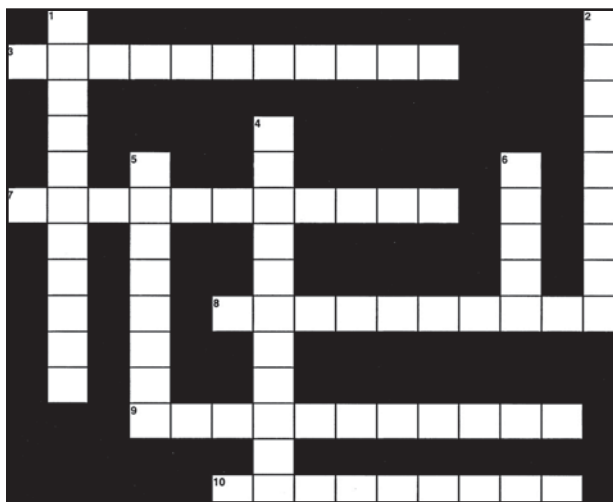


Questions

Study Procedure: Read the Scripture references before answering questions. Unless otherwise instructed, use the Bible only in answering questions. Some questions may be more difficult than others but try to answer as many as you can. Pray for God’s wisdom and understanding as you study and don’t be discouraged if some answers are not obvious at first. Do not read the study notes for this lesson until AFTER you have completed your questions.

Day One

Vocabulary Review



ACROSS

3. regarded as somewhat godlike
7. property or possessions acquired from one’s ancestors
8. attempted; tried
9. shame
10. proof, evidence, declaration to prove some fact

DOWN

1. place to which one is going
2. set or kept apart
4. justify especially to oneself
5. an expression of rebuke or disapproval
6. place for sacred worship

11. During Noah’s time, God _____ the world, but _____ Noah. During Abram’s time, God left man to _____ in his own way, but called Abram _____ from the world. (Clue: This answer can be found in your notes in lesson 11.)

12. In Genesis 12, in what two places are we told that Abram built an altar to God?

a) _____

b) _____

13. Map Study: On a world map locate the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe in relation to Palestine (Israel). Using the maps in the back of your Bible, see if you can find where the ancient countries of Babylon, Assyria, Media, Persia, Phoenicia and Egypt were located.

14. What does Abram’s experience with the Pharaoh of Egypt teach us about our relationships and interactions with unbelievers? _____

Day Two: Read Genesis 13:1-9

1. What was the reason for the strife between Abram and Lot's herdsmen? _____

2. How did Abram react to the disagreement with Lot? _____

3. What reasons could Abram have used to have the first choice of land? _____

4. As Christians, how can we use Abram's example as we grow in the faith?

Day Three: Read Genesis 13:10-13, II Peter 2:4-8

1. What was the motive for Lot's choice? _____

2. Where did Lot's choice lead him? _____

3. Read II Peter 2:4-8. What picture does the Bible give us of this city?

4. Why do you think Lot chose such a poor place for his family to live?

5. What considerations might you have in making your choice for a place to live? Even though you may not be able to choose where you live, where and how do you spend your free time?

Day Four: Read Genesis 13:14-18



1. What were the two parts of the promise that God made to Abram?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____

2. What did God ask Abram to do to symbolize his promise? _____

3. Where did Abram build his third altar? _____

Day Five: Read John 17:15-16; Ephesians 4:17-24; 1 John 2:15-17; John 14:27

1. Since God has given us the power of choice, what steps can we take to make sure that we avoid making some of the same mistakes that Lot made? _____

2. After reading today's references, list some promises we are given to help us with our motives and choices. _____

3. As you look back through our study of Genesis so far, what other examples of unwise choices that resulted in personal tragedy do you find? _____

4. If you had to use one word to describe Lot's behavior, what would it be? How does this behavior affect our relationships with family, friends and others? _____

5. Try to think of an instance when you were in a situation similar to Lot and Abram. Did you give first choice to the other person? If not, how would you handle this the next time it comes up? If you did, have you experienced blessing from God for giving up "first choice"?

6. Now take a few minutes to read the notes for this lesson.

Notes

Abram and Lot Separate

Abram at Bethel Genesis 13:1-4

As Genesis 13 begins, we find Abram returning from his sojourn in Egypt. He traveled northeast out of Egypt through the Negev desert to Bethel. It is not known how long Abram was in Egypt, but Scripture tells us that he returned with great wealth.

As he prospered, he never allowed his riches to affect his devotion to God. This perhaps was the secret of Abram's being trusted with riches.

possessions-property

As he prospered, he never allowed his riches to affect his devotion to God. This perhaps was the secret of Abram's being trusted with riches - it did not keep him from God. The Bible cautions against the dangers of riches. It is not money, but the love of it that is the root of all evil. The love of money can easily become our 'god' and our master. *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Matthew 6:21). Wealth can be a source of friction and strife between friends or relatives. Money can puff people up with a false pride about their own importance and cause others to desire their **possessions** in a way that leads to sin. With Abram and Lot, we see that wants and wanderings did not separate them, but riches did.

Silver and gold are mentioned for the first time in Scripture in this passage. It is clear that even at this early period in the history of man, the Egyptians had knowledge of mining and processing precious metals.

indignation-anger aroused by something unjust or unworthy

righteousness-state of being just; free from guilt or sin

Abram had been sent out of Egypt when the ungodly Pharaoh discovered that God's man, Abram, had not been completely truthful about his wife Sarai. He immediately set out to journey to the place where he had built an altar to God. Micah 7:8-9 reminds us *"... When I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. I will bear the **indignation** of the Lord, because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His **righteousness**."* After we have fallen into compromise, what a beautiful passage of Scripture to show us the way back to God. We should take these verses in faith. God will show us how to stand up, dust ourselves off, and get back onto the right path. Although there are unavoidable consequences for our sin, we sometimes later see that God has used it for blessing. This was Abram's attitude. At Bethel he called on God and worshiped Him. The relationship between Abram and God was restored.

