

# Lot by Name and Lot by Nature

by Ian Paisley

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*The sermon explores the life of Lot as a cautionary tale about the dangers of straying from God's will and the consequences of worldliness.*

**Scripture:** Genesis 13:1, Genesis 18:17, Genesis 19:8, Psalm 139:23, Isaiah 6:8, Luke 9:62, James 4:4, 2 Peter 2:7, 1 John 2:15

**Topics:** "Worldliness", "Obedience"

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## Description

Ian Paisley preaches on the contrasting lives of Abraham and Lot, emphasizing how Lot's choices led him down a path of strife, selfishness, and ultimately destruction. Lot, though saved, allowed worldliness and selfish desires to corrupt his heart, leading to a loss of peace, testimony, family, and purity. Paisley urges listeners to examine their own hearts and choose the path of obedience and commitment to God, like Abraham, who was known as a friend of God for his faithfulness and obedience.

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## Transcript

Scripture Reading: Genesis 13: vs 1-13

V1 "And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

V2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

V3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;

V4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

V5 And Lot also, which went with Abram had flocks, and herds, and tents.

V6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together; for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

V7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Pe-riz-zite dwelled then in the land.

V8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be not strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

V9 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.

V10 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, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

V11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journey east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

V12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

V13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.

Amen and God will bless this reading from His very own infallible book.

Turn with me to the thirteenth chapter of the book of Genesis, I want to speak tonight upon Lot, Mr Lot, Lot by Name and Lot by Nature. There are many characters introduced to us in Holy Scripture, they step unto the stage of scripture some of them and take pride of place and are right out in the front and then they pass on and make room for someone else. Now those supreme characters of scripture stand out most prominently in the word of God, but with them there comes those as it were who are on their coat tails, they wouldn't be mentioned if the great man Himself with which they were connected hadn't such a place in scripture and we would have never have heard of Lot except he as on the coat tail of his Uncle Abraham. You see Lot was the son of a younger brother of Abraham, the younger brother died and Abraham and his wife Sarai, Uncle Abraham and Aunt Sarai took the young man Lot into their home and gave him absolutely everything he possessed and in the scripture you'll find many characters who are in the shadow of a great character, as Lot was in the shadow of Abraham. We've only to read the narrative and we discover that God spoke personally many times to Abraham and appeared to him. God only spoke once personally and appeared to Lot only once in his whole lifetime. You see down there in Ur of the Chaldees, where the family of Terah, Abraham's father, had their first habitation God one day met Abraham and He said, "Abraham I'm serving upon you today an expulsion warrant, I'm expelling you from your father's house, from your fathers country, from your fathers friends and from everything that has to do with your family. You have to leave it all Abraham" and Abraham, who was an idolater at the time came back and he told his family that God had put upon him this warrant to leave the fathers house, an ejection order had been served by the Most High God. You know what happened, his father took over the order, he said, "Abraham you're not leaving me, I'm going to go with you". Abraham should have said to his father, "You're not going, God has not called you, God has called me to leave you", but the father took over and the father went with this pilgrimage until he came to a place called Haran and then they got stuck and the old father didn't get any further because his grave was dug and his body was buried and then Abraham came back to the ejection order and he left the rest of his family in Haran and he went on to the land that God showed him to go to, but Lot went with him.

Abraham's father and Lot's Grandfather were of course ruled out of this because the old man was dead. Until God strikes the old man in our lives we'll never get into the Promised Land. The old man, that

savours of the things of Adam and Adam's fall must be dealt with and then Abraham lead them into the Promised Land and Lot of course was with Abraham, the nephew had grown up, Abraham had no heir, Lot had big ideas for himself, he was deciding that he was going to take over, that he would be the real man to lead this expedition that had started by the vision that Abraham had.

Then a famine came and Abraham didn't consult God, he consulted himself and he went down to Egypt, that was one of the greatest tragedies of Abraham's life, the day he went to Egypt, Egypt got into his tent, got into his family, Egypt got into Lot's soul, a terrible thing to step out of the will of God, it is dangerous, brother, sister, to step out of the will of God, because your act will not only wreck your own spiritual life but will wreck others and Lot went down into Egypt, catastrophe overcame Abraham, he almost had his life taken and then he was driven out of Egypt by Pharaoh, he almost lost the purity of his wife in Pharaoh's harem, what a tragedy!

