

#21 TAG ALONG CHRISTIANS

We saw in Ch.13 that Lot went along with Abraham, and that is good for we are told in, 2 Peter 2.8 that the ungodly vexed Lots righteous soul from day to day.

Groups of people select the company they feel comfortable with, and Christians need to and are directed in the scriptures to fellowship with other Christians.

Both Abraham and Lot were rich with much flocks and herds, tents and servants,

HEATED HERDSMEN

Now it seems that Abraham and Lot got on well together, but not the servants for we are told in,

(Gen 13:7) And there was a strife between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

Notice the mention of the Canaanite and the Perizzite were close neighbours, the inference is that there was a witness of the unbelievers of the contention which is a bad testimony.

I feel sure there is always a way to make a peaceful settlement if at least one person keeps a cool head and is of a generous spirit, we are given a good example in,

(Gen 13:8) And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we be brethren.

(Gen 13:9) Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

PETITION FOR PEACE

Abraham was a peace maker, he didn't feel the need to bargain with Lot, his trust was in his living God and the promises he had given him. The generous spirit and the trusting heart will always be blessed of God, not necessarily in dollars but in the things you most need.

THE DECEIVING EYE

Now we see a repeat performance of what Eve did in the Garden, the offspring of our first parents are plagued with the sin of those parents,

(Gen 13:10) And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD.

The lust of the eye and a desire for the best for self and putting God in second place will have detrimental results as we shall see.

A BEAUTIFUL SITUATION

Lot lifted up his eyes and viewed all the good soil and rich pasture for his flocks in the Jordan valley about 30 Km. wide, lovely to behold and a perfect place for his family and many servants, with a large population to trade with to increase his wealth and popularity.

PROGRESSION TOWARD POVERTY

V.10 Lot saw, V.11 Lot chose, V.12 Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent toward Sodom. And even today the word Sodom has its associated with sexual wickedness.

CHOOSING FOR ETERNITY

The higher the desires for the wealth and power of this world the steeper the decline in true values and we can see this with Lot as we follow his life from here onwards, from the heights of Bethel to the cities of sin.

(Eze 16:49) Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her ...

(Eze 16:50) And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

How carefully we need to choose in the issues of life, where we go, what we do and especially what we see, it was the lust of the eyes that caused Eve and Lot a enormous amount of heartache and a multitude of others since .

The greatest tool in the hand of Satan today is the appeal to the eyes.

Abraham stood back and let God direct the outcome of his life as we see in,

(Gen 13:14) And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

(Gen 13:15) For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

Lots choice was carnal, temporary and fleeting, for the next we read of him he is carried away captive and Abraham had to rescue him. Then he had to be forcefully evacuated to the mountains to preserve his life, for that is all he carried away with him.