

The Biography of a Man Named Lot

And Our 2016, New Year's Resolutions

Tradewinds Church
January 3, 2016

d8, raz, <http://www.knotmaking.net/lots-biography/>

Choosing?

“**Choosing**” is something more than “*wanting*,” “*wishing*,” or (even) “*deciding*.”

Choosing is how we **journey**, on the ‘road of life.’

*“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler...”*
(Robert Frost’s Poem “Road Not Taken”)

“Now therefore **fear the Lord**
and *serve* him in sincerity and in faithfulness.
Put away the gods that your fathers *served*
beyond the River and in Egypt,
and *serve the Lord*.

And if it is evil in your eyes to *serve the Lord*,

choose this day whom you will *serve*,

- whether the gods your fathers *served*
in the region beyond the River, or
- the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.

But as for me and my house, we will *serve the Lord*.”

Joshua 24:14-15 (ESV)

(But, **choosing**
is neither
'self-Sovereignty,'
nor
"vowing").

The Lord Calls Abram (with Lot)

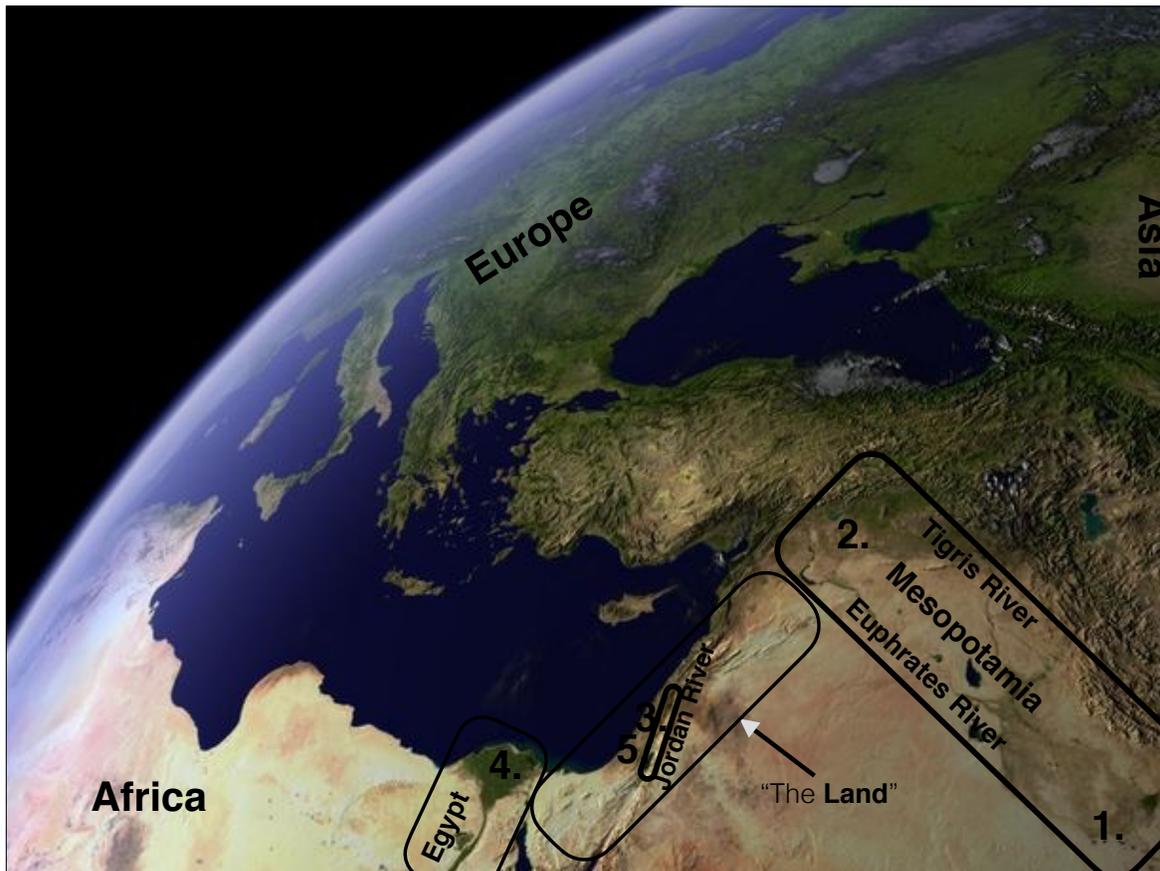
Genesis 12:1 Now **the Lord** said to **Abram**,
“Go from

- your country [Mesopotamia] and
- your kindred and
- your father's house

to

1. **the land** that I will show you. 2 And
 2. I will **make of you a great nation**, and
 3. I will bless you and make your name great, so that **you will be a blessing**. 3 I will **bless** those who **bless** you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and *in you* all the families of the earth shall **be blessed**.”
- 4 **So Abram** went, as **the Lord** had told him, and **Lot** went with him.

