

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Ms. Dannels, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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“Is Not the Whole Land Before You?”

By Derek Long

God had called Abram to leave his homeland and go to a land He would show him (Genesis 12:1). Abram entered the land of Canaan and God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abram's descendants (Genesis 12:4-7). Lot, Abram's nephew, also came to the land of Canaan with Abram. Abram went down to Egypt during a time of famine but eventually returned to the land of Canaan. The text tells us at this time, “Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold” (Genesis 13:2, NKJV). We learn a few verses later, “Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents” (Genesis 13:5, NKJV). Abram and Lot are both rich especially in livestock to the point the land was not able to support them both (Genesis 13:6). Strife was developing between Abram and Lot's herdsmen (Genesis 13:7). It is with this background that Abram says to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left” (Genesis 13:8-9, NKJV). Let's think about some lessons we can learn from how Abram handles this problem between Lot and his herdsmen.

Abram is first a person who does not want strife to exist. Abram wants peace to exist between Lot and him. Are we the sort of people who make it our goal to achieve peace with those around us especially with our brethren? Jesus says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9, NKJV). The New Testament will instruct us to pursue peace (Romans 12:18; 2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 12:14-15; James 3:18). Abram has the right aim or goal throughout this conversation of seeking to maintain peace with Lot. It is wise to maintain peace and put a stop to strife because it can quickly get out of control if we are not careful. Proverbs 17:14 says, “The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts” (NKJV). If we are going to be the kind of person who avoids strife and creates peace, we must be humble (Proverbs 13:10; 28:25) and not be an angry man ourselves (Proverbs 29:22). Abram is not filled with anger but instead has love toward Lot. Abram also acts in a humble manner which helps the situation be resolved peacefully.

Abram understood how important it was for brethren to have peace and harmony. Psalm 133:1-3 describes the blessedness of brethren dwelling together in unity. In our homes and in our churches it is important for us to remember the blessedness of dwelling together in unity as brethren.

Abram allowed Lot to pick the land Lot wanted to dwell in. Abram did not try to selfishly pick the land he wanted for himself and force Lot onto the land he did not want. Abram was willing to take whatever land Lot decided he did not want. Peace is promoted when individuals are willing to yield in areas where such does not involve compromising what is right

(James 3:17). In seeking to resolve problems between individuals, it is necessary to have a humble spirit like this. It is necessary not to become focused on ourselves but to put take into consideration the other’s interest as well (Philippians 2:3-4).

Abram may have gotten what looked like at the moment the bad end of the deal. Abram did not have a land which was as well-watered as the land Lot got (Genesis 13:10-11). Yet Abram ultimately got the better land spiritually. Lot chose a place based upon material considerations without considering the moral climate of the land he was choosing (Genesis 13:13). Let’s learn a lesson from Lot about the danger of making decisions without factoring into our decision making process spiritual concerns. God is with Abram and will eventually give to Abram and his descendants the land of Canaan. God reaffirms this promise to Abram at the end of chapter 13 (Genesis 13:14-17).