character and good leadership. He prepares, equips, trains, and educates those born in his own house in the ways of God.

v 14 **Went in pursuit as far as Dan:** Looking at the map above, Abram and his household servants, plus his allies, had to march about 200km to the north of the promised land as he pursued the combined armies of the 4 kings of the north, from beyond the Euphrates river.

v 15 **He divided his forces against them by night:** The combined armies of the 4 northern kings would have been at least in the thousands. Abraham was vastly outnumbered. So instead of attempting to attack them head on, Abram uses the element of surprise to his advantage. It would have been at least 5 or so days since the five kings started home, and they probably thought that they were safe and sound, with no-one coming after them, thus they had probably let their defences down.

v 15 **And he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus:** This was not a quick battle. From Dan to Hobah is about 100km. This would have been at least a four day battle.

v 16 **So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people:** Abram does good and is a blessing to those around him. This is the effect the believers should have on the communities they live in—they should make a practical and positive difference.

Lot should have realised that the writing was on the wall for Sodom and the other towns of the plain—God was judging them because of their exceeding wickedness. But as we learned before, habitual sin, addiction, or idolatry makes us blind and deaf to the word of God, and so we often continue to make foolish decisions. Lot chose to stay, and soon he will lose everything when God eventually totally destroys Sodom and the other towns of the plain.

### **Conclusion and Application—Lot's wasted life**

We saw that Lot survived being kidnapped or taken captive by the 4 kings from the north, led by Chedorlaomer, but he didn't learn his lesson. He still didn't repent of his worldly, greedy, covetous ways. God tried to wake him up, but Lot's spiritual eyes were shut tight. Lot went straight back to living in Sodom, and later on in Genesis chapter 19, we see Lot calling the violent and homosexual men of Sodom, "my brothers" (see verse 6). He also became a ruler or judge in the city of Sodom (see verse 9).

Here is another example of a physical truth or event that illustrates a spiritual reality. When God eventually destroyed the cities of the plain around the Dead Sea, which included Sodom and Gomorrah, he lost all his possessions and even his wife. This is a picture of a believer being saved, but as through fire (see 1 Corinthians 3:15)—they are saved, but will experience shame and disgrace on judgement day when they stand before Christ.

#### 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 NLT

Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

<sup>12</sup> Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. <sup>13</sup> But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. <sup>14</sup> **If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.**

#### 2 John 8 NKJV

Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

Lot was successful by worldly standards, but a failure by God's standards. Lot was rich and respected by the world, but was a terrible example to those around him of God's love and righteousness. When we get to Genesis chapter 19, when God destroys Sodom and the other towns of the plain with fire and brimstone, we will see Lot lose everything. God saved Lot from destruction because he was a believer—a picture of the grace of God. But in the end, Lot has nothing to show for his life. He ends up broke, with a wicked and dysfunctional family, frightened, and living in a cave.

So what we will choose today? If we have any habitual sin, will we allow that habitual sin, addiction, or idol to continue to control us? Will we choose to humble ourselves and make things right with God, or will we continue down the path that leads to death, and so at the end of our lives have nothing to show for all our efforts. Compare Abram and Lot. God could use one, but not the other. Why? Because only one chose to repent of their sin and become available for God to use.

#### 2 Timothy 2:19-22 NLT

But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: "The LORD knows those who are his," and "All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil."

<sup>20</sup> In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. <sup>21</sup> If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honourable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.

<sup>22</sup> Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

Is your life clean? Have you kept yourself pure? Are you ready for your Master to use you for every good work? Are you an Abram, growing in faith? Or are you a Lot, compromising with the world, and in a spiritual sense, good for nothing.