Lot comes back out of Egypt with his Uncle, but Lot has been contaminated in Egypt, he has seen civilisation, he has seen the grandeur and the comfort and the pleasures of the civilised world and he wants to maintain that. When Abraham came out of Egypt he went to Bethel and he worshipped God, you don't read that Lot worshipped God, Lot went to Bethel, attended the ceremonies but he didn't worship God, why? He was completely out of tune with the Most High God and then something happened, a great row started and it started over property, 'there was strife between the herdsmen of Abraham's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle and the Canaanite and the Pe-riz-zite dwelt then in the land'.

Isn't it interesting the Holy Spirit draws attention that the world looked on as the Godly man Abraham was having strife because of the selfishness and the backsliding and the worldliness and the lusts of Lot. What a picture, when the world looks on while Christians flirt with the world, fall out with themselves and are after the things that are of the flesh and not after the things that are of the Spirit. Then this strife becomes a feud and we read, there was strife and Abraham said, let there be no strife but Lot says there will be strife.

I have cattle now Abraham, your not the only man with cattle, I have got gold Abraham, I have got silver, I have got many, many servants, I am equal with you and I will have my way! One day I was looking up the Bible Chronology of this two thousand years before Christ was born, this happened, two thousand years before Christ was born, two men went on a journey, Abraham and Lot and they went up the mountain road to the top the great cliff face and down in the valley was the fair valley of the Jordan River and as they went up that path Abraham said to Lot, "Let there be no strife Lot", as I look on you Lot, I think of my young brother and when he died I told God I would look after his orphan son and I've looked after you Lot, I've done everything I can to make you happy and well, I rejoice in your prosperity, but let there be no strife, and when he got to the top of the pathway both men stood and Abraham said, there has to be a separation, you have got to go your way and I'm going the opposite way, if you go the left, I'm going to the right, if you go to the right, I'm going to the left, wherever you go I'm going in the opposite direction.

We cannot agree so there is going to be a separation, of course there was no reason why they could not agree, only Lot, because he was Lot by Name and Lot by Nature, he wanted the lot! That was his trouble! And so he was determined he would have strife with Abraham and Lot took the first of six steps outside the will of God and the last step brought him to a cave where he had lost his purity and his two daughters had become great with child through that act of lust.

Trace the way down, the way down of Lot

The First Step he took was strife with Abraham. Then look at the second step he took, a step that was characterised by a look and, 'Lot lifted up his eyes V10 and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah' but what does it say about it, 'even as the garden of the Lord, like the land, notice it, of Egypt' Oh this man was in Egypt, he came out of Egypt but Egypt didn't come out of him! You need to ask yourself the question Christian, have you got Egypt dealt with in your life?

Here is a man who saw the wonders of God under Abraham but he still had Egypt in his mind, in his heart and in his soul. The second step that this man took was one of looking, looking! How often do you look on the face of Jesus, how often do you look on the face of the world and then you can test yourself, are you walking in the ways of God or are you walking in the ways of the world? Then he made a choice, 'he chose him all the plain of Jordan, think of it, he said Abraham, you're going to get nothing, I'm taking in this whole countryside, its going to all be mine!

What a selfish brat Lot was! I want to say to you that's what the devil does with God's children when they step out of the will of God, they become selfish brats! You can't talk to a man of God when he's outside God's will, he comes as hard as granite, he thinks he's right and he will go his own way, the only thing you can do with a man like that, is do what Abraham did, pray, it's the only thing you can do, no man can break the granite of rebellion in a mans life, he made a choice and then look at it, he travelled east, could I remind you that everybody that travelled east in the Bible got into trouble, you should be travelling west, the people that travel west in the bible get the joy and the peace, the people that travel east get darkness and the curse, just read the bible and mark all the people that travelled east.