Abram was **75 years old** when he departed from [Mesopotamia].



Reaching the Land, the Lord Confirms His Word (*Promise*) to Abram

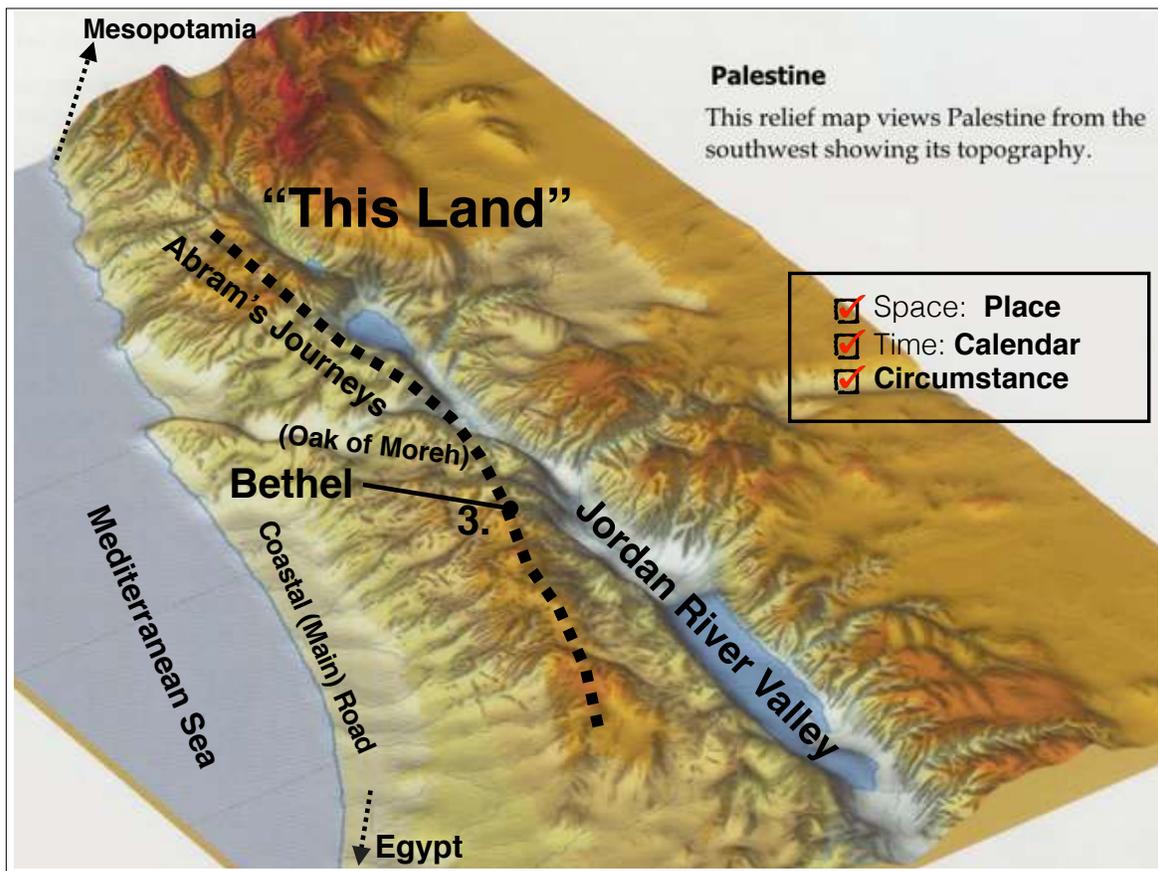
Gen. 12:7 Then **the Lord** *appeared* to **Abram** and said, “To your **offspring** I will give **this land**.”

So he ^[Abram] built there an altar to the Lord, who had *appeared* to him.

8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of **Bethel** and pitched his tent, with **Bethel** on the west and Ai on the east.

And there he built an altar to the Lord and ^[Abram] *called upon the name of the Lord*.

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Abram (& Lot) Experience Famine in the Land, then Exile to, & Expulsion from, Egypt

Gen. 12:10 Now there was a famine in **the land**.

