

## Genesis 13 New American Standard Bible

### Abram and Lot

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him and Lot with him.

<sup>2</sup> Now Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold. <sup>3</sup> And he went on his journeys from the Negev 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 previously; and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents. <sup>6</sup> And the land could not support both of them while living together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together. <sup>7</sup> And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land at that time.

<sup>8</sup> So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are relatives! <sup>9</sup> Is the entire land not before you? Please separate from me; if you choose the left, then I will go to the right; or if you choose the right, then I will go to the left." <sup>10</sup> Lot raised his eyes and saw all the vicinity of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt going toward Zoar.

<sup>11</sup> So Lot chose for himself all the vicinity of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. So they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup> Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot <sup>1</sup>settled in the cities of the vicinity of the Jordan, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup> Now the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked sinners against the Lord.

<sup>14</sup> The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now raise your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward, and eastward and westward; <sup>15</sup> for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever.

<sup>16</sup> I will make your descendants as plentiful as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can count the dust of the earth, then your descendants could also be counted. <sup>17</sup> Arise, walk about in the land through its length and width; for I will give it to you." <sup>18</sup> Then Abram moved his tent and came and lived by the <sup>[p]</sup>oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron; and there he built an altar to the Lord.

**Hebron** ([Arabic](#): [Hebrew](#): [Hevrōn](#)) is a [Palestinian](#) city in the southern [West Bank](#), 19 mi south of [Jerusalem](#). Nestled in the [Judean Mountains](#), it lies 930 metres (3,050 ft) [above sea level](#).

Largest city in the West Bank, and the second largest in the [Palestinian territories](#) after [Gaza](#),

It has a population of over 215,000 [Palestinians](#) And seven hundred [Jewish settlers](#) concentrated on the outskirts of the [Old City of Hebron](#). It includes the [Cave of the Patriarchs](#), which Christian and Islamic designate as the burial site of three key [patriarchal](#) couples. [Judaism](#) ranks Hebron the second-holiest city after [Jerusalem](#),

While Muslims regard it as one of the four holy cities.

The city is often described as a "microcosm" of the [Israeli occupation of the West Bank](#).

The [Hebron Protocol](#) of 1997 divided the city into two sectors:

H1, controlled by the Palestinian Authority,

H2, roughly 20% of the city, including 35,000 Palestinians,

Under Israeli military administration.

All security arrangements and travel permits for local residents are coordinated between the Palestinian Authority and Israel via the military administration of the West Bank, officially named [Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories](#)

The Jewish settlers have their own governing municipal body,

The [Committee of the Jewish Community of Hebron](#).

Hebron is a busy hub of [West Bank](#) trade, generating roughly a third of the area's [gross domestic product](#), largely due to the sale of [limestone](#) from quarries in its area.

It has a local reputation for its grapes, figs, limestone, [pottery](#) workshops and [glassblowing](#) factories, and has the major dairy-product manufacturer The old city of Hebron features narrow, winding streets, flat-roofed stone houses, and old [bazaars](#).

The story of Abraham's purchase of the [Cave of the Patriarchs](#) from the was to become the Jewish attachment to the land in that it signified the first "real estate" of Israel long before the conquest under Joshua. In settling here, Abraham is described as making his first [covenant](#),

It was one of the principal centers of [Judah](#) and was classified as one of the six traditional [Cities of Refuge](#).

1. Abraham went from Egypt, having been expelled by Pharaoh, with his tail between his legs!

2. He left Egypt with the livestock, silver and gold that Pharaoh had given to him as a result of the giving of Sarah to Pharaoh. Why didn't Pharaoh take the gifts back?
3. Abraham went back to the beginning, to the place where he first met God, to Bethel, back to the altar he had made to the Lord when the Lord had spoken to him.
4. How hard is it to go back having gone wrong? Having gone the wrong way? Having done the wrong thing?
5. What would stop you from going back?
6. Abraham re-establishes his relationship with God, at Bethel, by calling on His name. The honour of God's name is very important to him.
7. God never leaves us, it is we who leave Him.
8. Lot, Abraham's Uncle, had been with him from the beginning and had also been very blessed with livestock.
9. The land could not sustain them both so a division broke out among the herdsmen.
10. Vision is to see and to focus on better. Division is to lose sight of values and purpose and to focus on the problems.
11. As you would expect Abraham brokers a diplomatic solution because he understands the bigger picture, because he is a man of faith who is able to see.
12. He knows sustaining unity amongst the brothers is better than winning the argument, being right and having the last say is not all it is cut out to be when you are sitting at the table eating alone.
13. Abraham invites Lot to choose the prize real estate land for grazing his cattle. He is prepared to sacrifice for the purpose of unity. Abraham has his eye on the ball.
14. Abraham is wise enough to accept sometimes being together means separation in order to remain friends.
15. He is prepared to take the lesser place for his livestock to retain unity.
16. Lot chooses the valley and streams and blessings, but it is the place called Sodom in the valley of Jordan.
17. God's calling was upon Abraham and his descendants, it was necessary for him to separate from Lot at this time.
18. He had been dependent upon his uncle, but now he would need to depend on God.
19. God was going to teach Abraham how to trust in the Lord, sadly many will just not let go of their dependencies in other things. Some are even more prepared to trust in their fears and their bad experiences than to trust in God.
20. There is a problem in Sodom, the land Lot chose, in that the men were exceedingly wicked. What did these men do to make themselves 'exceedingly wicked'?

21. What does the word 'exceedingly' mean?
22. Having separated from Lot God gives Abraham a new promise, it is the inheritance of the land of Canaan, to his children and his children's children.
23. God uses such extravagant language to express to Abraham just how many of his descendants will be blessed.
24. Is it possible to count the dust of the earth?
25. God invites Abraham to walk and see the reality of the promises He made.
26. Hebron is an important place for Israel as a nation, then and now.