

**GENESIS 19**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Genesis chapter 19 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

In our previous study we saw the Lord test the faith of both Sarah and Abraham.

And for Abraham, we saw that two angels meet with him along with the Lord.

And Abraham prepared a meal for them and as the meal was over and these two men rose from there, these two angels, the Lord was going to send them to Sodom.

The wickedness, the evil of that city had reached the ears of God and now judgment was coming. In Genesis 18:20-21 we are told, **“And the LORD said, ‘Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know.’”**

At this point Abraham does not know anything about this judgment that was to be poured out upon Sodom. But the Lord will tell him.

Why was this such a big deal?

Because Lot, Abraham’s nephew was living in Sodom.

And as the Lord tells Abraham of what is coming upon Sodom, this judgment, Abraham begins to intercede with the Lord for Sodom and the people who were living there.

And Abraham says to the Lord, **“Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”** Genesis 18:25.

In other words, God is righteous, and He would never judge unfairly, He would never judge the righteous with the wicked!

So Abraham begins to barter with the Lord, ***“If there was only 50 righteous people living in Sodom You would not destroy the city because of those 50?”***

And the Lord said that He would not destroy the city if there were 50 righteous people living there in the city.

And Abraham goes on to 45, then 40, then 30, then 20 and finally 10. If there were 10 righteous people living in Sodom God said that He would not destroy the city!

At this point I think that Abraham felt good because there had to be at least 10 righteous people living in Sodom and I think he was thinking of Lot’s family.

You see, there was Lot and his wife, his two unmarried daughters, he has at least two sons, his two married daughters and their spouses, which equals 10!

There could have been more but at least 10 in Lot’s family. The problem is, they were not all righteous, as we will see here tonight. There were not 10 righteous people living in Sodom!

That is where we will pick up our study this evening in Genesis chapter 19, starting in verse 1 as these two angels come to Sodom.

## **GENESIS 19**

### **VERSES 1-3**

Here’s the thing. And this is important. When a person begins to compromise his faith there is a steady progression downward as we see here with Lot.

Back in Genesis 13:10 we saw Lot looking towards Sodom, a city that was filled with wickedness.

Then, in Genesis 13:12 we see Lot pitch his tent toward Sodom. He is getting closer and that is how sin works.

By the time we get to Genesis 14:12 we see that Lot is now living in Sodom.

And now here in Genesis chapter 19 he is sitting at the gate of the city, he was a judge in Sodom.

And as we are going to see, this righteous man who compromised his faith could not make an impact on those around him, not even his family!

Ray Stedman put it like this. He wrote,

I would like to ask this successful man four questions. I think they will reveal to us how much there is of Sodom in Lot, how much the life of the city had affected him. The rest of the chapter will give us the answers to these questions.

***“Lot, you made a great success out of your life. You’ve won your way from a nobody to the mayor of the city. You entered as an unknown, a foreigner and you’ve achieved both wealth and honor here in the city of Sodom. My first question is this, ‘How has your choice of life in Sodom affected your own inner life? You wanted both the personal advantages of the city life and fellowship with God. Have you found it?’ The second question is ‘How much have you influenced the city for good, Lot? How effective has your life been in changing the city’s evils?’ The third question is: ‘How much money did you make there? How much material advantage was it to you to live there?’ And the fourth question: ‘What influence did the city’s life have on your own family?’”***

Those are great questions we can apply to our own lives.

Where are we living and how is it building up the inner man or is it building up the flesh?

Also, because of where you are living, what you are doing, how has that impacted people or influenced those around you for Christ or has hurt them because where you are living is a horrible witness of Christ?

What about the material things, are they more important to you than Christ? If they are, it will affect your testimony.

And, where you are living, has it affected your family in a negative way?

You see, what happened to Lot can happen to us! If what we believe does not impact our lives in such a way that it is not manifested in our actions, then we will not impact anyone with the Gospel message.

Compromise will water down or weaken what we believe, and people are watching!

Compromise destroyed the testimony of Lot, and it will also destroy our testimony!

