Introduction

The decisions we make today affect the person we will become tomorrow.

“We make our decisions and then our decisions turn around and make us.”
F. W. Boreham

Within the broad theme of the promise is this emphasis on the choices we make.

I. The choices we make can have long term consequences.
Verses 1-9

Abraham returned to Bethel where he first called on the name of the Lord.
When we sin, we turn to God. We repent of our sin and we are restored in our relationship with God.

Abraham had become very wealthy. This is the first time that wealth is mentioned in the Bible. We will see in Lot and Abraham, two very different attitudes toward wealth.
Lot had also become wealthy and the land could not support both of them while they were together.

A decision needed to be made.
Abraham, the peacemaker, gave Lot a gracious offer.
Abraham was willing to give up his rights for the sake of peace.
Abraham chose to walk by faith and put the outcome in God’s hands.
II. If we are to make wise decisions, we need to value the spiritual over the material. Verses 10-13.

"Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered like the garden of the Lord."

It was a significant choice that would affect Lot and his whole family.

Lot’s progression in Genesis:
- He looked toward Sodom (with longing). Genesis 13:10
- He pitched his tents near Sodom. Genesis 13:12
- He is living in Sodom. Genesis 14:12
- He is sitting in the gate at Sodom (as an elder or leader). Genesis 19:1

II Peter 2:7-8 tells us that Lot was a righteous man. He was a believer and he was grieved by the sin he saw all around him. But even believers can make poor choices.

Lot chose selfishly. His focus was on the material. He prized possessions and earthly gain.

Abraham chose selflessly. He trusted God and held his wealth loosely — generously.

III. Those who walk by faith receive God’s blessing. Verses 14-18

“The Lord said to Abraham...Lift up your eyes.”

Lot chose for himself without asking God. God chose for Abraham and gave him the blessing.

Abraham responded in worship once again.

Abraham built an altar to the Lord. He publically professed his faith in the one true God.

Note the contrast between Abraham and Lot.
- Where Abraham was generous, Lot was selfish.
- Where Abraham sought peace, Lot sought possessions.
- Where Abraham lived near Hebron, Lot lived near Sodom.
- Where Abraham was blessed, Lot lost everything (family and possessions).
Why did God use Billy Graham?
There were four decisions that stood out in his life.

• First, as a teenager, he decided to receive Christ as his Savior.
• Second, as a student in college in Florida, he surrendered to the Lordship of Christ, every area of his life.
• Third, again in Florida, he felt God’s call on his life to preach and he answered that call.
• Fourth, in 1949, Billy Graham took his stand for the total authority and reliability of Scripture.

From the book More Than Conquerors by John Woodbridge

Do you think those four decisions had any effect on his life?

Conclusion
Have you asked Jesus to be your personal Lord and Savior?
Have you surrendered every area of your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?
Have you answered God’s call on your life and you know you are doing what God wants you to do?
Have you placed your life under the authority of God’s Word? Do you believe the Bible is God’s authoritative, inerrant and inspired Word?