

The Separation of Lot from Abram

Genesis 13:1-18

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Introduction:

Today in our sermon series in Genesis, we come to Genesis 13.

- This continues the account of Abram, which, of course, is something we will be looking at for some time because there is a lot said about him in Genesis.
- As we have seen, he is presented to us in scripture as an example of faith.

We have seen how God graciously called him and promised to give him by free grace the very things that the men at Babel sought to obtain for themselves by works...

- a great nation (the very kingdom of God with Jesus as King and head!)
- access to God for blessing (the men at Babel sought to connect by making a high place)
- a great name (his name would be immortal—in Christ)
- to be a blessing to others (as the one through whose line Christ would come)
- to be secure (God would bless all those who bless him and curse those who curse him).

We have seen how Abram, being called by God, was transformed by this call...

- He heard the call with faith
- He obeyed that call
- He became a true worshipper of God.

But we also saw last week that Abram was not yet made perfect...

- When famine came, he left that land that God had appointed for him to dwell in to go to Egypt.
 - And then upon entering Egypt, he was filled with fear that the Egyptians might kill him in order to take his beautiful wife,
 - and he instructed her to withhold the fact that she was his wife and only claim to be his sister—perhaps hoping that he could put any suitors off until they could depart from Egypt.
 - The result was that Abram found himself in an even worse spot when Pharaoh himself took Sarai into his own house to have her as a wife!
 - On top of that, Pharaoh had loaded Abram with wealth on account of Sarai whom he supposed to be only Abram's sister.
 - Abram had resorted to fleshly wisdom, but now he was in a situation that he could not even attempt to figure a way out of.
 - It was just where he needed to be that he might learn to trust in God who alone is able to deliver us.
 - And the LORD did deliver him from this mess by plaguing Pharaoh's house and letting Pharaoh know that it was on account of Abram's wife.
 - Pharaoh rebuked Abram for not telling him this, and sent him on his way from the land of Egypt, but he was afraid to harm Abram in any way.

Today as we come to chapter 13, we pick up with Abram returning to the land that God had commanded him to dwell in.

- And here we see another trial of Abram's faith.
 - It is a trial that has been endured by all who are in the church...
 - The trial of division within the ranks of the people of God.
- This time, we will find two very different responses...
 - The response of Abram which is an example for us to follow in pursuing peace.
 - And the response of Lot, his nephew, which is a tragic example that leads eventually to the ruin of his household...

Please give me your careful attention as I read this account to you from Genesis 13.

- This is the word of God, so it is worthy of our fullest attention and reverence.

Gen 13:1-18: Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. ² Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³ 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, ⁴ to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD. ⁵ Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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." ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. ¹² 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. ¹³ But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD. ¹⁴ 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; ¹⁵ for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you." 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.

May the Lord add His blessing to the reading of His holy Word.

I. The first thing we meet with here is the wonderful restoring grace of God.

A. Abram comes back with his entire household to the land that God had appointed for him to dwell in.

1. You can see how verse 1 emphasises that he came back with his wife...

- He had nearly lost her by his foolish behaviour!
 - What a splendid thing it was for him to be coming back with her.
 - What a dreadful thing it would have been if he had had to leave without her!
 - Her presence was a testimony of God's mercy and faithfulness!
2. You can see further from verse 1 that Abram returns with the rest of his household including his possessions and his nephew Lot.
 - Lot must have been very dear to him, for Abram had no sons and he had brought Lot with him from Haran.
 - Lot's father had died, but what a blessing that he had been privileged to accompany his uncle to whom God had made rich promises of blessing!
 - Lot was able to participate in these blessings with Abram...
 - Peter tells us in his second epistle that Lot was a righteous man, so we know that he was justified by faith in God's promise.
 3. We are also told in verse 2, that Abram returned with great wealth...rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.
 - He might have suffered the loss of all that he had in Egypt, but the LORD not only preserved what was already his,
 - but also added to it, even by means of Abram's folly!
 - Pharaoh had enriched Abram greatly when he thought Sarai was his sister, and he did not ask for the return of his goods...
 - It would have been a shameful thing for him to do that, and besides, he was afraid to mess with Abram beyond a mild rebuke because he feared that God might bring more harm upon him.
 - Unlike the later Pharaoh whom Moses knew, this Pharaoh had an appropriate fear of God when he experienced His plagues...

TRANS> So Abram returns with his wife, his entire household, and great riches to Canaan...