Prosperity Brings Problems
Genesis 13:5-9

With the passing of the years, through God's blessing, both Abram and Lot prospered. Eventually their herds and flocks were too large for the land to support them both.

The herdsmen began to quarrel over pasture, and no doubt the wells and most fertile ground. The mention of the Canaanites and the Perizzites also being in the land would remind us that they perhaps took the very best and what was left was probably divided between Abram and Lot.

Abram said, "Let there be no *strife*." In the verses that follow the true **character** of these two men are revealed. Genesis 13:8-9 is a great example of Christian conduct in avoiding **conflict** with other Christians. Abram avoided strife for two reasons: (1) Abram and Lot were related by blood as well as being fellow believers. Disputes between believers brings dishonor to the name of God. (2) They were in the presence of a common enemy. Abram did not want to allow the Canaanites and the Perizzites to take advantage of any weakness and drive them out of the land. The world is always ready to take advantage of conflict. As **pilgrims** in a world that is hostile to God and to Jesus Christ, we are certain to have problems and trials at times. We certainly do not need friction and disunity with each other. We instead need to encourage, strengthen and stand together as a true witness to God and His Word. "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world..." (Philippians 2:14-15).

In comparing the lives of these two men we find the following differences:

Abram:

- (1) walked by faith
- (2) was generous
- (3) looked for a city whose builder and maker was God
- (4) became heir of the world

Lot:

- (1) walked by sight
- (2) was greedy and worldly
- (3) made his home in a city built by man and destroyed by God
- (4) lost all his possessions and had to live in a cave

strife-contention; bitter sometimes violent conflict

character-individual traits; reputation

The world is always ready to take advantage of conflict. As pilgrims in a world that is hostile to God and to Jesus Christ, we are certain to have problems and trials at times.

conflict-to be in opposition, struggle of will or powers

pilgrims-one who journeys in a foreign land

"Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world..."
(Philippians 2:14-15).

Lot's Choice
Genesis 13:10-13

influence-power,
 authority

*As we face choices
 we must ask
 ourselves, "Will
 what I am about to
 do honor God? Can
 I, with a clear
 conscience, enter
 into this pursuit?"*

naturalized-invested with
 citizenship

Lot and Abram were camped on the mountain east of Bethel. Lot looked over the well-watered valley which seemed like the garden of God. When Abram gave him first choice he picked the fertile plain of Jordan. His choice showed little respect for his uncle. Lot could see nothing but the rich valley along the lower Jordan. He could see Sodom and Gomorrah in the distance. He didn't stop to consider what **influence** these wicked people might have on his family. As a result of his choice, he lost everything. By worldly standards Lot's choice made perfect sense. But in God's eyes, Lot chose poorly.

Then Lot made a serious mistake. He pitched his tent near Sodom. This was the beginning of a future full of disaster. There is a lesson to be learned from Lot's experience. It is easy to become enticed by the world. It all begins innocently enough. What the world has to offer sometimes seems so attractive - like the well-watered plains of the Jordan. So we begin building friendships with the world and pitch our tent just outside of town - outside of Sodom - unaware of the character of the place. We leave the Abrams, the praying men, and surround ourselves with friends who worship money, power and pleasure. Soon we become **naturalized** Sodomites. God wants us to weigh our decisions in light of spiritual values. As we face choices we must ask ourselves, "Will what I am about to do honor God? Can I, with a clear conscience, enter into this pursuit?" There were six steps in Lot's downward course: conflict with Abram (13:7); he saw the good land (13:10); he chose the best for himself (13:11); he headed toward Sodom (13:12); he lived in Sodom (14:12); he sat in the gate of Sodom (19:1).

**The Promise to
 Abram**
Genesis 13:14-18

reaffirm-declaring
 something again

innumerable-countless,
 without number

After Lot had gone his way, God came to Abram and said "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are; northward, southward, eastward, and westward." Perhaps Abram thought that Lot would be heir to that first promise God had given him, "I will make you a great nation," (Genesis 12:2) but now Lot was gone and God came at this time to **reaffirm** His promise. God gave Abram more details of the promise: "for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever." The land that Lot had just claimed was promised to Abram and his descendants. God also tells Abram that his descendants will increase to an **innumerable** multitude "as the dust of the earth." God's blessing far outweighed what he had "given up" to Lot.

God promised Canaan to Abraham but he never possessed it. To the end he was a **wanderer** and a pilgrim in his own land. Wanting a tomb to bury Sarah, he had to purchase it. Abraham died looking for a city whose builder and maker was God (Hebrews 11:10). The plan of God was not that Abraham should possess it himself, but that his posterity (the nation of Israel) should “*forever*” possess it. At times Israel has been evicted from the land and they have been scattered among the nations as judgment from God for their unbelief. In the past 50 years we have seen a return of the Jews to Palestine. As Bible students, we watch with great interest events happening in Israel today.

God told Abram to “*Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you*” (Genesis 13:17). Great lives are influenced by great promises. The world has never been left without a promise which gives hope and confidence in troubled days. God never calls us to be less than what His full potential for us can be. God’s calls are upward to a fuller life in Him!

<p>wanderer—one who moves about aimlessly</p>

At times Israel has been evicted from the land and they have been scattered among the nations as judgment from God for their unbelief.
