

The background is a textured, aged parchment with a warm, yellowish-brown hue. It features several decorative elements: a large, faint, golden-brown circular flourish at the top center, a smaller, similar flourish at the bottom center, and a small, dark, stylized symbol or mark at the bottom center. The parchment shows signs of wear, including scratches and discoloration.

Abram's Nephew: A Lot to Consider

Abram and Lot Travel

- **Story of Lot spans Genesis 12 – 19**
- **Abram leaves Ur**
 - **And takes Lot along – even though he was told to leave his relatives behind**
- **Abram arrives in Caanan**
- **There's a famine**
- **Abram takes his family to Egypt**
- **He lies about his wife, Pharoah is inflicted with diseases and kicks Abram out of Egypt**
- **Abram leaves Egypt a very rich man**

Leaving Egypt

- **We don't hear about Lot while Abram is in Egypt, but Moses reminds us in Gen 13:5 that Lot is still with Abram**
 - **And Lot also has become wealthy**
- **Abram leaves Egypt but there's still a famine**
- **Quarrelling arises between Abram's herders and Lot's – there's competition for grazing**
- **Abram tells Lot they need to part company**
 - **If you go to the left I'll go to the right**
 - **If you go to the right, I'll go to the left**

Abram's Heart

- **Abram's decision to include his nephew Lot, against God's instructions, has now led to this conflict**
 - **And this is just the beginning of the conflict**
 - **Lot will continue to be a thorn in Abram's side even after they separate**
 - **A good reminder of how our failures to follow God have lasting consequences**
- **Abram is generous in allowing Lot to choose first**
 - **As the patriarch, he could have chosen first**
 - **But Abram willingly turns it over to Lot, allowing Lot to choose whatever he wanted**

Abram and Lot Separate

- **Lot chooses the land he will occupy and Abram and Lot separate**
 - He sees the valley of Jordan
 - He notices that it is well-watered, like the garden of Eden and like Egypt
 - He chooses to live there
- **But let's look at the 4 warning signs from Moses in these verses Gen 13:10-13**



Genesis 13:10-13

10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the ^[a]Plain of the Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before Jehovah destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, like the garden of Jehovah, like the land of Egypt, as thou goest unto Zoar.

11 So Lot chose him all the Plain of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the Plain, and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners against Jehovah exceedingly. (ASV)

Moses' Warnings 1 & 2

- **First, Lot is headed East...a clear warning sign since east is associated with sin**
- **Second, notice the similarity between the language in this verse with Genesis 3:6**
 - ***6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.***
 - **In Gen. 3, the woman saw that the tree was good for food and a delight to the eyes**
 - **Here in Gen 13 Lot lifted his eyes and saw the delight of the valley**
 - **In Gen. 3 we see the eye is often the chief offender of our flesh in drawing us away from obedience**
 - **The eye draws us to lust rather than to trust and here we see Lot following woman's pattern**



Moses' Warnings 3 & 4

- **Third, Lot likes this valley because Moses writes that it reminds him of Egypt**
 - **Egypt is a picture in Scripture of the sinful, unbelieving world**
 - **The reference to Egypt shows Lot's state of heart, a man longing for the world he left in Egypt**
 - **Not a man intent on following God**
- **Fourth, Moses adds a parenthetical reference to Sodom and Gomorrah**
 - **The story of these evil cities has yet to be told in Genesis, of course, but they were infamous in Moses' day**
 - **Just as they are today, yet Lot is attracted to them**

Abram vs. Lot

- **Lot is clearly a polar opposite of Abram**
- **While Abram has returned to the land and rededicated himself to following God, Lot is running headlong into sin**
 - **Is it any wonder that God called Abram to separate himself from his family?**
 - **And why God has brought the famine to pressure the men to separate?**
 - **Only now can we understand the good and wise decision God was making in producing a famine**
 - **Remember this when you face a trial and wonder how God could love us and bring calamity**

Moving On

- So Lot moves eastward and settles in his tent *outside* the city of Sodom
- Now finally Abram is totally separated from his family
 - And only now in v14-17 does God begin to explain more to Abram about the promises he makes
- Moving to Gen 14, we see Lot causing more trouble for Abram

Genesis 14

⁸ Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboyim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim ⁹ against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. ...