And as you look at the life of Lot you may wonder if he was even saved. If it wasn't for what Peter tells us about Lot, it would be confusing.

But, in II Peter 2:7-8 we are told, **“and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds).”**

Yes, his soul was tormented but it did not move him from leaving the area and that compromise cost him much of his family!

Like his uncle Abraham, Lot was very hospitable. He offers these two angels a place to lodge, in his house.

But these angels, I don't believe Lot knew them as angels but just men, felt they could just stay out in the square for the night.

What is interesting to me is that when they told Lot that they were going to sleep in the open square, Lot was unsettled.

Why was he so unsettled about these men staying in the open square?

Because he knew the wickedness of Sodom and when darkness fell, all was fair play, whatever wickedness man can imagine! Lot knew the wickedness of Sodom and he knew it was not safe for anyone to be out in the streets, especially visitors! That is why he wanted them to come in, to protect them because he had seen what happened to others, how dangerous it was!

So when Lot heard that he insisted that they come into his house and they did.

Now, if you want to see what a community, what a nation, what a world is like apart from God, listen closely because God is going to give to us this very disturbing picture.

#### VERSES 4-9

Look at the depravity of the people of this city and their boldness to commit these depraved acts.

This was not just a few bad people that were coming out to do these vicious and unbelievable acts upon these angels. We are told that it was the young, the old, from throughout the city, not just the bad areas, they all were bad. And they came to Lot's house to have homosexual relations with his guests. They wanted to rape them!

Folks, before we judge them, we need to take a good look at the depravity of America, how low we have sunk into sin.

Can you image a person from the 1800's coming to our time and hearing and seeing what we do! He would be outraged at the depravity of this nation and yet, for many, they have become accustomed to this depravity! And folks, when any person or nation turns away from the true and living God, then God will give them the evil that is in their hearts!

Paul makes that point in Romans chapter 1; verses I am sure we are all familiar with. But here in Romans chapter 1, beginning in verse 24, Paul tells us that if you turn from God, **“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 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. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”** Romans 1:24-32.

Isn't that interesting. We try to make all kinds of excuses for sexual sin, for immorality, for wickedness, but the real reason is that once you turn from God, He will give you over to do the wickedness that is in your heart. And folks, we are seeing that today in our country at alarming rates. Right is wrong and wrong is right and the people rejoice! Very sad.

Let me also say this, as bad as this sin of homosexuality was in Sodom. Homosexuality was not the only sin that brought the judgment of God upon them.

In Ezekiel 16:49-50 we are told, **“Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.”**

We see that as they had turned so far away from God that pride filled their lives, they were proud of their sin. Kind of like gay pride today! Not kind of, that is exactly what it is like!

They filled their bellies and they filled their fleshly appetites!

They had so much free time on their hands, they did not work, and they used the imagination of their own hearts to think of more wicked things to do!

They did not care about others, like the poor because it was all about them!

They were arrogant, haughty and they did all kinds of evil things, including homosexuality!

So sin filled the land and God is preparing to judge them and He will, as we will see tonight!

Today, in our society, it is not politically correct to say that homosexuality is a sin, but it is! Not because I have said it is a sin, but God has!

In Leviticus 20:13 we are told, **“If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.”**

And in Leviticus 18:21-25 we are told, **“And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion. ‘Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.’”**

First of all, if homosexuality is not a sin, then there is nothing wrong with sacrificing your children to Molech, the god of pleasure, right?

And, sadly we do that as over 60 million children have been murdered in the womb, they have been aborted to the god of pleasure in this country!

And if there is nothing wrong with this, then there must not be anything wrong with bestiality!

Folks, when you ignore God’s Word, then nothing can be wrong, nothing is evil. You can’t tell me something is evil; it may be good for me even though it might not be good for you!

That is ridiculous, sin is sin! We need to obey God’s Word instead of the empty philosophies of this world that change more often than we change our socks it seems!

But God’s Word does not change!



What about those who say that they were born that way, that they were born homosexuals?

