

THE TEXT LEVEL

(Genesis 12 tells us that Abram went from Haran to Canaan and took his brother's son Lot with him. They eventually spent time in Egypt where a deception involving Sarai allowed them to leave Egypt unharmed.)

1. And Abram went up out of Egypt, he and his wife and everything he had, and Lot with him, towards the south.
2. And Abram was very rich in cattle, silver and gold.
3. And he went in accordance with his journeys from the south and even to Bethel, even to the place where his tent had been at the start, between Bethel and Ai,
4. To the place of the altar that he made there in the beginning; and there Abram called on the name of Jehovah.
5. And Lot also who went with Abram had flocks and herds and tents.
6. And the land was unable to bear them, that they might dwell together, for their acquisitions were great, and they could not dwell together.
7. And there was strife between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen. And the Canaanite and the Perizzite were then dwelling in the land.
8. And Abram said to Lot, Let there not be strife between me and you, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are men who are brothers.
9. Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself, now, from me. If you go to the left, then I will go to the right, but if you go to the right, I will go to the left."
10. And Lot lifted up his eyes and he saw all the plain of Jordan, that the whole of it was well watered, before Jehovah destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, like the garden of Jehovah, like the land of Egypt as you come to Zoar.
11. And Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan; and Lot travelled from the east, and they separated, man from his brother.
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. And the men (vir) of Sodom were evil and great sinners before Jehovah.
14. And Jehovah said to Abram, after Lot had been separated from him, Lift up your eyes, now, and look from the place where you are, towards the north, and towards the south, and towards the east, and towards the west.

15. For all the land which you see I will give to you, and to your seed even for ever.

16. And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, so also will your seed be numbered.

17. Arise, walk through the land, the length of it and the breadth of it, for to you will I give it.”

18. And Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt in the oak-groves of Mamre which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to Jehovah.

THE SPIRITUAL MEANING

We are going to look at chapter meanings on 2 different levels

- things this chapter has in it which are spiritually about our regeneration states
- things it deals with about the Lord's developing consciousness (as a "child")

The two will overlap to some extent and that's okay.

AC material presents mainly on the Lord's internal development during his childhood

THE NAMES: ABRAM AND LOT

Be aware that Biblical names have meanings which have a connection with sp. meanings.

ABRAM = "Father of height, of exaltation" (ABRAHAM means "Father of a multitude")

LOT = "hidden, concealed, veiled"

WAYS IN WHICH THIS CHAPTER RELATES TO US

This chapter helpfully has a number of spiritual ideas **close to the surface** which come up in the text. So, let's cover these first.

There is Abram, conscious of God, of being called by God and being obedient to God. Abram has his brother's son, Lot, with him, in tow, right from his departure from Haran. We know nothing about Lot apart from that fact.

For us, a 'one with another one' is indicative of our own experience of strange duality – Basically, I am a good person but there is another part of me which doesn't conform. Jekyll and Hyde/Shadow Side – or however we want to describe this universal reality.

Genesis 13 describes how the two are **together**, how this **causes a problem**, and how the problem **gets resolved**.

At this point, just note that while Abram+Lot separate, they take up different places **still in the land of Canaan**.

Spiritually 'Canaan' represents our regenerate state, potentially our heavenly being.

a) One main idea is 'separation' – Abram and Lot actually separate from each other.

Hebrew word 'to separate' can also carry the meaning to **spread out** like an eagle's wings and also the meaning of a **seed which falls** (separates) from the plant.

Note: that both of these other meanings suggest relationship and not severance.

b) There's a reminder of Day 2 in the Creation story of a firmament dividing the waters above from the waters beneath, yet both are waters.

Note particularly with this how the waters (truths) **were one**, then are **separated** and then **work together even while separate** to be the water cycle (truth cycling) for the “world” – our spiritual understanding.

c) For us, spiritually, separation can be drawing a **distinction** between things
Note how some distinctions we make seem **opposites** and some seem **complementary** (a complement is “either of two parts that complete the whole or mutually complete each other”).

Let’s play a game... which kinds are these?

good and evil – heaven and earth – wet and dry – true and false – external and internal – male and female – God and Mammon – rich and poor.

While some seem opposites, they **can all also be seen to be complementary**.

So apparent opposites have their part in and with each other.

d) Another ‘separation’ we can experience is to **separate** ourselves from situations which involve anger and conflict. The separation is done to keep the union and dis-empower the conflict.

