

Abram and Lot Separate

Key Verse: *“Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.”*
—Genesis 13:8

Selected Scripture:
Genesis 13:1-18

they wanted. However, Abram did just this in dealing with his nephew Lot.

Abram’s desire for peace was genuine, and the various viewpoints of fallen human wisdom which usually affect such matters did not concern him. He was rich, but because of his faith in the promises which God had given him, he was not anxious concerning the maintaining or increasing of his flocks. (Gen. 12:1-3) Living in peace with his nephew was of greater value than flocks. Consequently, he said to Lot, “Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, ... for we be brethren.”

Abram suggested that Lot survey the whole land, decide which section suited him best, and then take possession of it. Abram further stated his willingness to

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herdsmen had been quarrelling because of insufficient grazing area for their respective flocks. (Gen. 13:2-7) This called for a peace treaty, and Abram, Lot’s uncle, was in a position to dictate those terms. Throughout history, few individuals or nations which were in a position to dictate the terms of peace have voluntarily suggested that those who were situated less favorably should have first choice in what

occupy what was left. (Gen. 13:8-12) For Abram, it was well worth making costly concessions in order to have peace with his kinsman.

Abram's example is a valuable lesson for us. We should endeavour to dwell together with others in peace. The extent to which we succeed depends largely upon our willingness to forego our personal rights and preferences, and our willingness to give others their choice.

Paul admonishes: "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live in peace with all people." (Rom. 12:18, *International Standard Version*) However, it may not always be possible. The Christian may find, at times, that it is necessary to take a firm stand for godly principles. We must be loyal to God, to the Truth, and to righteousness, regardless of the cost. (James 3:17) We should contend for these principles; yet, not with carnal weapons nor with bitter words, but with love and kindness. Self-advancement, self-enrichment, or self-glory are not principles for which any Christian should strive.

Lot chose the well-watered plain of Jordan, but the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were located there. He chose the "best" so far as material advantage was concerned. However, he was "tortured in his righteous soul" to daily hear and see the "immoral conduct of lawless people" in Sodom and Gomorrah. Ultimately, it also cost Lot the loss of his wife and his earthly riches.—II Pet. 2:6-8, *ISV*

Nevertheless, God "rescued Lot, a righteous man." Peter points out a comforting lesson, stating: "the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials." (Gen. 19:1-29; II Pet. 2:7,9, *ISV*) Thus, if as one of the Lord's followers we make an unwise choice in life, yet strive to remain faithful to the Lord and his principles, God is willing and able to overrule our experiences for our eternal, spiritual interests. Paul assures us, "We know that for those who love God, that is, for those who are called according to his purpose, all things are working together for good."—Rom. 8:28, *ISV* ■