There is no biological research to prove that people are born homosexuals, but they are born with a sin nature and thus, we all have a predisposition or a tendency to sin at whatever capacity or depravity that may be!

It does not make it right nor did God create a person that way, they choose to go down that path.

And what we are seeing today is that churches, denominations are saying that homosexuality is not a sin. They are ordaining homosexual pastor's, transgender pastor's and the like.

How can that be?

Because, once you take away the plumb line, your life and your thinking will be crooked! And we see that in churches today, denominations today.

God has said that homosexuality is a sin and thus, apart from Christ they are headed for Hell. And when they come to Christ, you can't still be practicing this sin, or any sin.

And I am not saying we don't sin. What I am saying is that we don't practice sin, that is the point. It is not what we do day in and day out. We are a new creation in Christ, the old things have passed away and all things have become new! (II Corinthians 5:21)

Now there is something that is even more disturbing to me, and we see it here in Genesis 19:7-8. We see that Lot is willing to sacrifice his virgin daughters, he was willing to have them raped by these men just to protect these guests.

Now some like to say that Lot was just practicing hospitality and it was his duty to protect these guests.

Yes, but what about your daughters, don't you care for them? Obviously not! I would sacrifice my life before I would let someone harm my children!

And believe me, I have looked at this over and over again and folks, there is nothing you can say to justify his behavior.

In fact, he calls this band of sinners, "**brethren**" but they have no respect for him.

It is possible that his compromise of faith made his witness ineffective!

What a lesson for us to learn. We are not to be "***Buddy, buddy***" with the world, but we are to love them and have a desire to bring them into the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ. May we not lose sight of that!

And as much as Lot compromised his faith, look at how the world looked at him. They said, "**... 'This one came in to sojourn, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.' . . .**" Genesis 19:9.

The world will never be satisfied with your compromise. They will keep pushing you for more and more and more.

I remember when churches took sin out of their teaching because they did not want to offend anyone. And now look at where we are at! Be careful, be warned, the world will never be satisfied with your compromise, and neither will God because what God has said is not up for debate or compromise!

Don't compromise your faith, follow what the Lord has said!

#### VERSES 10-11

So as this mob presses hard against Lot, trying to get past him and into the house to get to Lot's visitors, these two angels open the door and pull Lot in.

They then strike this mob with blindness, they can't see.

So what do they do? What do these men of Sodom do now that they have been struck blind?

You would think they would try to get out of there, but that is not what they do!

Instead, they are trying to find the door to get into the house and have sexual relations with these visitors, to rape these men, to fulfill their lustful desires.

Can you even imagine that, but that is how perverted man can get and how depraved he can get! His perverted sexual desires have such a control on them that no matter what, they are going to try to attain that pleasure!

Make no mistake about it, sin is a deadly poison that controls our lives if we allow it.

That is what God warned Cain about and He is warning us. Remember in Genesis 4:6-7 what the Lord said to Cain. We are told, **“So the Lord said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.’”**

The warning to Cain by the Lord is that sin wants to control his life, but he does not have to give into it. And if you do, it will consume your life! And it did!

God wants us to walk in the Spirit and not be taken captive by the flesh!

Here not one of these men saw their wickedness. Sin controlled their lives!

#### VERSES 12-14

Enough is enough, this depravity is not going to continue on, and the judgment of God is coming very quickly for the people of Sodom.

Thus, the angels warn Lot to gather up his family and get out of town quickly. Again, as we saw last time, God will not judge the righteous with the wicked!

So here is this man of God that has compromised his faith for years and he goes to his family and warns them of the coming judgment of God, and they respond, ***“Your nuts! Crazy old man!”***

I am paraphrasing of course, but the reality is, they thought he was just joking. They refused to take him seriously.

Why? Why did they not take him seriously?

They saw his life, the focus of his life, and it was this world. Yes, he loved the Lord, but he had one foot in the world and one foot with the Lord and what people see is your love for the things of this world!

As we will see, it is only his wife and his two virgin daughters who listened.

So Abraham bartered God down to 10 righteous people living in Sodom and what do we see here?

