

GENESIS Lesson 20 – 3/24/19

Sodom and Gomorrah

In this lesson we will look at Lot right before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, the principle cities in valley of Siddim.

19:1: And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

19:2: And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

19:3: And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

We commented about the two angels during last week's lesson and noted the similarity between the hospitality of Abraham and his nephew Lot and that this was cultural, it is still part of the culture of the Middle East today.

Lot bows himself to the ground, as Abraham (Gen. 18:2), he invites strangers in to wash their feet, as Abraham does (Gen. 18:4), and he makes them a feast, as Abraham does (Gen. 18:8).

The Holy Spirit is pointing out that in spite of his carnal choice (Lot chose the well-watered plain) and his spiritual failure—Lot sat in the gate of Sodom (see verse 1)—Lot is still an OT saint. Peter tells us that Lot was righteous.

2 Peter 2:7: And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

2 Peter 2:8: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

2 Peter 2:9: The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

And the Bible clearly tells us that God does deliver the godly from the Day of Judgment.

The fact the Lot sat at the gate of Sodom means that he had risen to a prominent status. This is the first time in the Bible that a gate is mentioned.

In the Law of Moses, parents of a rebellious son were commanded to bring the child to the city gate, where the elders would hear the evidence and pass judgment (Deuteronomy 21:18-21). Thus, the gate of a city was a central place in a town; it was a place where important decisions were made.

Deut. 21:18: If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:

Deut. 21:19: Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;

Deut. 21:20: And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.

Lot is a picture a man torn between two loyalties, loyalty to his God and loyalty to the affairs of this world.

We can surmise that the only reason the men of Sodom, who were wicked (Gen. 13:13), tolerated Lot was because he was rich (Gen. 13:5-6) and they stood to gain from his wealth.

Lot represents the carnal Christian, the one who is saved, yet still loves the world.

In Lot's life there was a steady progression of compromise. He went from looking toward Sodom (Gen. 13:10), to pitching his tent toward Sodom (Gen. 13:12), to living in Sodom (Gen. 14:12), and now he is sitting at the gate (Gen. 19:1).

It is often riches and the cares of this world that ensnare Christians.

1 Tim. 6:9: But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Matt. 13:22: He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

When Paul was writing to the Corinthians he says in 1 Cor. 3:3: "For ye are yet carnal..."

A carnal Christian lives a compromised life. He hasn't made the decision to surrender to God and follow Him whole-heartedly.

A carnal Christian is still under bondage by the "beggarly elements" of this world (Gal. 4:9). The paganism he was in before his salvation. You say, "That's harsh!" Paganism can be broadly defined as the involvement in any religious act, practice, or ceremony which is not Christian.

Rom. 13:14: But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

To avoid being carnal you must make the effort to live according to the Scriptures.

We believe that eternal security is a fact of Scripture, and that even the carnal Christian is still saved. You cannot lose your Salvation because salvation is a gift from God; it is eternal (see John 10:28; Romans 8:37-39; 1 John 5:13). Someone said rhetorically, "How long is eternal?" The carnal Christian is assured of salvation in 1 Corinthians 3:15: "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

In an article titled: *Are You a Carnal Christian?*

Billy Graham says:

"There was a time, perhaps, when you were a spiritual Christian. You still had your first love; a fire burned in your heart for God. But something has happened along the way, something has disturbed your relationship with God, and you no longer know the joy, the peace and the thrill that you once knew.

“You do not take time to read your Bible. Your prayer times are few. Your interest in spiritual things has waned, and yet there is a great hungering after God, an aching in your soul for the joy and victory that you have seen in the lives of others. You want that joy in your soul, that thrill in your heart. You want to know the power of prayer again.”

But the two angels wanted to stay in town, they did not want to go to Lot’s house, but he pressed them. He put pressure on them, he urged them, and brought them into his house and fed them. Not only did he feed them, but he made them a feast; a seven course meal, with all the fixin’s as we say down south.

19:4: But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

19:5: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

19:6: And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,

19:7: And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.

19:8: Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

Something happened when these “two angels” arrived in Sodom. The people of the town took note. The Bible says, “all the people from every quarter,” both “young and old.”

What do the men of Sodom want? They want to know these men, i.e. they want to have relations with them; this nothing else but abuse and perversion. They were willing to break all norms of hospitality and morality for their own gratification. The fact that the entire city was given over to this immorality shows that this behavior wasn’t unusual, but accepted among the men of Sodom.

The Bible condemns homosexuality both in the OT (Lev. 18:22) and in the NT (Rom. 1:26-28). God calls it an abomination.

Lewdness and unlawful relations is known as Sodomy. God wants us to know what the sin of Sodom was (see Deut. 23:17). The US had, and to some extent still has Sodomy laws. The Supreme Court ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas* in 2003 that it is unconstitutional to bar “sodomy” calling it a violation of the 14th Amendment.

Lot realizes the predicament he is, and the predicament his guests are in. Now, we may ask the question, “Did Lot know who these men were?”

