

RUSSELL SANDERS

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ABRAHAM – PART 11

STRIFE: LUST OF THE EYE

Abram left Egypt and, via the Negev, returned to Beth-el with considerable wealth. It has been estimated that his household may have numbered around a thousand souls counting all his servants and herds. Lot was still with him and also possessed a large household of servants and herds.

Grazing for herds was a challenge. There was scarcely enough for both Abraham's herds and Lot's herds. Plus, there were yet Canaanites and Perizzites there to compete for grazing rights. Abram wanted no strife in the family, so Abram negotiated a solution with Lot. This land of Canaan was a large area of land. Abram told Lot to choose whatever area he would like to settle in, and Abram would take the area in the opposite direction.

Lot saw that the plain around the Jordan River was very fertile, so Lot journeyed east to that plain. Abram went west, settling for the less attractive area in the plain of Mamre, later known as Hebron which would become a refuge for young King David a thousand years later as he escaped Saul's wrath.

Upon settling in Hebron (Mamre), Abram built an altar unto the Lord. Notice that Lot made his choice based on how good things looked toward Jordan. He could envision continuous prosperity and growth. He chose the "better" land even though his uncle Abram had taken care of him. He left the "poorer" looking land to his uncle.

Abram's choice was for the sake of peace. Let us think of this in spiritual terms. Lot chose the allurements of the world, the things that look good to the lust of the eye or flesh. Most people follow in that way. If it "looks good, tastes good, and feels good, then it must be good." That is the world's trap. It took Lot to Sodom.

Abram chose the way of peace. Who is our peace giver? Jesus said (John 14:27), ***"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you."*** This is a foreshadow type of Jesus that Abram chose peace. Matthew 5:9 says, ***"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."*** Abram's descendants indeed became the children of God.

God is grieved when there is strife, fighting, and arguing in His Church, just as Abram had been grieved. Jesus gave love as the greatest commandment. Peace and love work together. If you are in strife with anyone, pray and seek peace with them. Ask God for help with it. Holy Spirit will make a way.