

Conflict through Eyes of Faith Pt. 2

Genesis 13:10-18

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We are not merely looking for an example of faith, but a life of faith.

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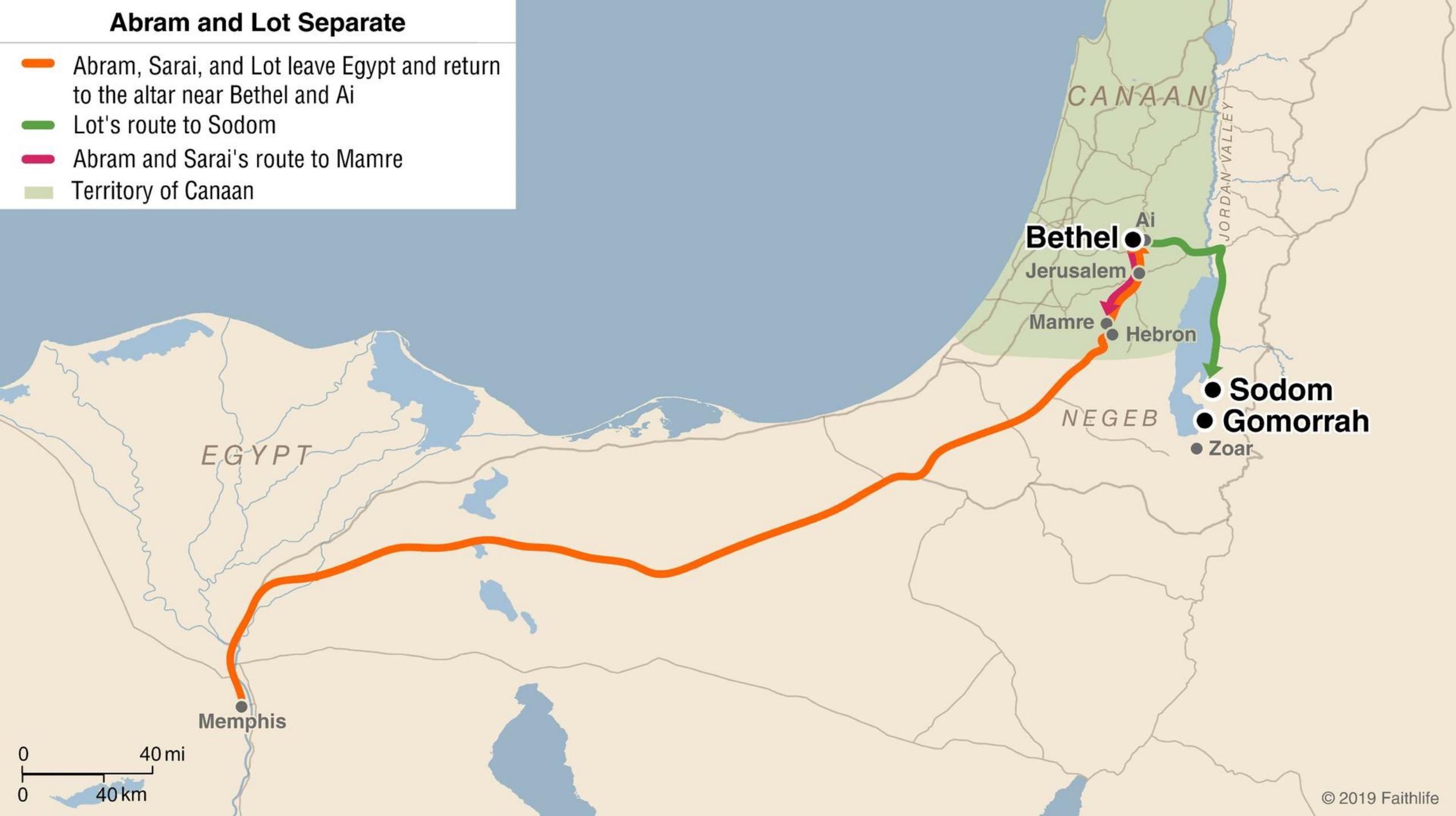
True faith returns from battles yielded to unbelief and moves toward the next normal test of faith with worship and obedience.