He travelled east, he was going the wrong road and then he pitched his tent towards Sodom, he was out in the plain with his tents one day and the next day he was house hunting in Sodom itself, looking for a house and then we read he dwelt in Sodom and the men of Sodom were exceeding great sinners before God. Six steps he took downward, he didn't want any altar, he didn't want any Bethel, he didn't want any dealings with the House of God, he had made up his mind that he was going to get Egypt back, although he had left it.

He would make an Egypt in the valley, that's what attracted him, like the land of Egypt. If you read this story of Lot you will find that everything he sought for he didn't get. Lot was looking for peace, he didn't get any peace. Turn over in your bibles to the New Testament and look with me at this scripture, I think its one of the saddest scriptures in the whole of the Bible, its about this man Lot, and in 2 Peter ch 2 v 7 we read this, let me make it very plain to you that Lot was a saved man, he had eternal life in his heart, he knew the Lord, he knew God's salvation but he went out of the will of God, look at verse 7 'And delivered just Lot', he was a justified man 'vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

V8 For that righteous man dwelling among them in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds:' he was looking for peace, but he never got peace, all he go was vexation, child of God if your are outside he will of God you'll never have peace, there's no peace for you, you're going to have vexation of spirit all your days, you're going to be vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked. No peace and then you'll notice something, he lost his testimony. Genesis 19 v 8 Here is this man who vexed his righteous soul with the sins of Sodom and their evil conversation, this righteous man, he stands in his own doorway and he offers his two daughters to become whores to the whore masters of Sodom. He says I have two daughters, they are innocent girls, they are virgins, I'll give them to you, do what you like with them. I want to tell you that's as far down a man can go, even though he is a righteous

man, when he leaves the path of truth and righteousness and is taken over by the devil, he lost his testimony. Then something else, he lost his family. You remember the day when the judgement angels came to Sodom; they said go out and talk to your sons-in-law! The people that have married your daughters and ask those people, ask those people to come and leave the city before we judge it and he went out and he seemed as one that mocked, they laughed at him, they laughed at him. Those that had married into his family, you see he had lost his peace, he had lost his testimony, he had lost his family and then the day that he was pulled out of Sodom his wife turned back and she became a pillar of salt, he lost his wife, the mother of his children, he thought he was making gains. You never make gains brethren and sisters outside the will of God. If you are outside God's will there's no gain ever made, there's no prosperity ever come, there's no peace ever comes, it's all losses and if we don't walk in the will of God. God is calling for a people who will follow Him, do His will, Here am I, send me, who will go for us. Whom shall I send, the man with the right spirit, the man with the true heart? Lot lost his peace, he lost his testimony, he lost his family in Sodom, he lost his wife on the way out of Sodom, but he did something else, he lost his own purity and in that cave his two daughters became great with child by lusting with their father, making him drunk, think about it, this man who was a righteous man, this man whose soul was vexed, lies in his drink in the cave, what a testimony, now I tell you when you go outside God's will, child of God outside the will of God can do anything but go to hell, he can commit any other sin, you just remember that, how far down he went and then he lost everything, because it says he dwelt in fear in that cave, he lost everything.

What road are you going to take child of God tonight? Are you going to take the road of Abraham or the road of Lot? We are living in a day when there is a multiplicity of Lot's, when there's a multiplicity of hypocrisy when people pretend to be something that they are not and pray prayers that are a sham because they are like Lot, their heart is in the world, their heart is not with God. Oh that God might bring us like Father Abraham, back to Bethel. Oh that God might bring us like Abraham to where we were at the beginning. Oh that God might bring us to the place where we are totally and absolutely and altogether committed to His work. That's what God is looking for tonight among the people of God. Judgement day honesty. May God search our hearts and challenge our lives and may we cry out, 'God never let me be a Lot, let me be like Abraham', what a difference between Abraham the separatist, the man that got out of Egypt and got Egypt out of himself and walked, what did God say about him, "I know Abraham, that he will order his family after my commands", what a difference. Abraham became the only man in the Bible that God ever said was His friend; he became the Friend of God, what a difference!

I trust that this message will sink into all our hearts, that everyone of us will be warned, that everyone of us will take stock, that everyone of us will say, where am I, where am I tonight? I trust that those that are not saved will come to be saved by the Grace of God. May it be so for Jesus sake.

Amen and Amen.

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