So **Abram** *went down to Egypt*

to sojourn there,

for the famine was severe

in **the land**.

...

12:20 And **Pharaoh** gave men orders concerning him

[Abram], and they sent him away with his wife [Sarai] and

all that he had.

13:1 So **Abram** went up from **Egypt**, he [Abram] and his

wife [Sarai] and all that he had, and **Lot** with him

Abram (& Lot) Return to Bethel

Gen 13:2 Now **Abram** was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³⁻⁴ And he journeyed on...as far

as Bethel

to the place where

his tent had been at the beginning...

to the place where

he had made an altar at the first.

And there Abram *called upon the name of the Lord*.

⁵ And **Lot**, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents,...

Prosperity Leads to Conflict & to Lot's **Choosing** ➡ the Prospect of Ever Greater Prosperity

Gen 13:6 ... **the land** could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, ... Then **Abram** said to **Lot**, "Let there be no strife between you and me...

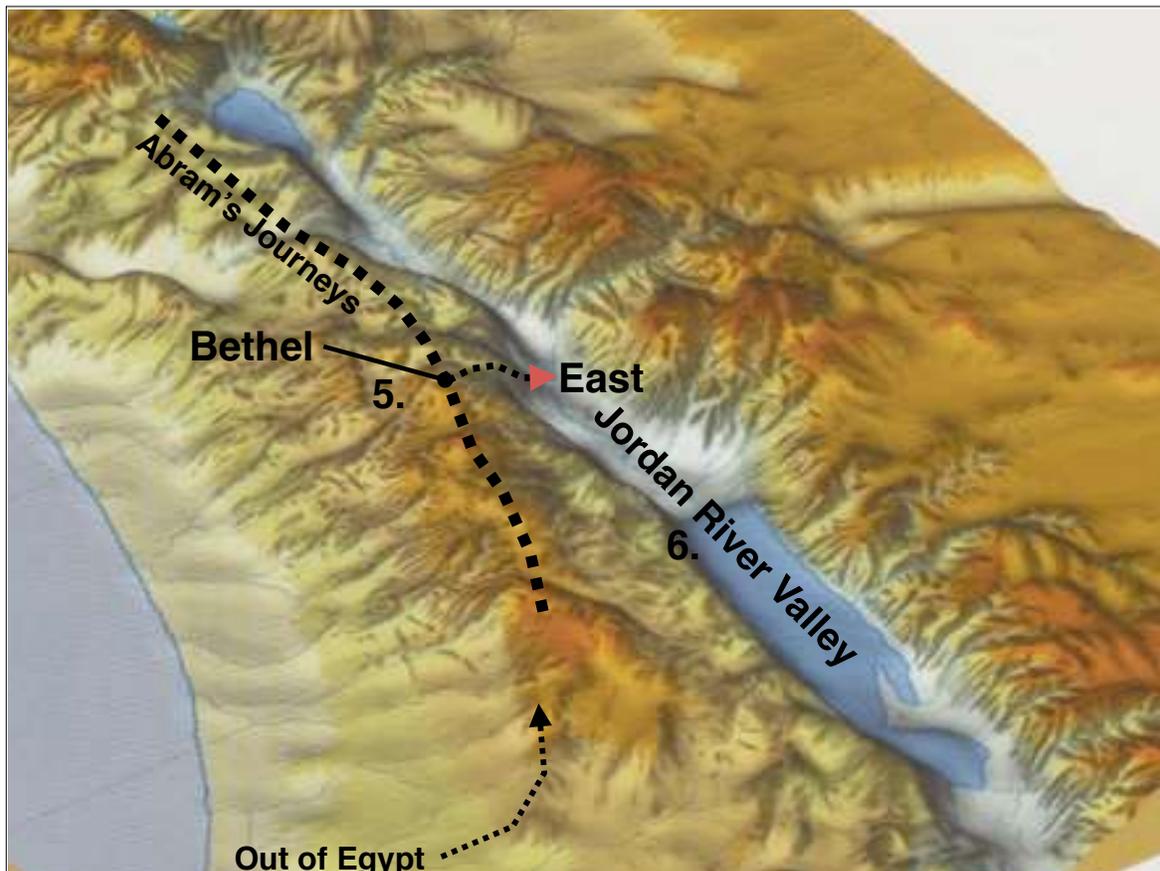
9 Is not **the whole land** before you?

Separate yourself from me. If you take[i.e. choose] the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take[i.e. choose] the right hand, then I will go to the left."