I. To what do you return? vv. 1-4



Abram and Lot Separate

-  Abram, Sarai, and Lot leave Egypt and return to the altar near Bethel and Ai
-  Lot's route to Sodom
-  Abram and Sarai's route to Mamre
-  Territory of Canaan



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“Here, then, is the key test of the kind of faith you have: **does your failure drive you from God or toward him?** If your faith is in the power of your faith, failure will drive you away from God. If you are trusting in your own goodness to gain access to God’s presence, you will either try to conceal your failure and pretend that it never happened, or you will be devastated by your failure and driven away from God by it. The reason is simple: your failure exposes the emptiness of your claim to stand before God on your own merits . . . **if your faith rests in God and what he does for your ability to enter his presence, then your failure won’t destroy you. It will drive you back to square one, back to the altar where you started, so that you can repent and call on the name of the Lord.**” Iain Duguid

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- I. **To what do you return?** vv. 1-4
- II. **What are your goals in conflict?** vv. 5-12

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 - A. **Conflict Because of Material Blessing** vv. 5-6

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 - A. **Conflict Because of Material Blessing** vv. 5-6
 - B. **Conflict Resolution Exposes Priorities** vv. 8-12
 1. **Priorities Showing Eternal Values** vv. 8-9

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'You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. 18 **'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself;** I am the LORD.
Leviticus 19:17–18

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

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“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ 44 **“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 **“For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?** Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 **“If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others?** Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43–48

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Matthew 5:43–48

Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen. Romans 15:33

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Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 **Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.**

1 Timothy 6:17–19

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1 Timothy 6:17–19

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

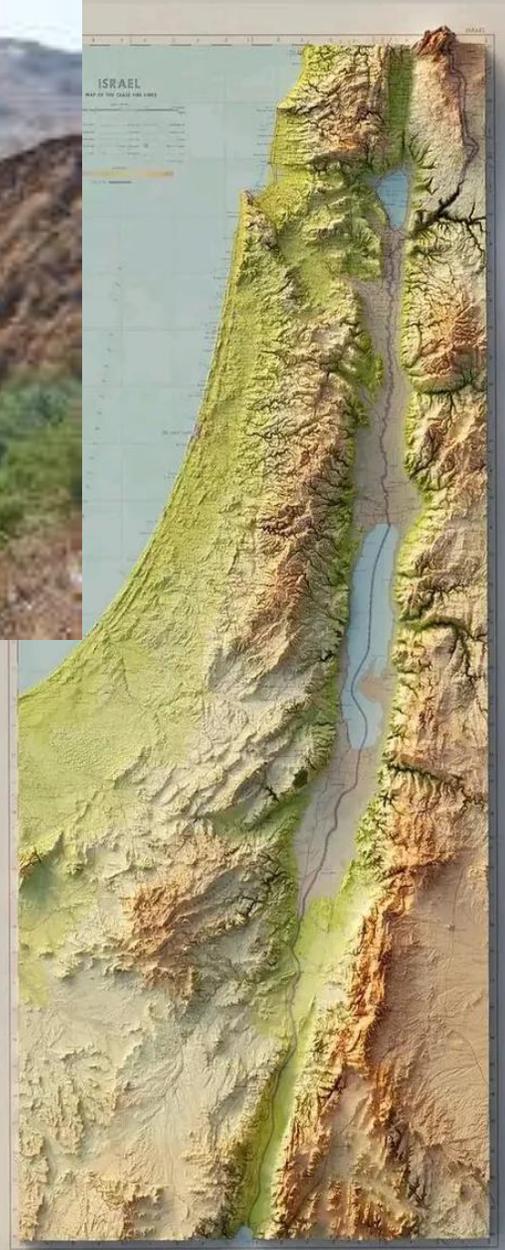
Romans 12:18

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 1. **Priorities Showing Eternal Values** vv. 8-9
 2. **Priorities Showing Resolution of Present Needs** vv. 10-12





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“Whosoever is too eagerly intent upon his own advantage, is wanting in humanity towards others.”