¹² They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.

Lot's fall

- **The conquering army did what all winning armies do in this situation**
 - **They rape, pillage and plunder**
 - **Their goal is to eliminate these city states and make a statement to remaining vassals not to repeat this mistake**
 - **They remove all the animals, food stores and subjects of the city**
 - **With the intent to take them back to Babylon**
 - **And one of those subjects was our man Lot**
- **Interestingly, we're told in v.12 that Lot is now living in the city of Sodom**
 - **Last time we heard from Lot, he was still living in tents outside the city of Sodom (13:12)**
 - **Now he's left the tent behind and made a home in this wicked city**

Abram vs. Lot

- **Lot and Abram form a powerful contrast in this story**
 - **Abram we know as the man of faith, a righteous man who lived by faith**
 - **He purposely remained outside cities, living in tents**
 - **Showing his faith in God's promises by forsaking any compromise with the world**
 - **Lot, his nephew, is a man scripture tells us who was also a man of faith, a man who knew the living God and was counted righteous by faith**

2Peter. 2

⁷ and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless ⁸ (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)

Lot's Choices

- **Lot made very different choices than did his uncle Abram**
 - He decided to adopt a lifestyle that mirrored the world around him
 - He is led by his eyes
 - He is attracted by what the world values
- **And yet Scripture tells us that Lot was oppressed by what he saw in Sodom**
 - The word oppress in Greek is *kataponeo*, which literally means worn down
 - Lot was worn down by his exposure to the world of Sodom
 - And as he was worn down, he made compromise after compromise

Lot as a Picture

- **Lot is a picture of a carnal, disobedient follower of the living God, particularly the Gentile follower of God**
 - **He is brought into the land because of a promise of God to Abram**
 - **And his entry is made possible because of the disobedience of God's chosen**
 - **In Lot's case, he entered the Promised Land because God's chosen Abram disobeyed the word**
 - **Yet God turned that disobedience into grace for Lot**
 - **As a picture, Lot represents Gentile believers who are able to share in the promises of Abram because of the disobedience of Israel in rejecting the Messiah**

Consequences

- **Lot has been given grace to enter the land, but he is living in harmony with the world, rather than living apart from it**
 - **And he begins to picture the consequences when the people of God do not follow Him fully**
- **Suddenly, Lot finds himself in captivity headed *east* to Babylon**
 - **It's no coincidence that the attacking army is made up of forces from Babylon**
 - **We see a wonderful picture of how the enemy is always attacking, seeking to destroy and carry away God's people**
- **And Lot is going down with the ship, because he chose to align himself with the people of Sodom rather than remain outside in his tent**
 - **In a future day God sends Babylon to remove a rebellious Israel from the land as punishment for their faithlessness**
 - **Lot serves as that picture for God's purposes in teaching us today**

God Saves

- **Lot has allowed his eye to pull him away from serving God**
 - **And yet he couldn't walk so far that God left him**
 - **He's split between two worlds**
 - **The city of Sodom never accepted Lot as one of their own, because Lot refused to sin in the way that Sodom sinned**
 - **And yet Lot wasn't successful in walking with God and so he suffered the consequences that come upon the sinful world**
- **But God still saves!**

Abra-ha-m and the Miraculous Pursuit

- **Gen 14:14-16** tells the story of how Abram and his 318 men defeat the 4 kings, returning all the people (including Lot) and plunder to Sodom
- **Jumping to Gen 18**, we hear the story of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - The angels go to Sodom. When Lot sees them he presses them to stay at his house.
 - The townsmen surround his house
 - Lot offers his 2 daughters to them
 - What was Lot thinking?
- **Note:** In Gen 17, God changes Abram's name, adding the breath sound of God's own name right in the middle of Abram's (Abra-ha-m)



Life of Lot

- **How did Lot arrive at this kind of life?**
 - **He entered into a bargain with the world**
 - **In return for allowing Lot to live among the Sodomites and enjoy their worldly successes and comforts, Lot traded his peace of mind and the quiet life of a man of faith**
- **Lot's experience is certainly an extreme example, but it's an accurate representation of the challenges believers face when they marry themselves to the world**
 - **And to be specific, Lot made choice after choice to live like the unbeliever rather than to live in ways that typified God's people**
 - **He adopted their lifestyle, he placed himself in harm's way**
 - **And all the while Abraham made opposite choices**