10 And **Lot** lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley in the direction or **Zoar** was well watered everywhere (this was before the **Lord** destroyed **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**)

- like **the garden of the Lord**,
- like **the land of Egypt**

Gr. **paradeiso**, same as Gen. 2:15 9



Lot's Eyes Direct Him to Choose The Jordan River Valley

Gen. 12:11 So **Lot** chose for himself
all **the Jordan Valley**,
and **Lot** journeyed East.

Thus they separated from each other.

¹² Abram settled in **the land of Canaan**,
while Lot settled among **the cities of the valley**
and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

¹³ Now the men of **Sodom** were wicked,
great sinners against **the Lord**.

Trouble in Lot's 'Paradise' (the Jordan River Valley)

Gen. 14:11 So the enemy [Mesopotamian Kings] took all the
possessions of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**, and all their
provisions, and went their way. ¹² They also took **Lot**, the
son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and
his possessions, and went their way.

...
¹⁴ When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken
captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house,
318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ And he
divided his forces against them by night, he and his
servants, and defeated them and pursued them to
Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶ Then he brought back all
the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman **Lot**
with his possessions, and the women and the people.

24 Years After Abram & Lot Left Mesopotamia, Lot is a (the?) Ruler of Sodom

Gen. 19:1 The two angels came to **Sodom**
in the *evening*,
and **Lot** was sitting in the gate of Sodom.

When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth ² and said, “My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way.” They said, “No; we will spend the night in the town square.”

³ But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked *unleavened* bread, and they ate.

Lot is Rescued by The Lord's Angel of Judgment from Sodom's Ultimate Destruction (Luke 17:26; 2 Peter 2:6)

Gen 19:15 As morning dawned, the angels urged **Lot**, saying, “Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.” ¹⁶ But he lingered. So the men seized **him** and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, **the Lord** being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. ¹⁷ And as they brought them out, one said, “Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away.”

¹⁸ And **Lot** said to them, “Oh, no, my lords...I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. ²⁰ Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!” ²¹ He said to **him**, “Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. ²² Escape there quickly...Zoar”

Judgment Ultimately Falls upon The Jordan River Valley Cities and Culture

Gen 19:23 The sun had risen on the earth when **Lot** came to **Zoar**. 24 Then **the Lord** rained on **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** sulfur and fire from **the Lord** out of heaven. 25 And he overthrew those **cities**, and all the **valley**, and all the **inhabitants** of the **cities**, and what grew on the **ground**. 26 But **Lot's wife**, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. 27 And **Abraham** went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before **the Lord**. 28 And he looked down toward **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** and toward **all the land of the valley**, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace. 29 So it was that, when **God** destroyed **the cities of the valley**, **God** remembered **Abraham** and sent **Lot** out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew **the cities** in which **Lot** had lived.

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Let's Time Machine Back Some 20+ Years and Look
Again at Lot's Choice and Compare It with
Eve's Choice, When All Sin (Self-Choosing) Began

Gen 13:10 And Lot **lifted up** his **eyes** and **saw** that the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar was well watered everywhere (this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the **paradeiso** of the Lord, like the land of Egypt

Gen 3:6 So when the woman [Eve] **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was **a delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **to be desired** to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate...

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(Looking Southeast from Masada)



The Dead Sea

(Looking Northeast from Masada)



The Dead Sea

What Was Different about Sodom & Gomorrah's Choosing? Sin + Arrogant Defiance ➡ Despising God

2 Peter 2:6-14...by turning the cities of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the **ungodly**; ...the **sensual conduct** of the **wicked** ...the **unrighteous** ... especially those who **indulge in the lust of defiling passion** and **despise authority**. **Bold** and **willful**, they **do not tremble** as they **blaspheme** ... **irrational animals, creatures of instinct**, ..., **blaspheming** about matters of which they are ignorant...They **count it pleasure to revel** in the daytime. They are **blots** and **blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, ...eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin**. They **entice** unsteady souls. They have **hearts trained in greed**. Accursed children! 15 **Forsaking** the right way, they **have gone astray**.

