

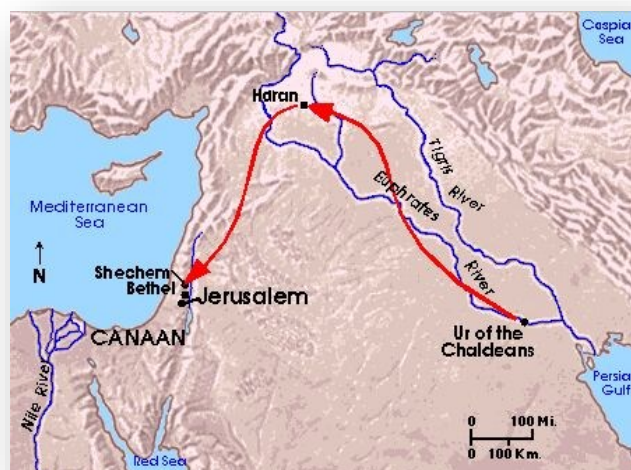
Typology

A Jewish Midrashic method of interpretation.

BY DR BRUCE WOOLARD

ABRAHAM & LOT

God called Abraham (*his original name was Abram*), from Ur of the Chaldees to Haran and from Haran to Canaan. When a famine arose, Abraham, the Father of Faith, doubted, and accompanied by Lot, sought refuge in Egypt. This decision had severe consequences for Abraham's household and all mankind. The principle of sowing and reaping is a universal principle.



HAGAR A SURROGATE

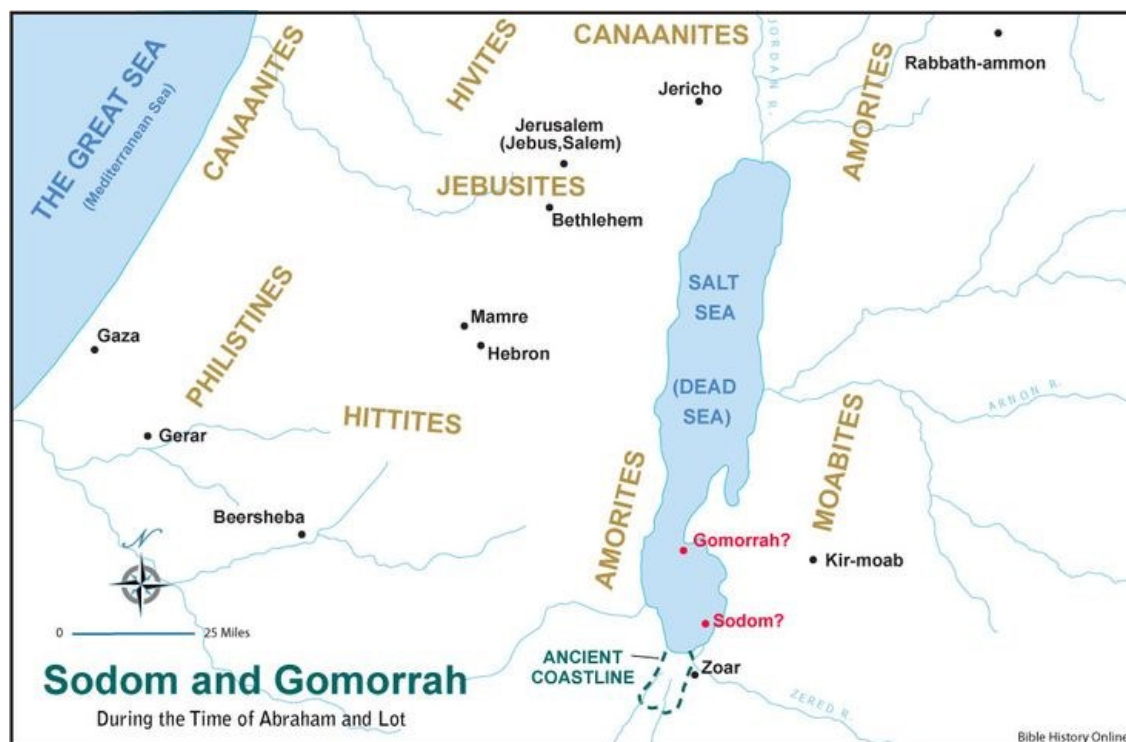
After ten years in Egypt, Sarah, Abraham's wife, took Hagar, an Egyptian, as her maid. The scriptures reveal the consequences of Abraham's decision to live in Egypt. When Sarah could not conceive, she proposed that Hagar become a surrogate mother for her. Ishmael, Hagar's son, born from Abraham, and Isaac, Sarah's son (born later when she conceived according to God's promise) were in conflict and strife. Today the hatred of the Arabs for the Jews and the ongoing conflict regarding who are the rightful owners of Canaan (*Palestine*) is a consequence of Abraham's poor choice to dwell in Egypt. (**Gen 21:9**).