Abraham vs. Lot

- **Coming to a story like Lot and seeing the contrast between Lot and Abraham compels us to consider our own life choices**
 - **Every day we face choice after choice to either conform to God's word or conform to the world**
 - **Some occasions we choose for one and other times we choose for the other**
 - **Have you noticed that as we like Lot chase the world, life gets more hectic, more stressful, more challenging?**
- **Yet we know following God can bring its own challenges and trials**
 - **Obedience isn't a guarantee of an easy life**
 - **We're never promised an easy life**

Lot won't Leave Sodom

- **At dawn, the angels tell Lot it's time to leave since the city is about to be destroyed.**
- **Lot hesitates. He has been tempted by the world and he wants to stay**
- **Take note of what the Lord is ready to do to save Lot (and us)**
- **The angels see that Lot will not save himself, so they are forced to take action**
 - **They take each of Lot's family by the hand and bring them outside the city**
 - **The angels save Lot from the city, removing him from the temptation that held him in place**



Lot won't Leave the Life of Sodom

- The angels have saved Lot from temptation but not from destruction
- They tell him to flee to the mountains since the entire valley lies in harm's way
 - They are not going to destroy the entire valley, just Sodom and Gommorrah
 - What is harm's way?
- From where Lot stands, he could go west to mountains in Negev or east to mountains of Botzrah and Petra
 - A change in lifestyle
 - Leaving the sinful world and all its influences
 - Trading the physical pleasures and comforts for eternal life
- Lot asks for something else



Lot Pursues His Old Life

- **Lot suggests he could exist comfortably in Zoar, a nearby town in the same valley**
 - **The name Zoar isn't spoken in the same breath as Sodom and Gomorrah, but it could have been**
 - **Lot is asking to remain attached to the same worldly influences that caused him his life's troubles**
 - **He is a carnal believer unwilling to separate from the world**
- **What does the Lord do with a child like this?**



Lot is an Example

- **Obviously, God could reject Lot's request, forcing Lot to do the right thing**
 - **The angels could drag him again into the mountains**
 - **But forcing Lot to move to the mountains doesn't solve the real problem in Lot's heart**
 - **Lot's heart is set against the will of God**
 - **God enters into a relationship with men to glorify Himself**
 - **And God intends to make Lot's life a witness to God's glory one way or another**
- **So if Lot will not glorify God through obedience, God will use Lot as a negative example**
 - **He will grant Lot what he wishes to teach a lesson**

Lot's Choices, God's response

- **Genesis shows us a great deal about the man Lot**
 - **We came to see him as a man of faith worn down by his association with the sinful world**
 - **As a man living a life of compromise and suffering great loss as a result, both in this world and in the next**
- **We witness God dealing with Lot as a Father deals with His children**
 - **He brought discipline and allowed the consequences of Lot's sin to rest upon him and his family**
 - **But nevertheless, God showed mercy to Lot in keeping with His character and His promise to Abraham**



Lot's Sad Ending

- Now we hear the sad ending of Lot in Gen 19

³⁰ Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave.

- Zoar was the only city in the valley to escape judgment
- So when the one surviving family from the other cities wanders into Zoar, how do you think the city population responded to them?
- Undoubtedly, they reacted quite negatively to their presence
- They probably assumed they were cursed and feared the same judgment might follow them to Zoar

Lot's Ironic End

- The angels had told Lot he should escape to the mountains, but Lot wasn't practiced at listening to the voice of the Lord
- And so he found his way to the mountains the hard way
- There is a certain irony to Lot's situation
- He rejected the nomadic life of his uncle Abraham because he preferred the lush, easy life of a city
- But now that his sinful choices have caught up with him, he is living in caves, an even worse existence than when he enjoyed the wealth of a nomad

A Lot to Consider

- **There's a lot more that can be learned from this story about unchanging hearts and yielding to the world**
- **Last week we spoke about finishing strong**
- **Lot clearly didn't finish strong**
- **Still, he was a man saved by faith**
- **But it feels like he wasted opportunities because of his attraction to the world**
- **I see Lot in my own life and it is sobering**



Ezekiel 36

²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ²⁸ Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