John Calvin

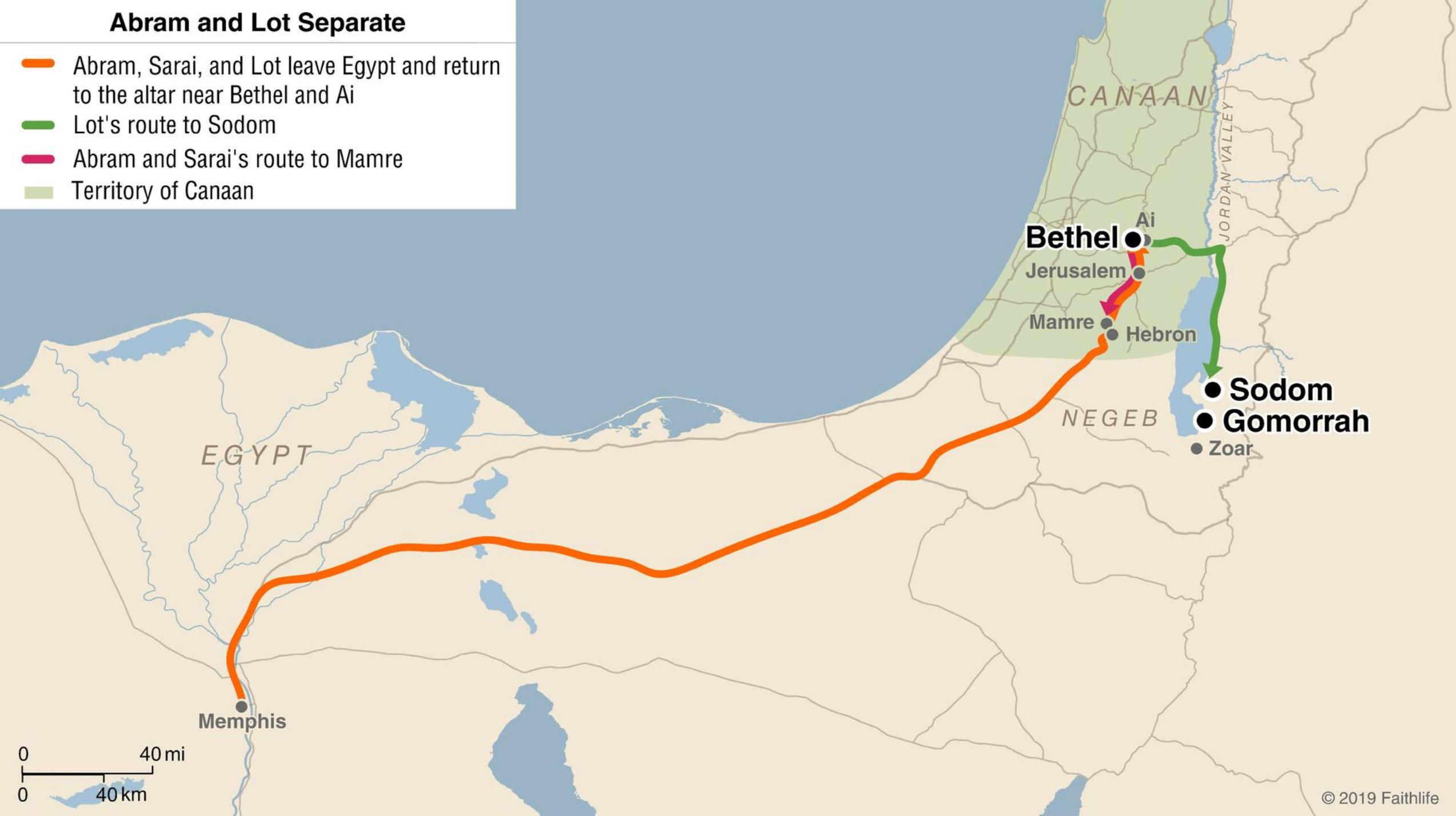


ABE GOES HIGH, LOT GOES LOW

“Lot chose the entire Jordan River Valley..Abram stayed west of the river, camping in the fields of Canaan.” Genesis 13:11, 12

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- III. **Where is God's place in your conflict and resulting choices?**
vv. 13-18
 - A. **Seeking God in the path of your kingdom values** v. 13

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Where are your tents pointed and What do you see?

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Where are your tents pointed and What do you see?

1. Do you recognize the seriousness of the problem?

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But they said, “Stand aside.” Furthermore, they said, “This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them.” So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door.

Genesis 19:9

“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: **she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy.** 50 “Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw it.

Ezekiel 16:49–50

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5 Then the LORD saw that **the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

12 God looked on the earth, and behold, **it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.** 13 Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.