- But we are also told of something else that he returns to...

B. Abram returns to the place of the altar!

1. We are told that he goes back to the place where he had been before, but then there is the emphasis that it is the place of the altar!
 - We saw before how Abram had built this altar to the LORD, refusing to join in the idolatrous worship of the Canaanites!
 - The place of the altar is the place where worship ought to take place—
 - It is the place where God shows Himself to be reconciled to us by the sacrifices He has appointed.
 - In the time of Abram, it was at the altars that he built and where he offered burnt offerings as God had commanded.
 - In the time of Moses, it was at the tabernacle,
 - And in the time of David, it was at the temple...

- But now that Jesus has come, we have an altar, as it says in **Hebrews 13:10** **“from which those who serve at the tabernacle have no right to eat.”**
 - It is the altar that is outside the camp where Jesus the Lamb of God was crucified.
 - We come to God now in the assembly where He is proclaimed as crucified to take away our sins...
 - Now that He has been offered for our sins, we come continually to offer **the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name (Heb 13:15).**
 - And you see how it adds at the end of verse 4 that Abram also **called on the name of LORD!**
 - That means that he gathered his household to worship the Lord, to seek His blessing and to give thanks to Him.
 - There is no mention of him doing that while he was in Egypt.
 - This is showing a complete restoration!
2. What an occasion of rejoicing it is to come to God’s altar when we have strayed from Him!
- What joy it must have brought to Abram to know that there was forgiveness with God—
 - that despite his folly, he was now back at God’s altar, worshipping Him, accepted by Him, fully forgiven by His grace!
 - I hope all of you know what it is to be forgiven by God!
 - To know that you are accepted even though you do not deserve to be accepted!
 - This is true whether you have stumbled, as Abram did, or not—
 - You do not deserve to come before God because there is sin in you.
 - Not one of us does to stand before God on our own...
 - But how wonderful it is to be received and accepted by Him in Jesus, even when you have drifted away for a time!
 - He is a God of rich restoring mercy and grace!

II. But now Abram must face a new trial of his faith.

A. The Lord often sends trials with our prosperity.

1. The LORD gives us sweet times of encouragement such as we have just seen.
 - It is much needed after a time of struggle and trial.
 - It allows us to centre again on the things that God has promised and, in a certain way, to taste of heaven.
 - But in our yet imperfect state with our remaining sin, it is rarely appropriate for us enjoy unmitigated prosperity.
 - As we are told in Deuteronomy 32:15, **Jeshurun** (a pet name for Israel meaning *the dear upright people*) **grew fat and kicked.**

- It is for this reason that the LORD often sends trials to us along with our prosperity and our riches...
 - He sends them as a mercy to keep us humble and to keep us seeking after Him.
 - Don't resent it if you do not have a lot—God is sparing you from many temptations that come with prosperity and riches...
 - And if you have a lot, do not resent it that God sends many afflictions and troubles with your riches.
2. The trial that Abram has now is one that is directly related to his riches.
- He experiences grievous division with his nephew Lot.
 - a. We are told in verse 5-6 that they had so much that the land was not able to support them!
 - Verse 7 mentions that the Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land, and then here is Abram and Lot with perhaps as many as 1500 people...
 - We are told in the next chapter that Abram had enough servants with him to raise up 300 fighting men—
 - and if they all had wives and children, that would easily make a thousand...
 - Add to that the servants who were too old or infirm to go to war along with their wives, plus all the servants of Lot, and you have a great company of people—and then all the flocks and herds besides!
 - The Canaanites and Perizzites would have already settled in the best places and would not have welcomed so many intruders.
 - So you can see how things would have been tight.
 - b. And the outcome is that there is quarrelling between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsman.
 - This is one of the most vexing things about wealth.
 - Everyone thinks that if they had more, they would surely be happier and many of their problems would go away, but it is rarely so...
 - Ecclesiastes 5:11 says:
 - **When goods increase, they increase who eat them; so what profit have the owners except to see them with their eyes?**
 - You just get more stuff to look after—more bills to pay...
 - And worst of all, more for your family to quarrel over.
 - Riches are one of the things people quarrel over.
 - If a man only has a hundred dollars when he dies, it is not very likely that his children will fight over that...
 - but if there is more—those who thought themselves to be magnanimous start to make claims...
 - They start to say that their siblings are cheating them and they who never thought they would behave in such a way show a different side.
 - Riches can bring out the very worst.

