

How was the “Pioneer of Faith” guided ?



He had no Bible.
He had no previous positive culture.
He had no role models.



He had a conscience
Prayer
He had God's grace.



Genesis 13:1-18

Abram and Lot separate

Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South.



'all that he had'

Genesis 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had an Egyptian slave named Hagar.

Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

Prosperity problems ?



And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to
the place where his tent had been at the beginning,
between Bethel and Ai,
to the place of the altar which he had made there at first.



a good place

And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.



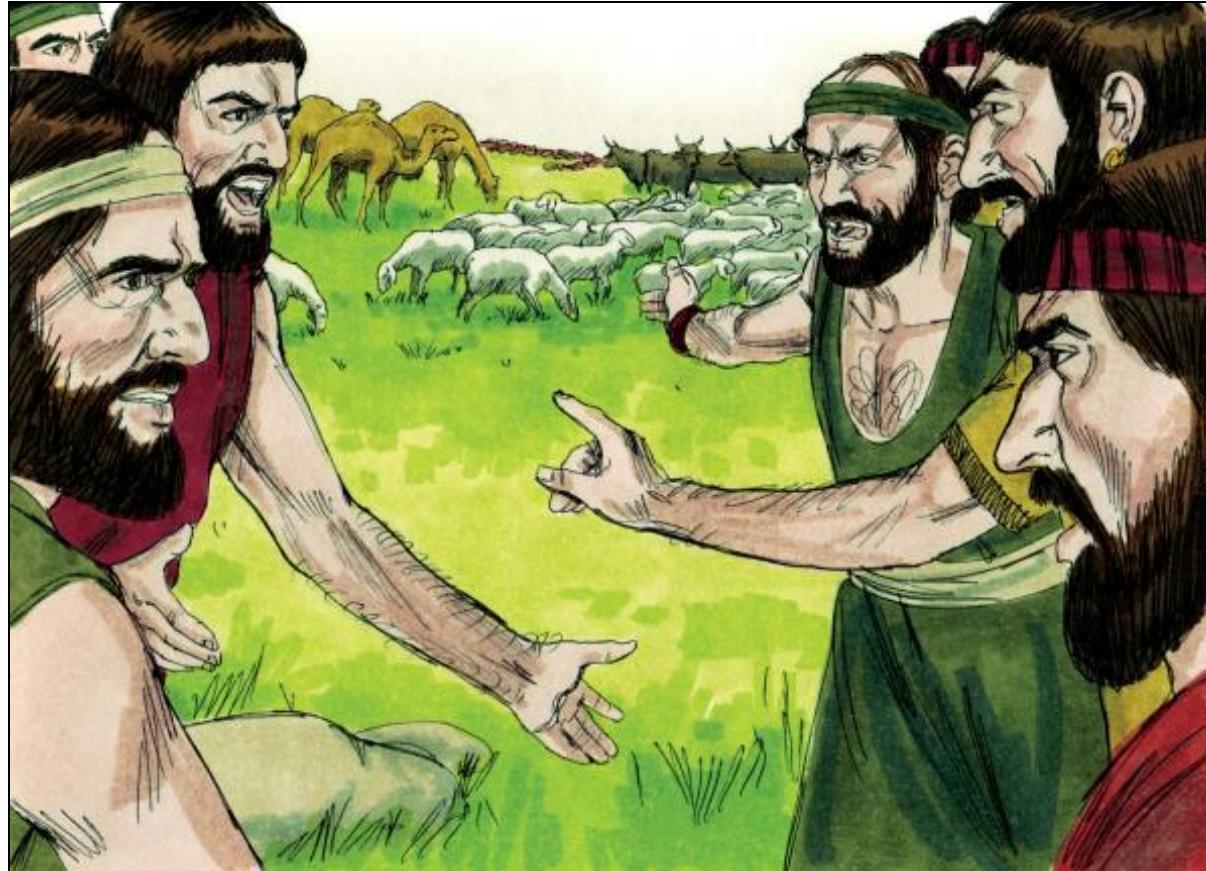
Worship – help?

Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together.



More prosperity problems

And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock.
The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.



Not a good witness !
Are we responsible for others' actions ?

So Abram said to Lot,



Believers are to take the initiative

So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren."

Blessed are the Peace makers



– on the basis of family love

"Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."



A peaceful parting
A generous offer – not pulling rank

And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well-watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.



**All that glitters ...
Self interest – eyes on the present**

Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.



Free choice – but a bad one !
Abram is left in “home” territory

But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful
against the LORD.

**What did they know?
Conscience : Romans 2:14-15**

Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.

Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom

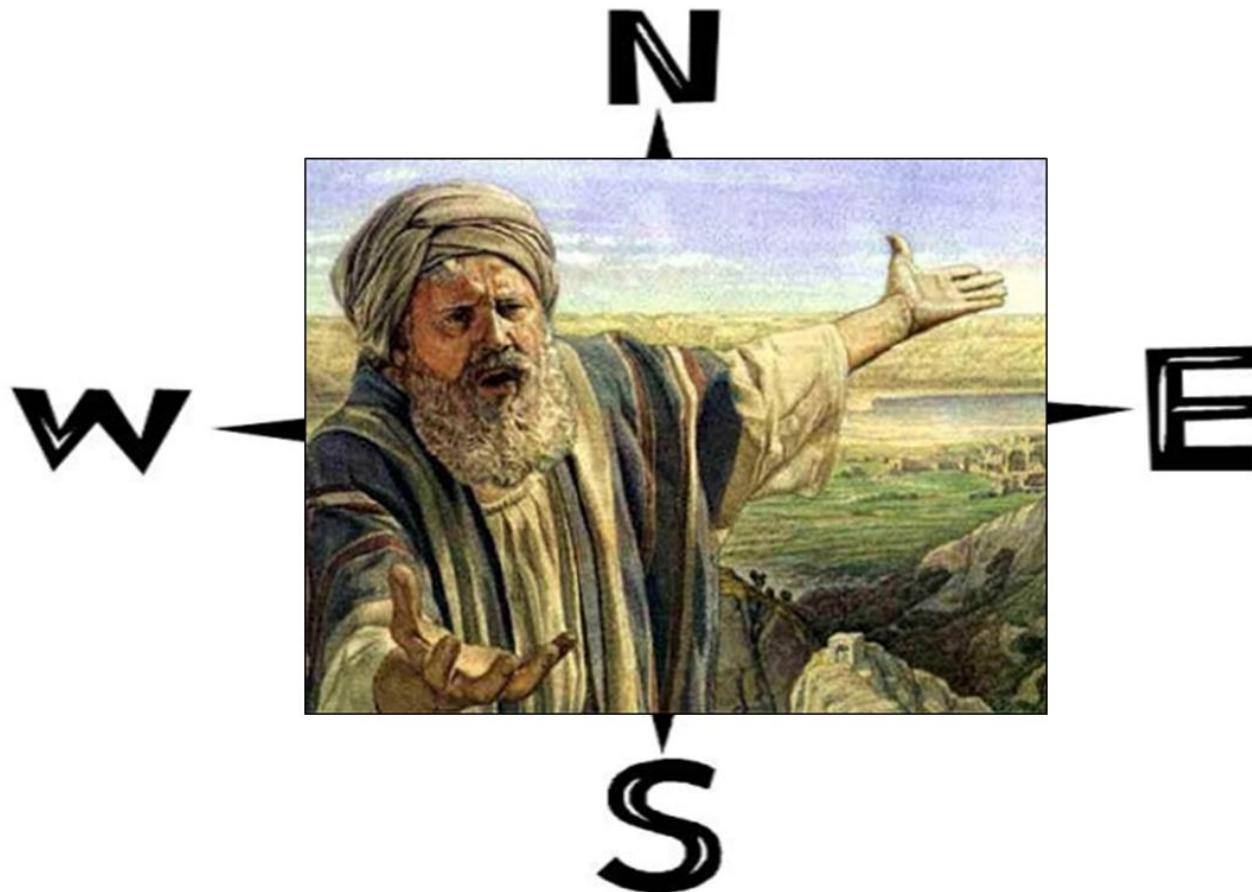
**Health
Warning**



1Corinthians 15:33

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him:
"Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—
northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for **all the land**
which you see I give to you and your descendants forever."



God is a generous God to a generous man of faith

And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.



