

## Genesis Ch. 19

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V: 1 Sodom & Gomorrah are frequently mentioned together, but they were separate cities.

“Sodom” = (H5467) “Cedom”, sed-ome'; burning.

“Gomorrah” = (6017) “Amorah”, am-o-raw'; submersion.

- We may think or assume that the city was named after their destruction, because of the fire and brimstone that descended upon it.
- More likely, they lived up to their name in that regard, or it was simply a part of their nature / culture.

**Romans 1:27** “Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”

- The two angels came in the evening; it either was dark already or was about to get dark.
- Nothing good ever happens in the dark.

*“Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom”*

Lot has made a progression:

**Genesis 13:10** Lot looked towards Sodom.

**Genesis 13:12** Lot pitched his tent towards Sodom.

**Genesis 14:12** Lot is dwelling in Sodom.

- Now Lot is sitting in the gate, which is what elders and leaders do, the position of a judge.
- Lot rises to meet the angels, and he bows down to them..

“bows” (H7812).shachah, shaw-khaw'; obeisance, homage, worship – just as Abraham bowed to Jesus and the angels in the last chapter.

- Lot recognizes that these are special visitors.

V: 2 Lot seeks to offer them the common courtesy of the day.

- Come stay at my house, wash your feet, have a meal – then go your way.
- Lot has no clue why they are there – it hasn't been revealed to him as it was to Abraham.

- At first the angels refuse, they want to stay in the open square.
  1. They don't want to stay in Lot's home.
  2. They seem to be spoiling for a fight, maybe part of the judgment would begin that night in the square.

V: 3 Lot is insistent and seemingly they give in.

- Lot makes them a “feast” with “un-leavened bread”

<sup>1</sup><sup>st</sup> mention of “leaven”.

- Unleavened bread is later used or representative as being “without sin” / leaven – but it is also the bread of “haste” reminiscent of when the children of Israel were delivered from bondage and ate the Passover meal prepared to travel.
- Lot is the one doing the preparation, where is his wife and daughters.

V: 4-5 Lot's situation comes into focus through this crisis – he is literally surrounded by sin.

- Apparently the arrival of these angels in the likeness of men, did not pass by without notice amongst the people.
- The men of Sodom, old and young, all the people, from every quarter – meaning most if not all the men of the city.
- Surrounded Lot's house – evil intent.

“know” (H3045). yada', yaw-dah'; to know – in a variety of ways depending on context, including carnally or intimately.

V:6-9 Lot thinks that he can reason with the mob – his “brethren”?

- Lot offers his two virgin daughters in an attempt at appeasement.
- Eastern custom: any guest in your home, even an enemy – there is a moral obligation to ensure that they are respected and well taken care of and protected at all cost.
- These men at Lots door are a picture of what God sought to counsel Cain about: **Genesis 4:7** “... if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its' desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”
- The only real way to conquer sin is to kill it.

- Side note: that fact that Lot still had two daughters who were still virgins in this environment is noteworthy.
- Lot's offer couldn't have been too reassuring to his daughters.
- The response of the men of Sodom is an indication of Lot's acceptance in the community.

Jesus told us:

**Matthew 12:30** "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad."

**2 Corinthians 6:14** "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?"

- Lot has too much of the Lord in him to be happy or accepted in the world, and he has too much of the worldly life to be an effective witness for God – both to the community and to his own family.

The dividing line is always the same:

**Hebrews 4:12** "For the Word of God is quick & powerful / alive, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

V: 10-11 The angels, seeing that Lot is about to be overtaken, intervene and drag Lot back into the house.

- The angels then strike the mob with blindness – the incredible part isn't that they are struck with blindness, but that they continue to try to find the door so they can get to the men / angels and fulfill their lust.
- They are determined to sin – same as today – the homosexual movement has their agenda – and they're not giving up.

V: 12-13 Roll call, time to get everybody out.

- Son in law, at least two of those (V:14) means two men & two daughters.
- Your sons, plural = at least two.
- Daughters = 2 more
- Lot & his wife = 10 that Abraham hoped would be found righteous.

*"For we will destroy this place"* – the LORD has sent them to destroy it.

**2 Peter 2:9** "... the Lord knows how to deliver the Godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,"

V: 14 Essentially his son's in law laughed at him.

- Lot had somehow through compromise lost his credibility as a witness, he wasn't taken seriously.
- No mention of his sons – no attempt to warn? Lost cause? Speculative.

V: 15 Judgment at dawn!

- Lot told to get going, but seemingly dragging his feet.

**1 Corinthians 15:33** “Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good habits.”

**Revelation 18:4** “... come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”

V: 16 Lot still lingering, the angels now intervene directly taking them by the hand.

**Psalm 32:9** “Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near to you.”

- Things like this are so easily seen from the outside – we've all seen someone in a self-destructive sin, alcohol, drugs, pornography – ruining their lives – but won't let it go.

**Proverbs 6:27** “Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?”

- As much as we may be amazed at the stubborn foolishness of Lot, we also see the incredible patience, longsuffering, mercy, and grace of our God:
- Lot is told the same thing several times – actually 4 X's.