That there were not 10 righteous people living in Sodom, and as we will see, only three will eventually escape the judgment of God!

As I have said, Lot’s testimony was lost, his witness had no affect and thus, his life impacted no one for the Lord!

Was Lot saved?

Yes, I believe that Lot was saved, as I have said. But what a wasted life.

It is as Paul said in I Corinthians 3:15, **“If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”**

May we live what we believe and not compromise our faith. And, if we walk as God has called us, we will shine for Him, and our life will impact others for Christ!

Not that everyone will listen to what we have to say, but they cannot deny our love for the Lord as it is manifested in the things that we do and the things that we say!

#### VERSES 15-16

As the sun comes up where is Lot?

He is still in Sodom; he did not leave yet!

Why?

Because his heart was still in Sodom, he did not want to leave.

You see, too much of Lot's heart was in Sodom, so he did not have an urgency to leave the city.

A lack of urgency to obey God (even when it is necessary and good) is a common sign of compromise and a backslidden condition.

Make no mistake about it, it was difficult to get Lot out and his family out of Sodom. And it was even more difficult to get Sodom out of Lot's family!

And Lot had too much of the world in him to be happy in the Lord and he had too much of the Lord to be happy in the world.

How about you?

You see, if you do, it is not a good place to be.

And there are many Christians that know what the Bible says about God's coming judgment upon this world. But instead of forsaking this world immediately they are "lingering," not wanting to make a complete break from it. They are trying to serve two masters, even as Lot was trying to do. And it does not work.

Also, keep in mind that this is the second time the Lord rescued Lot, the first time he was taken captive, (Genesis 14:12, 16), and yet after he was rescued, he went right back to Sodom!

And what we see here is that Lot heard God's warning but did not heed it!

Because of that we now see these angels having to grab Lot by the hand and forcibly drag him out of the city.

And not just Lot. We see that they grabbed the hand of his wife and two daughters to drag them out of the city before destruction came upon Sodom!

Think about this. Lot was not grateful for God's mercy upon him, but he **LINGERED** in Sodom!

So as these two angels dragged them out of the city, Lot, his wife and two daughters, listen to what transpired next!

And, as you will see, Lot's heart was not in the Lord but in this world, in Sodom!

#### VERSES 17-22

Lot not only **LINGERED** in Sodom until the angels dragged him out, but now he is **ARGUING** with the angels, he does not want to go to the mountains, he has his own ideas of where to go.

You would think he would have learned, but he didn't.

And what a sad statement this is of Lot's faith. God was going to save Lot from the judgment that was coming and now he thinks that he will be destroyed if he flees to the mountains, he does not trust God.

How foolish and to me, it just tells me that Lot wanted to be close to Sodom, maybe not realizing how devastating this judgment of God was going to be. Maybe he thought after a time he could return there! And he will find out that the mountains is where he should have gone!

Folks, as God brings us out of things, don't look back and don't go back. God knows what is best for us. May we listen and obey!

Thus, Lot and his family will go to Zoar or "*little ones*" instead of the mountain of the Lord.

And I guess we can look at it like this. Lot was willing to let go of those big sins, Sodom.

But he did not want to let go of all of them, the little sins and thus, he wants to go to Zoar or keep the "*little ones.*"

In fact, Lot *BEGGED* to go where he wanted!

Don't settle for second best, seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and He will give you what is best if you will follow Him!

So we see Lot *LINGER*, *ARGUE* and *BEG* to get his own way. Not a good idea folks.

We also see here the answer to the question of God judging the righteous with the wicked or as Abraham asked the Lord, "**Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**" Genesis 18:25.

Listen carefully to what the angels are saying here, "**Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there. . . .**" Genesis 19:22a.

In other words, God will not judge the righteous with the wicked, the judgment of Sodom and the surrounding cities will not begin until the righteous are safe!

The Lord does not judge the righteous with the wicked and thus, in the coming judgment, the church will be removed before God pours out His judgment on the wicked.