3. This division was, no doubt, very grievous to Abram.
 - I have already reminded you how dear Lot was Abram...
 - He had brought him with him because Lot's father had died...
 - And Lot was surely like a son to him because Abram was childless...
 - But now there is division...over all this wealth!
 - It does not say that Abram and Lot themselves were quarrelling, but their herdsmen were, and Abram and Lot were responsible for what their servants did.

B. Quarrelling over such things is monstrous for God's people.

1. Paul is put out with the Corinthians who were actually taking each other to court.
 - **1 Cor 6:1-8: Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!**
 - a. We have a Saviour who, though He was rich, became poor in order that He might make peace between us and God.
 - It cost Him His honour, for He had to come in our flesh...
 - It cost Him His reputation, for He had to become sin for us and bear the curse.
 - It cost Him His relationship to the Father, for He had to be brought under His wrath and curse for a time.
 - b. And if we are His people and we are found quarreling over some petty something in this world,
 - What does that say about us?
 - It is shameful!
 - It should not be!
 - What does it say about what we think of our Saviour?
2. Some of you husbands and wives—
 - some of you children with your parents and with each other...
 - You ought to be ashamed when you look at some of the things you quarrel about—
 - Can't you give up your own rights for the sake of peace?
 - Can't you let whatever it is go?

- Must you resort to bickering and name calling?
 - Can't you come to an agreement?
 - You are God's people!
 - Don't excuse yourself that everyone does this sort of thing.
 - You ought not to do it!
 - It is reprehensible and you need to stop making excuses and start striving for peace.
3. What do you suppose the Canaanites thought about this...
- "Who are these intruders coming into our land?"
 - "They claim to be close to God—they claim to be better than us, building their own altar for worship...
 - "but they can't even get along with each other..."
 - Does our text not mention right after it speaks of the quarrel between Abram and Lot's herdsmen that the Canaanites and the Perizzites were then in the land?
 - This is partly to show why it was crowded, but it seems to be mentioned to show that they saw this quarrel.
 - What a shameful thing it was!

C. But Abram will not allow this shameful behaviour to continue!

- He is the older man, so he has authority and he initiates a solution.
 - But look at the marvellous way he does it!
1. He might have barked out rebukes and orders at Lot, using his authority in a selfish way.
- He might have taken the petty route and said,
 - "Here I was kind to you and I brought you with me to this land and now you dare to allow your herdsmen to quarrel with mine!"
 - "You can just go back to Haran—I have had enough of you. You cannot inherit this land with me."
2. But Abram exercises authority in a godly way!
- a. Instead of demanding his rights throwing out insults and rebukes,
 - Abram behaves very much like his Lord Jesus will behave when He comes.
 - He lays aside his rights for the sake of peace!
 - b. It is Abram's inheritance, but he offers to Lot whatever part of it he wants...
 - Look at verse 8-9
 - **Genesis 13:8-9: 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. 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."**

- The inheritance is Abram's, but he gives Lot first pick!
 - What a magnanimous thing to do!
 - What a peacemaking thing to do!
 - What a godly humble exemplary thing to do!
 - This is the meekness of wisdom that James praises that puts an end to quarrels and strife!
 - Jesus said, **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God! (Matt 5:9)**
 - Oh that there was more of this!
3. But don't miss-apply this men!
- This is what you should do when it comes to choosing where you are going to go to eat, or whether you will go to the park or stay at home and play games...
 - If it is a matter of obedience to God, such as whether you will go into debt to go on vacation or pay your bills and your tithe,
 - then you need to step in with your authority and insist on obedience...
 - I am not saying that you should be push over, but I am saying that you are lay aside your rights for the sake of others.
 - That is what godly leaders do.
 - They exercise authority, but they do not act as selfish tyrants or oppressors...using authority for their own gain.
 - They act without self-interest to lead their family in godliness.
 - They imitate Abram here!
 - They imitate Jesus Christ!

TRANS> The Bible constantly commends peacemakers!

- And yes, it costs something to make peace—yes you have to give things up...
 - but why should you complain about that when your Saviour has given up so much for you?