MATERIAL WEALTH

Another problem that arose as a result of Abraham's decision to leave the Promised Land and live in Egypt was the fact that Abraham became a very rich man. The narrative in Genesis records the conflict and dispute of Abraham and Lot because of their wealth and grazing land for their cattle. The first mention of riches in the Bible is the account recorded **Gen 13:1-6**. As it was then so it is now. "That riches pierce the possessor through with many sorrows" **Read 1 Tim 6:10** *"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows"*.

Page 2/...

From Page 1 /...



Because of this dispute, Abraham gave Lot the choice to decide on what section of the land he found favourable. Lot chose the green plains of Jordon, (*where the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah existed*).

There is a sharp antithesis between the characters of Abraham and Lot.

ABRAHAM	LOT
Abraham was generous and magnanimous (noble, fair, big)	Lot was greedy and worldly.
Abraham walked by faith. 2 Cor 5:7.	Lot walked by sight.
Abraham looked for a land whose maker was God.	Lot chose the plains of Jordan near Sodom, cultivated by man.
Abraham became Heir of God's inheritance. Rom 4:3	Lot lost all his possessions in Sodom and lived in a cave. Gen 19:30.

When Abraham and his family departed from Egypt, Abraham left behind his doubts that took him to Egypt and he returned in faith to the land of Promise. Lot, his nephew joined him, but Lot, unlike Abraham, held onto the worldly, carnal spirit of Egypt.

- **Gen 13:8-10** records the gracious offer of Abraham.
- Lot chose the plain of Jordan. **Gen 13:10-11.**

Lot walked by sight and Abraham by faith.

“For we live by faith, not by sight” 2 Corinthians 5:7.

From Page 2 /...

The “eye-gate” is one of the avenues through which temptation comes. 1 John 2:16. Walking by sight is the cause of much of our failure. (**Gen 3:6** – *Eve saw the fruit was pleasant to the eyes*). Consider **Joshua 7:21**

THE SIN OF ACHAN

“When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

Joshua 7:21

How significant are the words of Gen 13:10 “and Lot lifted up his eyes.....”

“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance,

but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

The Lord does not see as man sees. Read **1 Sam 16:7**.

NOTES:

From Page 3 /...

Abraham, as a man of faith, interceded for Lot, a man of the world. As believers, we need to pray for our friends and relatives who are captivated by the world and obsessed with materialistic gains, yet neglect their spiritual well being. In ancient times, to gamble was referred to as "casting lots" or taking a draw/casting a vote. How interesting that the character Lot gambled with his life and soul. Lot voted against dwelling in the Promised Land and stepped beyond Jordan into Sodom and Gomorrah.

THE SPIRIT OF LOT

Far to many believers have fallen prey to the "spirit of Lot" and have failed to pray before choosing to change jobs, to live in other cities or lands, to marry or divorce or to buy and sell a home without first seeking to know God' Will.

CONSIDER:

In **Joshua 6:17**, Israel was told not to take anything from their enemies, but to destroy everything. Read the story in **Joshua Ch 7** and consider how sin needs to be dealt with.

VICTORY AND FAITH

Lot was so happy to live in the land of the Chaldees.

He did so because his uncle he sought to please.

Wherever Uncle Abe would go, Lot was sure to follow,

Living with Uncle Abe left him with much hope for the morrow

When famine in the land of promise brought misery and woe,

Until Abe said to Lot, the time has come for us to go,

So off to Egypt with family they went

For ten years in worldly Egypt they spent,

So many of us, like Abraham, turn from God's promise,

And repeat the mistakes of old "Doubting Thomas",

Until the Lord in faithfulness and grace,

Brings us back to the Christian race,

So may we learn from Lot's mistakes,

Casting Lots



In ancient times lots were cast when an impartial decision was desired.

The character and shape of the objects used in biblical times are not known, nor is the precise method by which they were cast, although some scholars suggest that smooth stones or sticks distinguished by colors or symbols were used.

The heathens cast lots because, they believed, the gods would guide what happened. In Jonah's case, the Lord seems to have guided the outcome.