Physical descendants
Spiritual descendants

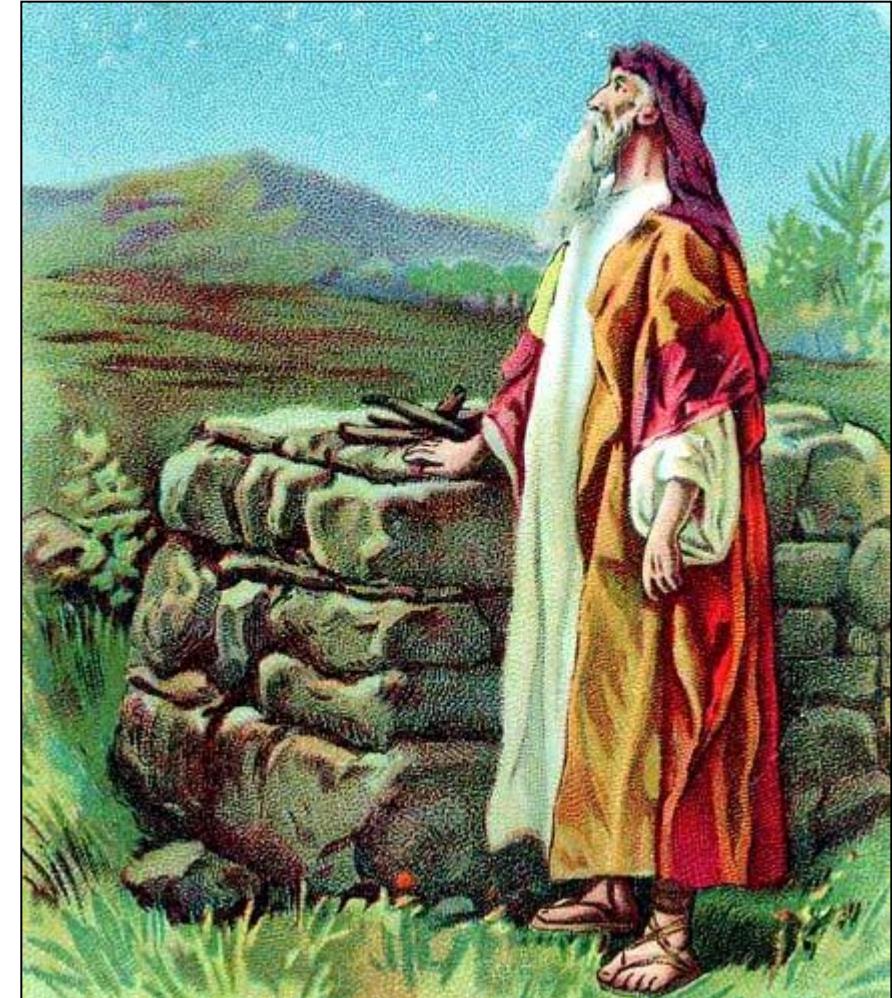
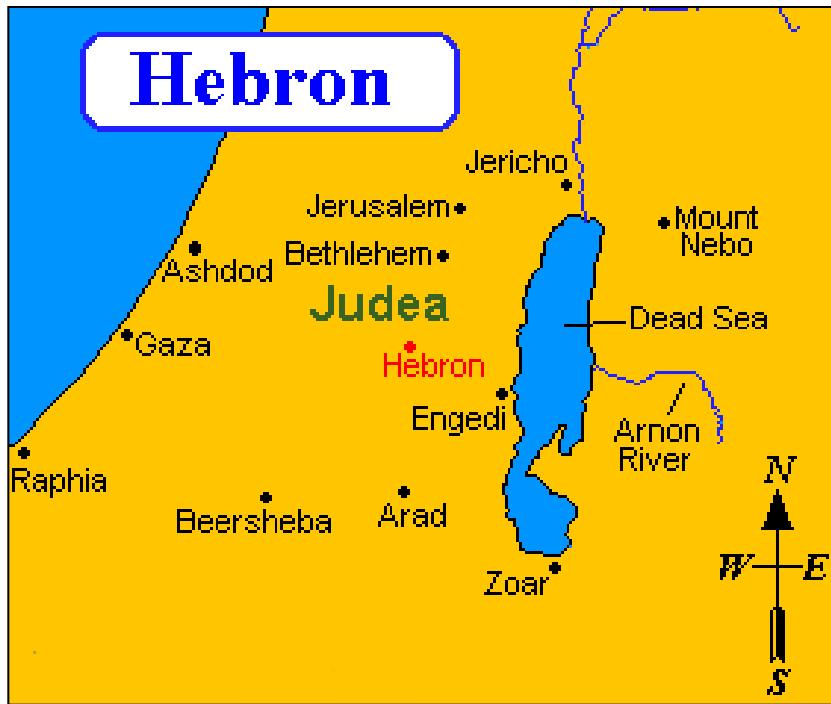
Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width,
for I give it to you.



Enjoy

Matthew 5:5
The meek shall inherit the earth

Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.



The only permanent building he did – altars !
Seek first the kingdom of God...
Matthew 6: 33

So how does God guide you and me ?

By means of :-

The Bible – his Word

The Holy Spirit's working

Wise counsellors

Prayer

Providential circumstances

By his grace –

it just so happened that

*and
your
ears
shall
hear a word
behind
you,
saying*

**THIS
IS THE
WAY,
WALK
YOU
IN
IT**

Isaiah 30:21