

GENESIS 13:14-18 THE GOOD CHOICE

¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. ¹⁵ All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷ Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

¹⁸ So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

In the competition spawned by the over population of the area, Abram gives his nephew, Lot, the choice of a dwelling place. Lot chooses the best land for himself, leaving Abram with the less desirable region. In a foretaste of the teaching of Jesus (Matthew 19:29), when Abram gives up the best land, the Lord has him survey the land from horizon to horizon and declares that all of it would be given to Abram and his descendents...for ever. Furthermore, the Lord urges Abram to receive the gift by going and walking through it, to claim it and enjoy it. Again, Abram responds both by obedience and by claiming the regional sacred place (*great trees of mamre*) for God by building an altar to the Lord there.

God is sovereign. God is dependable. God is all powerful. If you believe that, then even when you have it within your power to enhance your own life, you need to think of God and neighbor. Although it is counter-intuitive to allow someone under your power to have the advantage, we must remember that we worship a God of unbelievable generosity, and that our purpose is to reveal God's nature to those around us. When we do so, God will work through us for his glory and in us for our good. In faith, we can rest assured that God's good far exceeds any good we can achieve on our own.

O Holy Spirit, inspire in me the desire to follow God's leading in all my decisions and interactions in this life. Grow in me a generous heart that is willing to trust in God's provision and promises rather than my own selfish will. Amen.