III. Now we see the separation between Abram and Lot...

A. Here we see Lot launching forth on a different trajectory than Abram.

- There is more here than just a geographical separation...
 - these two men are now moving in entirely different trajectories.
1. Abram is continuing on the trajectory of faith...
- God has promised him an inheritance, so he, by faith, leaves his inheritance in God's hands...
 - We have seen his action already:
 - For the sake of peace he says, "Lot, the land is before you—take what you want."
 - Here the opposite of the spirit we saw at Babel...and even with Abram himself going to Egypt...
 - He does not grasp on to what is his...
 - He leaves it to God to give it to him.
 - He doesn't own a thing yet anyway, and he is trusting God for the future.

2. Lot now moves into a trajectory of faithless grasping.
 - a. As soon as Abram puts forth his generous offer, Lot seizes the opportunity!
 - He is like a kid in a candy shop whose uncle just told him to get whatever he wants.
 - With breathless excitement he lifts up his eyes—you see that in ver. 10...
 - There is an emphasis on this...
 - He is walking by sight.
 - He is taking the matter into his own hands and going by what he sees, what he thinks to be the best land.
 - Verse 10 tells us that he saw a place that looked like the garden of Eden—and looked fruitful like Egypt where they had just come from:
 - **Gen 13:10 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.**
 - Notice the footnote here—that it was like that before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah...
 - What looked good now did not have a good future.
 - b. But can we fault him for his choice?
 - 1) We could say that he should have said to his uncle...
 - “But Uncle Abram, this is your land—you brought me to share it with you—you should take what you choose...”
 - He could have left the matter in God’s hands in this way...
 - That would have been much better.
 - 2) We could also fault him for not looking beyond the surface in looking at the place he wanted to go...
 - The comment is made that Lot pitched his tent even as far as Sodom and verse 13 says that the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.
 - Often, places of great wealth are places of great sin.
 - Lot did not consider this in choosing where he would go and how it might affect his family.
 - He chose with his eyes—he chose superficially.
 - 3) But the greatest problem of all is that Lot separated from the man that God had promised to bless!
 - Verse 11 announces this terrible result...
 - **Gen 13:11: Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other.**
 - Lot removed himself away from his association with the man that God had promised to bless!
 - Abram was a prophet who heard from God, and Lot is leaving him to go on his own—without that guidance and that direction.
 - This was the great problem with his decision!

- c. What ought he to have done instead?
- 1) He should have done what Ruth did.
 - Do you know the story of Ruth?
 - Turn to Ruth chapter 1.
 - She and Orpah were Moabites—descendants of Lot in fact, and they had married descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—
 - Israelites who knew the LORD...
 - But Ruth and Orpah’s husbands had both died, leaving them with their widowed mother in law, Naomi.
 - Naomi decided to return to Israel at this point and these women started out with her, but she discouraged them, saying...
 - **Ruth 1:11-13: But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!”**
 - Now Orpah did as Lot (her great-great-great-grandfather) and separated from the people upon whom God had put his blessing—the people who had God’s word:
 - **Ruth 1:14-15: Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. And she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”**
 - But Ruth did what Lot ought to have done—
 - **Ruth 1:16-18: But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.” When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.**
 - 2) Lot should have begged Abram to let him stay with him!
 - He might have offered to give up his flocks and his servants if there was not enough room for them all...
 - but he should not have separated from Abram!
 - Abram was the man that God had promised to bless, and it was a tremendous privilege Lot had to be with him.
 - But now he was on his own!
 - Lot cut himself off from the oracles of God.

- In essence, Abram was the church of Lot's day, and Lot forsook the church to go and seek his fortune...
 - He put his earthly prosperity above the spiritual blessing that God had promised to his uncle.

3) It never goes well for those who forsake the church.

- There are those who relocate without first looking to see if there is a good church—
 - They have a better job!
 - They want a change!
 - So they go without considering how it will affect their fellowship with God's people.
 - Don't ever move without considering that!
- And there are those who get angry and who leave for petty reasons.
 - Sometimes they go to another church where there is compromise—sometimes they even pull out of the church altogether...
 - But it does not go well for those who separate from God's people.
 - God has appointed that we should be together and that we should be loyal to those that love Him.
 - Christians are not meant to be in isolation.
- Psalm 133 says that God commands the blessing in the place where brethren dwell together in unity...
 - Of course ultimately, it is Jesus Christ whom we must not separate from, He is with His people.
- But there is something to understand...
 - There are times when we must separate...
 - It has often been the case that the established church separates from Jesus—as was the case when Jesus came in the flesh and was crucified by them...
 - But in such a case, those who were cast out with Him were actually the church continuing.
 - The same thing happened at the protestant reformation...
 - The ones who were cast out from the Roman Church were cast out because they were following Christ and adhering to His word.
 - They were the ones who continued with Christ and His church.
 - And it does not go well for those who do this.

