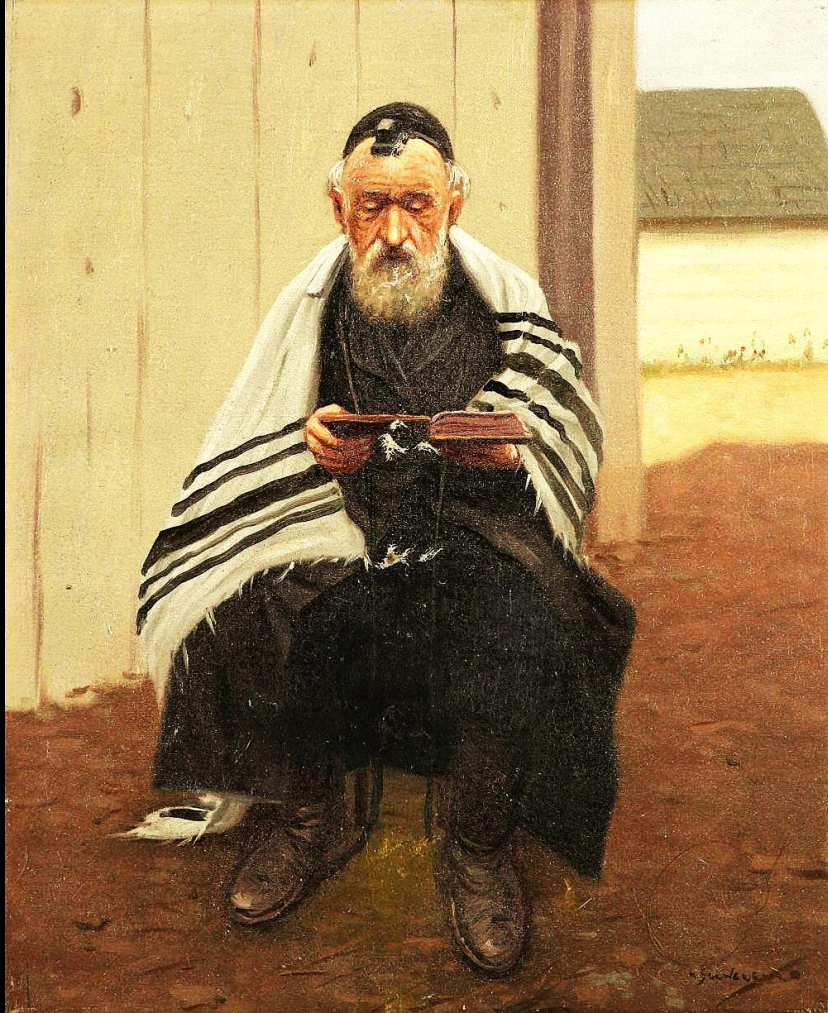


# Torah Studies

# Genesis: In the Beginning



Abram and Lot  
Genesis 13

Tefillin – Konstanty Szewczenko

Torah Studies

Delighting in God's Word

## Torah Studies

## Delighting in God's Word

- Psalm 119:13-16 (NKJV)

13 With my lips I have declared

All the judgments of Your mouth.

14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies,

As much as in all riches ...

## Torah Studies

## Delighting in God's Word

- Psalm 119:13-16 (NKJV)

... 15 I will meditate on Your precepts,  
And contemplate Your ways.

16 I will delight myself in Your statutes;  
I will not forget Your word.

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

## Introduction

- Previously in Genesis:

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

## Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:
- In **Genesis 12** we saw the initial call of Abram, telling him to go to a land that God would show him.
- God promised to make him a great nation, though he did not yet have any children.

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

## Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:
- So, he left Ur in Mesopotamia with Sarai, his wife, and made his way to Canaan.
- He also spent an embarrassing bit of time in Egypt.
- That time ended with Pharaoh sending Abram and his company away.

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

## Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:
- Abram's nephew Lot was part of that group that went with Abram to Canaan, to Egypt and back.
- We will look at him in our story today.



# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

Outline

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

## Outline

- I. Abram Returns from Egypt 13:1-7
- II. Abram and Lot Separate 13:8-13
- III. God Repeats His Promise 13:14-18

# I. Abram Returns from Egypt

13:1-7

## I. Abram Returns from Egypt

13:1-7

- 13:1-4 Abram makes his way back to Bethel, which is the last place we saw him build an altar in 12:8.
- For Abram, this probably gave a sense of returning to God and the land of promise.
- For us, the New Testament does not really encourage the idea of holy places.