Note how in the text a) Abram and Lot are not in conflict, only their herdsmen are, and b) Abram tells Lot – Let there be no strife because we are **kinsmen**.

Also adding that there must also be no strife between my herdsmen and your herdsmen.

Note that Abram gives Lot his own free choice – (v9) Is not the **whole** land before you? Separate yourself, now, from me. If you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will go to the left.

In Genesis 14 Abram will rescue Lot taken in a battle, and **bring him back**.

This sequence is very important – it gives us this pattern –

	ABRAM	
ABRAM/LOT		<u>ABRAM</u> LOT

LOT’S CHOICE

Given the choice, Lot sees and chooses **the plain of Jordan**

Some of its pleasant aspects are included, well watered, garden of Jehovah, etc.

This attracts Lot – he chooses this – he travels from the east (spiritually, away from God-consciousness)

For us, this is our natural attraction to self-indulgence **for its own sake and sensation**.

I guess there are many forms this can take –

Sensual delights, ease, likeability, success, esteem, praise, assured...

All well and good – these are **not corrupted** but they are materialistic/instant gratification

They can be so delightful in themselves that our spiritual life will be lost sight of.

The danger is given in v12 “Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and **moved his tents as far as Sodom. The men of Sodom were evil and great sinners before Jehovah.**”

In Hebrew, ‘Sodom’ means ‘burning, secret intrigues, hidden wiles’

Oh dear! Lot (‘veiled’) is walking straight into something which looks attractive but has the potential to do terrible things to him.

We can inadvertently go that way – and we can see someone else and the risk to them.

GOD AND ABRAM AFTER LOT

Abram is now Lotless 'after Lot had been separated from him'. Abram is **himself**. I think this describes, for us, a full self-realisation with nothing now 'in tow'. We are not in two states but one.

God now speaks in the fullest possible way

Look from the place **where you are**, to the north, south, east, west.

I will give you **all the land you see** and to **your seed for ever**.

Your seed will be as numerous **as the dust of the earth**.

Walk the length and breadth of it for to **you** I give it.

This is a description of spiritual attraction – in contrast with Lot and natural attraction.

THE OAK GROVES OF MAMRE

As Lot did, Abram moved his tents, and dwelt in the oak groves of Mamre, in Hebron.

This, for us, is about consolidating, affirming, looking in our intention to be and to stay spiritual, after 'seeing the whole land'.

Hebrew: Mamre 'fully assimilated' Hebron 'cemented, welded'

...and the oak groves

All references to **trees** in the Bible stand for our **perceptions** – perceptions are what we intuitively know and sense is true and real.

Trees have this meaning because they are the largest plants growing from under the surface of the ground (our mind) and coming to sight above ground very fully by being large.

The oak tree specifically represents perception of natural life (use, action, values, integrity) Where the spiritual is now expressed in how we live.

So here is Abram being given all the land and being this in its entirety.

The contrast to Lot choosing natural life separate from its spiritual origin is made clear.

Note

Where are the plains of Jordan, and Sodom?



The plain of Jordan is the low fertile valley of the river Jordan running down all the east of Canaan.

The point is that the plain of Jordan is as much part of Canaan as anywhere else, so it also belongs to Abram!

The map shows Lot's tent and Sodom which is believed to have been on land but now thought to be submerged under the southernmost part of the Dead Sea.

Sodom and Gomorrah

9. The dying down of what does not accord with celestial good
10. The external man appearing to the Lord as beautiful (garden of Jehovah) – beautiful when it is joined with the internal and deriving from it
11. The relative ugliness of the external when it is existing in separation from the internal (journeying from the East)
12. The external man being in factual knowledge which then leads to a reaching out towards evil desires (pitched his tent as far as Sodom)
13. Facts reach out to evil desires when they are learned in order to appear learned, whereas all facts exist for the person to become rational and thus wise, and to serve good.
14. The now non-interfering and non-obstructing presence of the non-present external.
15. The entirety of the heavenly kingdom which is now perceived and all its future and all its peoples
North – South – East – West= all men in their various states throughout the entire universe, past, present, future.
And all human states in terms of love and faith.
16. Being able to be multiplied beyond measure, being the boundlessness of the Lord's will
17. The experience and discovery of human existence in its completeness.
Length = good; Breadth = truth
18. A more interior state comes – the oak groves of Mamre (see ch 12oak grove of Moreh