I truly believe this is important for us to understand because if we don't believe we will escape the coming judgment, then instead of looking for the return of Jesus Christ we will be looking for the coming of the Antichrist!

I don't know about you, but I am looking for the Lord to return and after I am gone, then the Antichrist will be revealed, not before.

Now, in the days we are living in there is a growing number of people who are rejecting the Rapture of the Church or that the Church is removed from the earth, caught up to be with the Lord, prior to the start of the seven-year Tribulation Period.

First of all, the Tribulation Period, all of it, is God's wrath being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world.

And, secondly, it is God dealing with the Nation of Israel once again, the finishing up of the seventieth week of Daniel!

But again, they believe God will judge the righteous with the wicked and that means we will go through some or all of the Tribulation Period. Or that we are the 144,000 Jews that are preserved by God, but how foolish. It is speaking of virgin Jewish men and God will use them to witness of Him!

Others say that the wrath of God does not begin at the opening of the first seal but sometime later on and thus, the Rapture of the Church does not happen at the beginning of the Tribulation Period.



Why don't people just read the Bible? Who is pouring out the wrath of the Antichrist upon this world?

It is Jesus Christ who is worthy to loosen the seals and open the scroll!

Let me show you that the church is not here during this period of time! And we can spend several teachings looking at the evidence to support this, but go to our I Thessalonians study, chapter 4 and we deal with this, especially in our in-depth study!

In Revelation chapter 3 Jesus is writing to the Faithful Church, the Church of Philadelphia and in Revelation 3:10 Jesus said, **“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”**

What I want you to notice is that the Lord did not say He would keep us through this Tribulation Period, but that He will **“keep you from”** the Tribulation Period.

In the Greek it is *TEREO EK*, (tay-reh'-o ex) and it speaks of keeping us out of this period of time.

Now if you believe the church will go through part or all of the Tribulation Period, you have a huge problem with what the Lord is saying here because He used the wrong Greek word!

Obviously, He didn't, He used the one to tell us He will keep us out of this time.

Now, what is the Lord specifically keeping us out of? **“the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”**

The idea of **“hour”** is a period of time, seven years here.

The **“trial”** is coming upon the whole earth and specifically those who dwell on the earth or the earth dwellers.

Paul tells us in Philippians 3:20 that we are not earth dwellers, but our citizenship is in heaven.

So this is not speaking of us, the church but of the unsaved!

Why is this happening?

It is happening so that God can “test” them.

That tells me some will pass the test and get saved during this period of time and the book of Revelation tells us that will happen, many will get saved.

But also, many will fail the test, they will reject Jesus Christ and they will endure His wrath, they will be eternally separated from God!

Also, in II Peter 2:9, Peter is comparing how God delivered righteous Lot from a judgment and thus, we are told, “then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.”

Do you think God knows how to deliver the righteous and judge the wicked?

Of course He does!

Now some will say that we are being persecuted today and some even believe that we are now in the Tribulation Period. Foolishness!

Who is the Antichrist, for that is the sign of the start of the Tribulation Period?

Here’s the thing, right now Satan and his forces are persecuting Christians all over the world.

But in the Tribulation Period it is God’s wrath being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world.

We are told in I Thessalonians 5:9 this powerful point by Paul, “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this; **“For God has not appointed us to [incur His] wrath [He did not select us to condemn us], but [that we might] obtain [His] salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).”**

I think that is very clear!

When was Lot delivered from Sodom?

At the midpoint of the judgment? No!

Just after the midpoint of the judgment? No!

At the end of the judgment? No!

Or maybe he was not delivered at all? No!

Remember what the angel said to Lot, **“... ‘Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there.’ ...”** Genesis 19:22.

In other words, God’s judgment is righteous and **“... the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.”** II Peter 2:9.

May we not forget that because our hope is in Him and His soon return!

### VERSES 23-26

This is important for us to understand in regard to the days we are living in. When did the judgment of God begin?

Like I have said, as soon as Lot was in Zoar where he was safe! And then God rained down upon these cities fire and brimstone.