**Genesis 19:12** “... take them out of this place!”

**Genesis 19:15** “... arise, take your wife and daughters lest you be consumed...”

**Genesis 19:17** “Escape for your life!

**Genesis 19:22** “Hurry, escape...”

V: 17 Important instructions: life and death instructions.

- Stewardess instructions on how to use the flotation devices and oxygen masks – just going through the motions – not believing they will have to actually use it.

- What if it was really life and death, and we had to be on that plane, and we were told that it will go down sometime during the flight?
- Read and re-read those instructions.
- Don't look back, don't stop, keep your eyes on Jesus!

Jesus tells us:

**Luke 9:62** “No man having put his hands on the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of heaven.”

**Hebrews 10:38-39** <sup>38</sup>Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. <sup>39</sup>But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

*“Escape to the mountains...”*

- God often calls His people to the mountain top:
  1. Abraham would be called to the ultimate test of his faith on top of Mt. Moriah – a defining moment in his walk.
  2. The Israelites represented by Moses were called to Mt. Sinai, where they received the Law.
  3. Moses was later given a view of the promise land, when he was called to the top of Mt. Pisgah.
  4. Elijah saw fire come down from heaven when he was at the top of Mt. Carmel.
  5. Peter, James, and John, saw the glory of God at the Mount of Transfiguration.
  6. Jesus gave us all the gift of everlasting life at the top of Moriah, at Golgatha.
  7. I'm sure that we've all had our mountain top experiences.

I wonder what Lot misses out on because he balks at God's word?  
When God calls you to the mountain – go!

V: 18-20 Lot begins to plead, he is looking to somehow mitigate God's judgment.

- Lot isn't thinking correctly. God isn't going to all this trouble to save him out Sodom just to kill him in the mountains.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** <sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

- Lot is going to escape – but only as one who has gone through the fire and comes out smoldering!

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15** “<sup>11</sup>For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup>each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup>If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

- When Lot separated from Abraham, it was because they each had so much stuff, so many flocks, and herds that the land couldn’t support them both.
- Here he seems to escape with his family and the clothes on their backs – as one through fire.
- We won’t read much more about Lot after this account, he is a picture of those who make it into heaven, but just that – no rewards to speak of.
- Lot doesn’t trust the Lord to get him to the mountain – he seeks a compromise

V: 21-23      God held back His judgment until the last one to be saved was safe.

- Just like the pre-tribulation rapture:

**1 Thessalonians 5:9**      “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

V: 24-25      “*The Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens.*”

- No question on where this comes from.
- Excavations around the Dead Sea have discovered huge ash deposits.
- Fire from the sky. Tar / slime pits ignited? The cities and the plain overthrown – no remnant.

V: 26      Lot’s wife was disobedient – costing her life.

**Romans 6:23**      “The wages of sin is death...”

- Her love for the world, her disregard for the word of God – both deadly.

**Psalms 19:7-11**      extols the virtues of the Word of God.

**Psalm 19:7-11**      “<sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup>the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; <sup>9</sup>the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup>Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.”

V: 27-29      Abraham is up early to see what the Lord had done.

- Not looking the same way Lot’s wife did, longingly – but in awe of God’s righteous judgment and His power.

**James 5:16b**      “The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

V: 30      Initially God’s intent was to destroy all the cities of the plain, including Zoar.

- Lot pleads that the city might be spared so he can flee there.
- Lot gets there but doesn’t stay.
- Either he’s afraid and didn’t believe God, perhaps he saw the behavior of the people – the same as Sodom & Gomorrah and figured that they were next.
- If there is a city that is ripe for revival, Zoar is it – they’ve just witnessed the judgment of God and this would seemingly have been a good opportunity for evangelism.
- Fear grips his heart and Lot bails – opportunity missed.

V: 31-36

- The daughters have an un-realistic view of the situation.
- Lot is probably old, but no other men left on the earth?

Elijah fled to a cave and thought he was the only one left too – stay out of caves.

- What about uncle Abraham and his family? No options there?

- Unless we have a biblical world view, we too don't see the world situation for what it is – and we too may very well seek our own foolish remedies.
- Daughter proposes sin to continue the family line.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> time that alcohol causes a father to stumble and sin.
- Where did the wine come from?

Here they are in a dark place / a cave, life is hard, seemingly hopeless and some one whispers – or should I say – “hisses” – oh, just have a drink... It'll be ok...

What about crying out to God? What about seeking His face? They hadn't been instructed in that – only in the ways of the world.

- Somehow they knew that they could get their father drunk – past habit?
- I've never been drunk, but I've seen thousands of drunks – how drunk do you have to be to not be aware that you are committing this sin – and to do it twice?

V: 37-38 Even though for the most part the Moabites and the Ammonites are against the people of Israel in various ways.

- Ruth, a Moabite, had become the daughter in law to a woman named Naomi.
- Ruth is later redeemed by a kinsman redeemer named Boaz.
- They have a son named Obed, who has a son named Jesse, who has a son later known as king David.
- Later our Messiah comes from the lineage of David – and sacrifices himself for the sin of all men.

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

**Isaiah 9:6** “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”