So Lot goes out of his house and makes sure the door is shut behind and appeals to these men. He calls them “brethren.” He says, “I pray you, brethren.”

One commentator said, “Did you ever find one verse in any Bible in the world where Jesus ever addressed Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees as “brethren?”

2 Cor. 6:14: Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

2 Cor. 6:15: And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

James 4:4: Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Lot now finds himself bargaining for lives of his guests. Does that sound familiar? Remember Abraham?

What does Lot proceed to do? He offers up his daughters. "Leave these men alone, I'll give you my daughters."

This offer to the mob was horrible and shocking! What would you have done?

This is a demonstration of depravity. The reader will be just as shocked at the willingness of Lot to give up his daughters to the mob as they would be at the sinful desire of the mob itself.

I want to take what Lot just did and bring it into the 21st century.

Why are we shocked at Lot's behavior when many 21st mothers and fathers turn their virgin daughters over to education, society, the business world, and say as Lot says, "do ye to them as is good in your eyes."

Compromise does not only affect you, it will also affect your family. The greatest treasure, aside from Christ, a young person has is their innocence.

19:9: And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.

19:10: But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

19:11: And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

The men of Sodom mocked Lot, and they rejected his compromise, they weren't interested in the girls, they wanted the men. They had contempt for Lot.

Rom. 1:27: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

This is where our society is headed. All I can say, is watch your children, the devil's crowd wants them. "... as it was it the days of Lot...(Luke 17:28-30)."

"This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them." "Who does he think he is, telling us what we can and cannot do? We will show him!"

And at the time they push Lot against the door and try to force it open, the men, Lot's guests open the door and grab Lot and bring him inside the house and struck the men outside Lot's house with blindness. At that point Lot realizes he is dealing with supernatural beings, these are no ordinary men!

But what I find amazing about this scene is that even after these men were struck with blindness they still attempted to force their way into Lot's house to get to those guests! My explanation for this is that these men were driven by more than just lust, their drive, I would say, was demonic. All wearied themselves—like a pack of wolves tearing at their prey!

19:12: And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

19:13: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

19:14: And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

The two men now tell Lot why they were there. They were sent to destroy the place. Imagine the shock on Lot and his wife; by this time Lot knew these men were supernatural beings. They meant business.

Have you ever had to pack last minute? Clothes flying out of the drawers, scouring through your belongings looking for the important things and documents...

Oh, and Lot gather your family too. Twice the warning is repeated.

First time: “...we will destroy this place...”

Second time: “...the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.”

Lot realized that these men weren’t kidding, they weren’t playing around so he rushes to his sons-in-law: “Boys, pack up, we only have minutes, these two men—angels—have to wipe the place clean! We’ve got to go! They mean it! Fire and brimstone—from the LORD in heaven!”

And the boys quickly get up and pull out the suitcases and...

“But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.”

There goes dad again with the God stuff! Quit it old man, we’re tired of hearing it! Lot keeps pleading, but they don’t take him seriously. Why do think that is? Lot never lived his faith, he believed, but never practiced what he preached.

How can we be effective witnesses for Christ if we don’t differ from the world? If the lost do not see a difference in our lives—when we tell them about Christ, it will seem to them as though we have taken up another hobby, this time—religion.

“...the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD.”

God is not deaf to the cry of those who suffer; He just acts according to His time schedule. The cry here is not the cry of the Sodomites for help

or their cries of confession, but the cry of innocent victims asking for vengeance.

God heard the cry of the affliction of the Israelites in Egypt.

Ex. 3:7: And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

God hears the cry of the fatherless and the widows.

Ex. 22:22: Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child.

Ex. 22:23: If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry;

Ex. 22:24: And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

God hears the cry of his people.

Psalm 34:6: This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalm 34:17: The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

Luke 18:7: And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Luke 18:8: I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Rev. 6:10: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

In Sodom and Gomorrah the time came for God to avenge the cry of those afflicted.

19:15: And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

19:16: And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

Morning had arrived, the Lots had finished packing, the car was all loaded up, important documents, bank papers and personal jewelry; the rest they had to leave behind, especially that expensive cookware set, there just wasn't any room.

God was merciful to him, God delivered Lot right before he was about to destroy the cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar.

Remember the question Abraham asked of God: "Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked (Gen. 18:23)?"

No, God would not destroy the righteous with the wicked. But what He did, was before he destroyed the wicked He led righteous Lot out. God brought Lot out and set him outside the city far away from the overthrow.

Lot is also a type of the tribulation saint that will be raptured and set aside to enter the millennial kingdom right before Christ destroys the earth.

Rev. 14:15: And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Matt. 13:30: Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Mark 13:27: And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

These verses are used to teach the pre-wrath rapture. But there are the rapture of tribulation saints still alive and who will enter the millennial kingdom.

Another lesson we learn from Lot's story: outside the city is the only safe place for the Christian. Lot should have never gone into the city; he lost almost everything; only two unmarried daughters were left to him.

And notice how the angels had to take him out? As "he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand..." They dragged him out kicking and screaming—his heart was in Sodom!