For us today, the Lord will not pour out His judgment until the Church, His Bride is removed. I hope that makes sense. God does not punish the righteous with the wicked!

Now, in this judgment there is much speculation of what came down and destroyed these cities. But this was a massive destruction because Abraham is going to see the smoke of this judgment rising up, and he is a far distance from this area! (Genesis 19:27-28)

Not only were these cities destroyed, but the land was destroyed also.

Remember back in Genesis 13:10 where we were told, “**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.**”

This area around the Dead Sea was lush, it was beautiful, it was fertile at one time.

But now the judgment of God has come, and the land is a barren wilderness.

The area of land is about seventy miles long and eighteen miles wide. Also, located in this area is the Dead Sea, some fifty-three miles long and nine to ten miles wide.

Many believe that these cities lie under the Dead Sea as they sank, and the waters covered them.

What is interesting about the Dead Sea is that the salinity range is 26% to 35% and because of this and the high mineral content, you don't sink but float on the surface.

I have done this, and it is a strange feeling.

Also, there is no life in the Dead Sea because of this high salt and mineral content.

Although there is some life coming back to this area now. But, as we have seen in our study of the Bible, in the Kingdom Age the waters are restored and there is an abundance of life. (Ezekiel

47)

When you look at this land today you will see how barren the land is around this area, on the southern portion of the Dead Sea! God's judgment was complete upon these cities for their wickedness.

And, according to Deuteronomy 29:23 we are told of the other cities that were destroyed. We are told, "**The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and His wrath.**"

Did you notice that Zoar is not mentioned! That is where Lot went to!

Not only is this tragic, that the people refused to turn to God and away from their wicked ways, but now Lot's wife looks back and she turns into a pillar of salt!

Remember what the angels said back in Genesis 19:17, "**... 'Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.'**"

Lot's wife "**looked back**" or she looked intently back at Sodom, longing to be back and God gave her the desire of her heart!

Now some say that she was saved but just longed for the things of this world. I don't believe that she was.

This is not a good thing. You see, what was in her heart could no longer be hidden, but it was exposed, and judgment came upon her.

And here is where I think we can clearly see that she was not saved.

In the New Testament, as Jesus spoke of the last days, the coming judgment upon a Christ rejecting world, He made these interesting remarks in Luke 17:32, "**Remember Lot's wife.**"

The way it is written we are to continually keep that in mind as Christians. But again, I don't think she was saved but we are not to live with one foot in the world and one foot in the Lord, it does not work!

Yes, Lot's wife may have said the right words, acting like she was saved, but in the end her actions proved where she stood, what was in her heart.

Thus, don't play games with God because you will lose, and you will face the judgment of God!

In other words – ***REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE!***

I want to take a few minutes and share some observations from archeology regarding this area and what took place.

- ***BRONZE AGE DOORS:*** “When Kyle and Albright excavated the site of Tel Beit Mirsim . . . they found evidence in the level of the Middle Bronze Age (2200-1600BC) of strong walls and great doors. On the other hand, in the level of Early Iron II (900-600BC) . . . inhabitants used only archways or curtains . . .” (Free p.62). Lot lived around 2000BC and had a door on his house that was sufficient to keep out the mob at Sodom. The Bible account fits the Archaeological record even in this little point!
- ***TRAVEL:*** Travels of great distances were possible in Abraham's day. People regularly traveled the whole length of the “fertile crescent.” Legal documents for the rental of carts in Babylon have been found containing the stipulation that the renter not take the cart all the way into Canaan! Thus, a thirty-mile (as the crow flies) distance between Abraham and Lot would be no great distance, and it was entirely possible for Abraham's army to pursue Lot's capturers for 150 miles to the Damascus area (Fisher).
- ***SALT, SULPHUR, AND ASPHALT:*** Geologists (including Fredrick Clapp) confirm huge quantities of salt, sulfur and bituminous material, also known as brimstone or asphalt, around the areas associated with Sodom and Gomorrah (Boyd p.51, 86, Wilson p. 67-68, Wood).
- ***A CONFLAGRATION:*** It is generally agreed that there was a subterranean lake of oil beneath these cities. The area is located on a fault line, and natural gas would have poured out of fissures in a seismic disturbance. “A tremendous explosion took place, which carried burning sulfur, oil, and asphalt into the air above the cities. Mingled with salt, this brimstone and fire rained down upon the whole plain” (Boyd 51,86). Dense smoke suggests smoke from a petroleum-based fire. (cf. Wilson p.67, Kitchen p.47, Pfeiffer p.543, Library of Congress, Wood, Sanders II).