Genesis 6:5, 12-13

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Where are your tents pointed and What do you see?

1. Do you recognize the seriousness of the problem?
2. Do you recognize the subtlety of the problem?

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“in assurance and self-confidence; eager to do the very best for themselves; **prepared to consider the moralities only in so far as these did not interfere with what they held to be the main chance of life**—thus have succeeding generations looked towards the plains of Sodom from afar. And alas! Like Lot, they tried to make stones into bread; they have cast themselves down from the mountain side, for angels to catch; they have knelt before the tempter, to find his promise broken, the vision of power an illusion, and the soul beggared for ever—whilst the tempter, with hollow laugh, has disappeared, leaving his dupe standing alone in the midst of a desolate wilderness.”

F B Meyer

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and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live **ungodly lives** thereafter; 7 **and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men** 8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from **temptation**, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 **and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority**. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,

2 Peter 2:6–10

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We can build Godlike character only upon the foundation of a whole-hearted devotion to God. God must be the very focal point of our lives if we wish to have godly character and conduct. This point cannot be overemphasized. Too many of us focus on the outward structure of character and conduct without taking the time to build the inward foundation of devotion to God. This often results in a cold morality or legalism, or even worse, self-righteousness and spiritual pride... Godly character flows out of devotion to God and practically confirms the reality of that devotion.

Jerry Bridges *The Practice of Godliness*

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Where are your tents pointed and What do you see?

- 1. Do you recognize the seriousness of the problem?**
- 2. Do you recognize the subtlety of the problem?**
- 3. Do you agree with God's root of the problem?**

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 - B. **Seeking God in the path of God's kingdom purposes** vv. 14-18

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“When we rest our faith in God’s Word and its promises through Jesus Christ, we will find not only our stride lengthening but also our desire to be with the Lord growing stronger. Like Abram, our faith is leading us upward into heaven. While still on earth, the bowing of our hearts in worship brings us closest to our eternal home.”

Richard Phillips

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For until men recognize that they owe everything to God, that they are nourished by His fatherly care, that He is the Author of their every good, that they should seek nothing beyond Him — they will never yield Him willing service. Nay, unless they establish their complete happiness in Him, they will never give themselves truly and sincerely to Him.

John Calvin *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

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If God is not sovereign in the decisions and actions of other people as they affect us, **then there is a whole major area of our lives where we cannot trust God**; where we are left, so to speak, to fend for ourselves.

Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*

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As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as **good stewards of the manifold grace of God.** 11
Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is **speaking the utterances of God**; whoever serves is to do so as one who is **serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,** to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10–11

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Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,** ⁴ just as He **chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world, **that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love** ⁵ **He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,** ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:3–6

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If you just get the big things straightened out, you will have what you need in the little things. What everyone in the world is obsessed with, God makes a distant second. He'll give you what you need to live on if you need Him in order to live.

David Powlison

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Behold our shield, O God, And look upon the face of Your anointed. 10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, **How blessed is the man who trusts in You!**

Psalm 84:9–12

Journeys of Abraham - Part 1

UR OF CHALDEES TO HARAN

- About 600 miles distance
- Genesis 11:27-32
- Ur 50 miles south of Babylon
- Death of Abraham's father Nahor (age 148)
- God calls for Abraham to leave
 - Genesis 12:1-3
 - Acts 7:2-4

BETHEL TO EGYPT

- About 225 miles southwest
- Genesis 12:9-13
- Abraham denies that Sarah is his wife

EGYPT TO BETHEL

- About 225 miles northeast
- Abram returns and offers prayer
- Genesis 13:1-4
- Lot separates from Abraham

BETHEL TO MAMRE (HEBRON)

- About 35 miles distance
- Genesis 13:18
- Builds 3rd altar

HEBRON TO HOBAB

- Near Damascus
- About 160 miles distance
- Genesis 14:1-16
- Abram
 - Pursues robbers
 - Rescues Lot
 - Recovers goods

HARAN TO SHECHEM

- About 400 miles distance
- Crossing Jordan at Succoth
 - Genesis 12:1-7
- 1st altar built
- Abram worships God

SHECHEM TO BETHEL

- About 20 miles distance
- Genesis 12:8
- 2nd altar built
- Prayer offered
- Famine in Canaan



Abraham
"Father of the Faithful"