B. Consider the very different outcomes for Abram and Lot.

1. Lot, the man who walked by sight, loses the blessing for his family.

- Lot himself was a believer—as I mentioned before—Peter says that he was a righteous man, so we will find Lot in heaven...

- a. But what became of the wife of the man who forsook the church to seek worldly fortune?
 - He had moved her away from access to the word and from the worship of God to live in a lush place.
 - She was so committed to the world that she could not bear to leave Sodom—she looked back and was turned to a pillar of salt as a warning...

- b. And what become of the descendants of Lot?
 - Well, he had two daughters—we will deal with this in detail in the future...
 - But they did leave Sodom with Lot, but then, desperate to have children, they got Lot drunk and lay with him—incest!
 - And they brought forth the Moabites and the Ammonites!
 - Two nations that were cursed of God—that were the enemies of the descendants of Abram—of the church.
 - Lot cut them off from the blessing of God and the oracles of God.

- c. What a tragedy for the man who left the people of God!
 - But again, he himself was a righteous man—he will be in heaven...
 - And furthermore, we have seen Ruth—a godly child of Lot who returned to the LORD.
 - Ruth ended up marrying Boaz and so becoming the great-great-grandmother of King David from whom Jesus the Messiah came!
 - Oh the mercy of God!
 - There was a great loss for Lot, but what a blessing that came through him, as through Abram the Messiah came!
 - Who could have ever imagined it!
 - Perhaps at this very hour Lot is communing with Ruth in the presence of Jesus Christ in glory!
 - Nevertheless, what a great loss he suffered...
 - His righteous soul was vexed with the ungodliness of Sodom—how much more it must have been vexed with the ungodliness of his own descendants!

TRANS> Now let us look at Abram in contrast with Lot...

2. Abram, the man of faith, is immediately reassured of the blessing that God had promised to him as soon as he and Lot are separated.
 - This blessing is laid out in verses 14-18:
 - I will read it to you with comments...
 - **Gen 13:14: And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him:**
 - Notice here that the blessing is pronounced after Lot is gone—Lot is no longer to partake of this blessing with Abram.
 - And Abram is assured that though he has given up part of his inheritance to Lot for the sake of peace, it will all come back to him.

- Verse 14 continues:
- **“Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; ¹⁵ for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.**
 - Notice the deliberate contrast with Lot regarding the lifting up of the eyes—
 - Lot had *lifted up his eyes* when he chose his portion, but now God tells Abram to *lift up his eyes to see* what He is giving him.
 - Lot saw what he wanted to grasp, but Abram sees what God is giving to him and his descendants.
 - Gordon Wenham comments: It is supposed that Abram went to a spot called Ramat-Hazor where he had a panoramic view of the land. M. North found a place to the northeast of Beitin from which it is possible to see the Mediterranean in the west, the mountains of Transjordan in the east, Mt. Hermon in the north, and the Dead Sea in the south.
 - God showed Abram specifically the territory He was giving him.
 - This is an expansion of what was said to him before...
 - Now Abram is able to see the extent of the land that will be given to the church that will come from him in the days of Joshua...
 - There is also an expansion on what is told him about his descendants in verse 16:
 - **16 “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.”**
 - He was told of becoming a great nation, but now he is told that it will be a numberless nation!
 - The LORD then encourages Abram to bask in his gift, saying:
 - **17 “Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.”**
 - And godly Abram, the man of faith responds with worship...
 - **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.**
 - Lot had pitched his tent toward Sodom and eventually ends up there, sitting on the council of the city,
 - but Abram is seen building an altar to God who has blessed him and in whom he has put his trust.
 - He is seated in the kingdom of God and Lot is seated in Sodom.

Conclusion...

The application is very clear my dear brothers and sisters...

- God's blessing is with Christ and His people!
- Live at peace with God's people—do what you can on your part to live at peace with them, for that is where God commands His blessing to fall.
- Do not separate from them...live at peace and enjoy God's blessing with them.

I close with Psalm 133:

- **Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing—Life forevermore.**
- The ultimate promise of God to His people, united in Christ Jesus, is life forevermore—eternal life in glory in the kingdom of God!
 - Establish your seat at this table, not at the table of Sodom.