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Resolutions are about Choices Made and Steadfastly Followed

Three central questions:

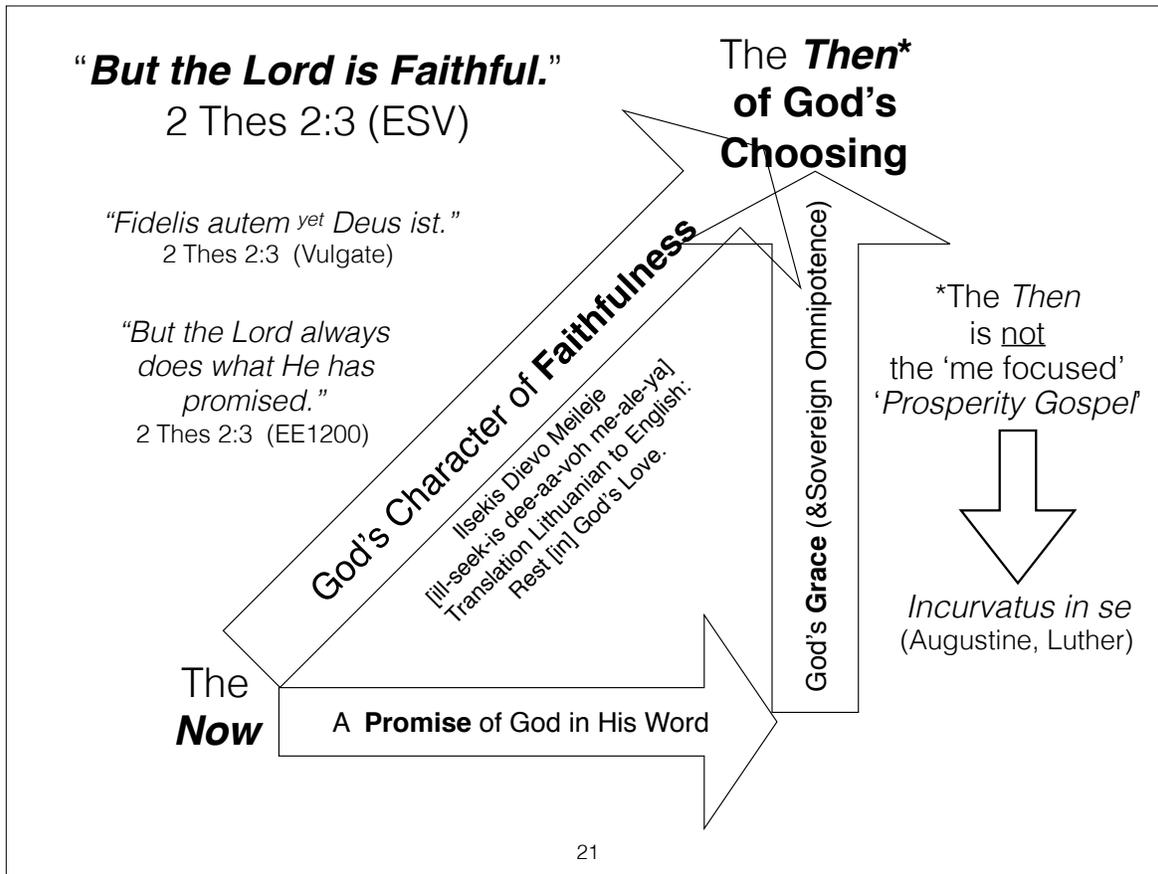
1. **Do I choose?**
2. **If so, on what basis do I choose?**
3. **And, so, what do I choose?**

“Choose you this day Who you will serve...” (Josh 24)

Abram chose based on hearing the Word of the Lord

Abram (Abraham) chose to follow God's choosing

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Resources for 2016 Reading, Choosing

Biography of Abraham

Genesis Ch.s 11 - 25

Romans 4

Galatians 3 and 4

Hebrews 6, 7, and 11

Lot & Sodom (NT)

Luke 17:20-33

2 Peter 2

Choosing

Joshua 24

Prov. 14:8

Prov. 21:29

1 Cor 9

Other Resources: All freely available on Internet.

Also posted at:

<http://www.knotmaking.net/reading-resources-for-lot/>

- John Owen (1656): *Mortification of Sin in Believers*
 - Ch 4: "Health of our Spiritual Lives Depends on Mortification of Sin"
- John Bunyan (1678): *Pilgrim's Progress*
 - Stage 6 re "Vanity Fair"
- Jonathan Edwards (1716): *70 Resolutions*
- G Campbell Morgan (1903): *True Estimate of Life and How to Live It*
 - Ch 7 re "Pitching Toward Sodom"
- Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1959): *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*
 - Ch 28: "Denying Self and Following Christ"
- John Piper (2003): *Don't Waste Your Life*
 - Ch 1 My Search for a Single Passion to Live By
 - Ch 6 Gladly Making Others Glad in God