## I. Abram Returns from Egypt

13:1-7

- 13:1-4 In fact, Jesus, contrasts a particular place of worship with worship in Spirit and truth.
- When he met the woman at the well in John 4, she tried to engage him in that conversation.
- She was a Samaritan, so she was bringing up the difference between Samaria and Jerusalem.

# I. Abram Returns from Egypt

13:1-7

- John 4:21-24

21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here ...

# I. Abram Returns from Egypt

13:1-7

- John 4:21-24

... when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

## I. Abram Returns from Egypt

13:1-7

- 13:5-7 Abram and Lot both became quite wealthy.
- For Abram, at least some of this was wealth acquired while in Egypt.
- In the next section we see a difference between these two men in their attitudes toward their wealth.



# I. Abram Returns from Egypt

13:1-7



*The contrast was this: Abram had wealth, but the wealth did not have Abram; Lot also had wealth, and the wealth had Lot.*

*– Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Russian-born, Messianic Jewish theologian.*

# I. Abram Returns from Egypt

13:1-7

- As we read what comes next, consider the thoughts or the desires of these two men.

## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

- 13:8-9 Look at Abram's generosity. He's happy to give any part of the land to Lot.
- In order to make sure there was peace between them, Abram wants to make sure Lot is happy.
- Paul took a similar attitude in both his teaching and his personal life.

## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

- In his teaching, he could encourage the Philippian church in this way.
- **Philippians 2:4**

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

- In his personal life, Paul might have expected certain things of the Corinthian church, but he refused.
- **1 Corinthians 9:15**

But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.

## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

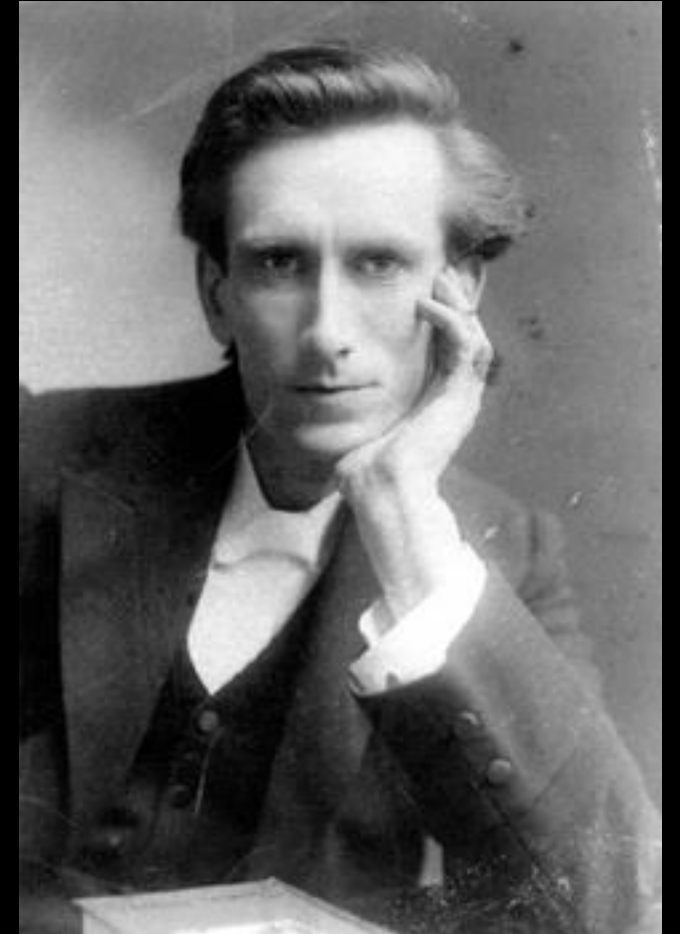
- 13:8-9 Back to Abram, he was Lot's uncle.
- As the older of the two and the one who had received God's promises, he might have been bolder.
- Instead of exercising his God-given rights, he defers to his nephew Lot.

## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

*The greatest enemy of the life with God is not sin, but the good that is not good enough ... Many of us do not go on in our spiritual life because we prefer to choose what is our right instead of relying upon God to choose for us.*

*– Oswald Chambers (1874 – 1917),  
YMCA Chaplain to troops in Egypt.*





## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

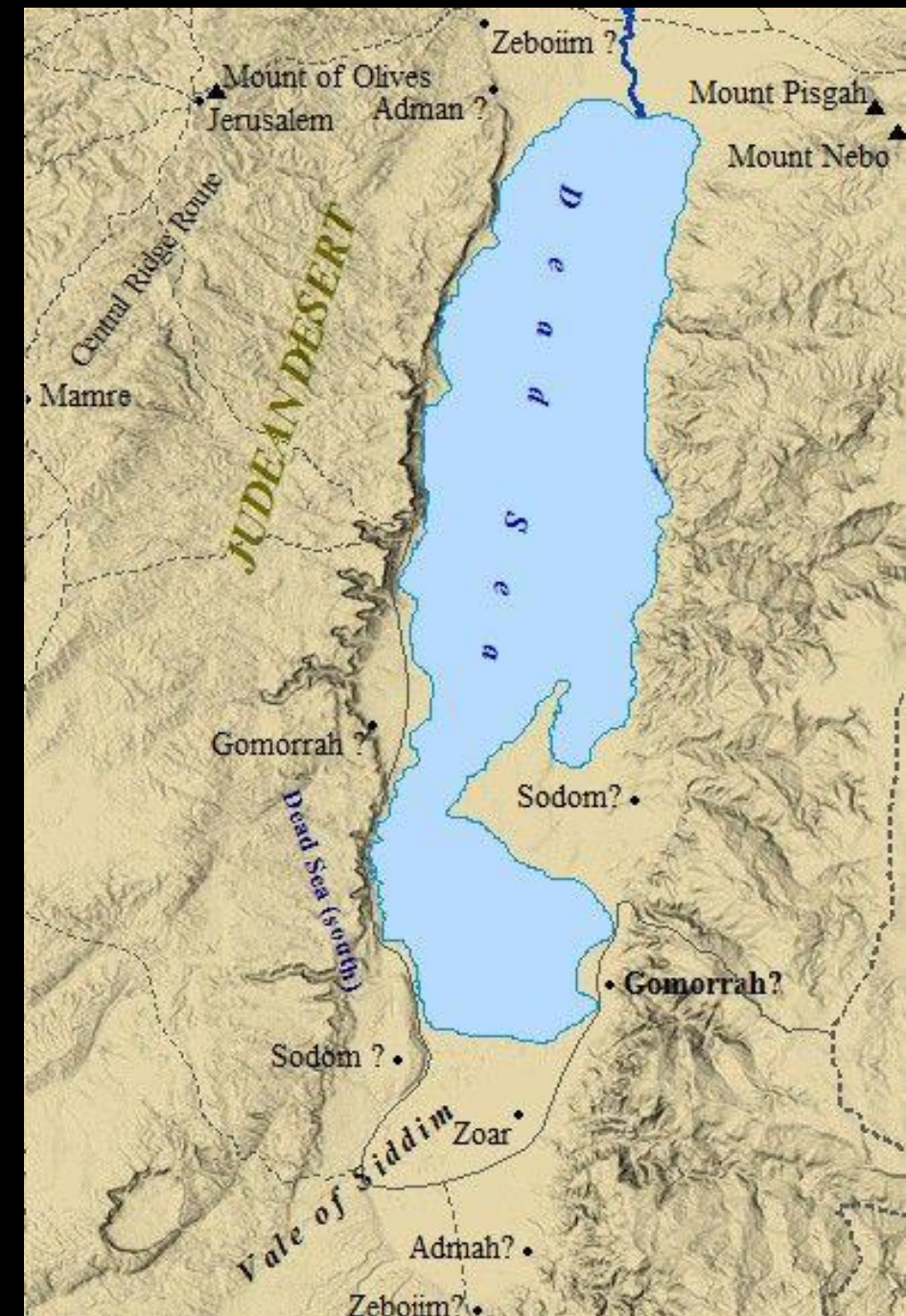
- 13:8-9 We can learn from Abram.
- When we are up against a potential conflict with others we can remember this event.
- Abram let Lot pick first; he then took what was left.

## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

- 13:10-11 Lot, on the other hand, seems to have chosen in favor of his own self-interest.
- He saw a lush, green valley and decided he wanted some of that for himself.
- This will come back to bite him as soon as the next chapter.
- The location is also important.

- This map shows some older ideas of where Sodom might have been.
- These, however, do not line up closely with the Bible.
- Nor is there consistency the traditions about these sites.
- Also lacking is any serious archeological evidence.





## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

- Bethel is northwest of the Dead Sea.
- Lot saw the Jordan Valley and went east.



## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

An interesting development in archeology:

- Steven Collins, *Discovering the City of Sodom*, 2013.
- Interview with Eric Metaxas, Socrates in the City:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MHCyrAi4gs>

## II. Abram and Lot Separate

13:8-13

- 13:12-13 Lot no doubt had some great reasons for settling where he did.
- Yet Abraham will come out the winner.
- So much of what we get out of life hinges on one or two choices made in decisive moments.
- Consider the young man in Matthew 19.

### III. God Repeats His Promise

13:14-18

### III. God Repeats His Promise

13:14-18

- God is the most persistent promise keeper.
- God appeared to Abram and spoke to him about this very thing in **Genesis 12**.
- Now he repeats His promise.
- And He will repeat it again – to the point where it is a main subject of **Genesis** and the Torah as a whole.



# I. Abram Returns from Egypt

13:1-7



*Once again, Abram receives instruction: Arise, walk through the land. Abram was now told to take the first ever Holy Land tour ... As he walked through the Land, he took physical possession of the Land, prophetically speaking, since he did not get to own the Land in his lifetime ...*

*– Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Russian-born, Messianic Jewish theologian.*

# I. Abram Returns from Egypt

13:1-7



*... The text is obviously talking about a piece of real estate upon which he was living at that time. He was told to walk around with his feet all over the Land, because someday he was going to possess it. A view like this cannot just be spiritualized away in order to make it fit a preconceived theology.*

*– Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Russian-born, Messianic Jewish theologian.*

### III. God Repeats His Promise

13:14-18

- And so, we trust that God intends to keep this promise which was passed on to Isaac and Jacob.
- It comes down to the people of Israel in our day.

### III. God Repeats His Promise

13:14-18

- 13:18 The chapter ends with Abram building yet another altar.
- This man Abram was a worshiper of God.

### III. God Repeats His Promise

13:14-18

- 13:18 There are eleven verses in Genesis that mention an altar.
- Five of them are connected with Abram (Abraham), more than any other person.
- None of them are connected with Lot.
- It's not that Lot was a pagan. He just let other things get in the way of his very real faith in God.

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

Conclusion

Abram and Lot

Genesis 13

Conclusion

- Lot is an example of a cluttered walk with Christ.
- I'm reminded of the Parable of the Sower and the seed that fell among thorns.

Abram and Lot

Genesis 13

Conclusion

- Matthew 13:22

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.



# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13



## Conclusion

*Oh, how the lust of our eyes gets us in trouble. Lot, looking down, seeing the plain, seeing the beautiful valley down there, pitched his tent toward this wicked, sinful city, moving toward it ...*

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13



## Conclusion

*... Next we find him moving into the city and, ultimately, he was a leader within Sodom. Sin is like leprosy: having invaded one little area in your life, it will expand; it will grow, corrupting as it grows.*

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

## Conclusion

- Abram is an example of sincere devotion.
- Was he perfect? Not at all.
- But notice after his error in Egypt, he comes right back to the last place he built an altar.
- Sometimes that is the best we can do.
- And it is vital that we do that.

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

## Conclusion

- Abram was a man who possessed great possessions, but his possessions never possessed him.
- This is a real concern for all of us in these last days when pleasures and possessions have taken hold.

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

## Conclusion

- 2 Timothy 3:1-5

1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable ...

Abram and Lot

Genesis 13

Conclusion

- 2 Timothy 3:1-5

... slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Abram and Lot

Genesis 13

Conclusion

- Abram set his eyes on the promises of God.
- That is instructive for us.

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

## Conclusion

- 2 Peter 1:3-4

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.



Abram and Lot

Genesis 13

Conclusion

- Abram set his eyes on the promises of God.
- God would ask us to trust in His faithfulness rather than in our possessions.

Abram and Lot

Genesis 13

Conclusion

- Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper;

I will not fear;

what can man do to me?”

# Abram and Lot

## Genesis 13

## Conclusion

- Again, Abram is an example of sincere devotion.
- Let's make it our goal to be persistent worshipers of God like Abram.
- We can commit ourselves to exploring the promises of God's word as Abram was told to explore the land.
- And we can trust in Him over any earthly desire or material source of confidence.

# Torah Studies



Rabbis Studying Scripture —  
Konstanty Szewczenko

# Genesis: In the Beginning

Next Week:  
Introducing Melchizedek  
Genesis 14