

# THE SPIRITUAL AND THE CARNAL BELIEVER (ABRAHAM AND LOT)

**INTRODUCTION:** Abraham became a spiritual believer, but his nephew Lot was only a carnal believer. We will consider how this affected 3 areas in their lives: their call, their walk, and their reward.

## I. THE CALL

**A. THE CALL OF ABRAHAM** is revealed in Gen.12:1-3.

4 CONSECRATIONS REQUIRED (vs.1)	/	4 BLESSINGS OFFERED (vs.2), Heb.10:9a
#1 LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY- Mesopotamia was full of idolatry and sin, Rev.18:4	/	BECOME A GREAT NATION -naturally, Israel; and spiritually, the Church
#2 LEAVE YOUR KINDRED- Their earthly life and blessing, Ps.45:10	/	I WILL BLESS YOU- a spiritual blessing to replace an earthly blessing
#3 LEAVE YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE- leave their iniquities, Ex.34:7, Mt.10:34-35	/	I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT- after separation, Abraham's house made great
#4 GO TO THE LAND I WILL SHOW YOU - naturally, Israel	/	YOU SHALL BE A BLESSING (shown in v.4) -Israel made a blessing, Rom.9:4-5
- spiritually, heaven- Heb.11:13-16		-all believers blessed, Gal.3:8-9

**B. THE CALL OF LOT-** was never revealed to him! He was a believer (Gen.19:14) but Lot had no vision, no goal, Prov.29:18, Phil.3:12-14. Abraham was a man who built altars and called on God, but Lot never sought the Lord.

## II. THE WALK

**A. ABRAHAM LEARNS TO WALK WITH GOD:**

1. Gen.11:31- Abraham obeys requirement #1 (leave your country) but not the rest.
2. Gen.12:4-7. Abraham leaves his fathers' house and goes to the land God shows him (he obeys requirements 3 & 4), but he does not yet obey #2- he brings Lot! This hindered him from receiving blessing #2, and there is famine, Gen.12:10
3. Gen.12:8 Abraham comes to a place of decision between Bethel (house of God) and Ai (a ruin), but instead of correcting the problem, he backslides to Egypt in vs.8-10, Is.30:1-2.
4. Gen.13:3-4 After trials & suffering, Abraham returns to his former place of decision in Gen.13:3-4. There he deals with the real problem (#2 leave your kindred), separates from Lot, Gen.13:5-12, & receives God's blessing, Gen.13:14-17
5. Gen.16 records how Abraham & Sarah tried to fulfill God's plan by their own reasoning and plans. Abraham (with the call) was united with Hagar (an Egyptian, Is.31:1). God multiplied this mixture, Gen.16:10-12. Ishmael became the founder of the Arabs (naturally) and Islam (spiritually). We need to sow in the Spirit to reap a good harvest, Gal.6:7-8.

**B. LOT LEARNS TO WALK AFTER THE FLESH-** When Lot had to choose what direction he would go, he chose to walk in the way that seemed good in his own sight, Gen. 13:9-13, Prov.14:12, 2 Cor.5:7. His carnal walk caused him to compromise and be corrupted, Prov.13:20, Gen.19:6-8, 19:30-38. Christians will be conformed to this world unless we offer ourselves completely to God, Rom.12:1-2.

## III. THE REWARD

When God rewards, He brings revival & judgment, Mal.3:1-3; 4:1-3, Mt.21:12-14, Amos 5:18-20

**A. ABRAHAM RECEIVED THE PROMISED SON,** Gen.18:1-10, 21:1-2. Naturally this speaks of Isaac, whose children became the nation of Israel. Spiritually this speaks of Christ coming forth out of our lives, the greatest reward! Col.1:27, Rom.8:29, 1 Jn.3:2. Although Abraham lived in a tent in the barren hills, because he became a friend of God he also inherited the New Jerusalem (Heb.11:16, Jn.14:2), became heir of the world (Rom.4:13), and became the father of all believers, Rom.4:12 & 16. -We need Christ to be birthed in our lives (just as the manchild will be birthed by the woman in the last days, Rev.12) in order to attain to becoming fathers in Christ with a great reward.

**B. LOT WAS SAVED BUT JUDGED,** Gen.19:1-16. While Abraham had been visited by the Lord and two angels, the Lord would not even visit Lot in wicked Sodom! The two angels saved Lot but brought judgment. Lot lost his riches and house- to live in a cave (Gen.19:30). Lot lost his position as an elder (he sat in the gate, Gen.19:1). He lost most of his family- his wife (Gen.19:26, Lk.17:32) & his sons-in-laws (his daughters married unbelievers, Gen.19:14) and their families. Even his unmarried daughters who were saved had been corrupted by the immorality of Sodom, Gen.19:31-32. Lot lost almost everything that he had. He was saved, but had very little eternal rewards because he compromised with the world, Mt.6:19-21. His descendants were the Moabites & Ammonites, who were enemies of Israel.

**CONCLUSION:** We need to seek God for His calling for our life, learn to follow it like Abraham, & gain great reward. But if we live a carnal life like Lot, we will be saved but be judged by fire (1 Cor.3:12-15) and obtain little eternal reward.