- **PILLARS OF SALT:** A strata of salt 150 feet thick is to be found in the area, including a veritable mountain of salt called Jebel Usdum (or translated from Arabic to English, “Mount Sodom.”) Pillars of salt can be found all around the Dead Sea. That there are pillars of salt is indisputable, but could a human be turned into salt? Excavations in the Italian city of Pompeii demonstrate evidence that a volcano can indeed quickly cover human victims and preserve them. According to Boyd (p. 85), the bodies in Pompeii actually turned into salts during the process of the volcanic cataclysm. The Bible phrase concerning Mrs. Lot being “back from behind” indicates she was rather far behind the rest of her family and was covered by the fallout whereas her husband and daughters were not. (Boyd. p.86, Wilson p.69, Unger p.1206, NIV Study Bible).
- **CHANGES IN CIVILIZATION:** “In the Middle Bronze IIa period (1900-1750BC), Bethel, Shechem, and Dothan and other cities associated with the Patriarchs flourished. At Jericho, tombs show that desert nomads at this time reoccupied cities that had been allowed to fall into ruins, but the main area of occupation was the hilly districts of Palestine and the Southern desert (Negeb) which Glueck’s survey has proved to have been once thickly populated. Similar surveys show that Moab and Ammon were also inhabited c.2000BC, but at the time of the destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, and Zoar...the population hurriedly abandoned adjacent sites and returned to their semi-nomadic life. Sedentary occupation of the country east of Jordan is not found again until the 13<sup>th</sup> Century” (Wiseman) (cf. Sanders II) In other words, archaeology confirms the movement of shepherds like Lot into cities during Abraham’s time period, then suddenly leaving the area uninhabited for several hundred years. This matches the biblical record!
- **REMAINS OF CITIES DESTROYED BY FIRE:** The site of Bab-edh-Dhra was discovered by Melvn Kyle in 1924 on the Lisan Peninsula in the southern Half of the Dead Sea. It has been excavated by others, including Wm. Albright. All the evidence points to a Cannanitish city dating from the time of Abraham which was burned and left uninhabited for several hundred years (Pfeiffer p.543). Several ancient historians also mention having seen the ruins: Tacitus *History* 5.7. Josephus *Wars* 4.4 (Unger’s p.1201), and Strabo (Wilson p.66). The Ebla tablets also mention the names of the five cities, naming one of their kings as “Birsha,” matching the Bible account (Wyatt).
- **ZOAR:** According to the Biblical record, one would expect Zoar not to have been wiped out as were its sister cities, since Lot escaped to this town. Sure enough, historical evidence for a city named Zoar is to be found where only legend and speculation exist for her sister cities. “Josephus says that the Dead Sea extended from Jericho as far as Zoar (B.J., IV. Viii.4); and the Christian historian Eusebius, of the fourth century, confirms that statement and adds that a Roman garrison was there. Also the mosaic map found in a Greek church of Medeba, dated from the fifth or sixth century, places Zoar at the Southeast corner of the sea . . . In 1924 . . . Drs. Albright and Kyle, explored the territory at the south end of the Dead Sea . . . they found the ruins of a Zoar of the Byzantine and Arabic periods, but believed that the site of the earlier Zoar had been submerged . . .” (NIV Study Bible). This site is also associated with Rast and Schaub’s “Sufi” site (Shank P.36) (cf. Sanders I)

- Nate Wilson Sodom & Gomorrah

VERSES 27-29

When Abraham saw the destruction of these cities, the smoke that was rising up into the sky, do you think he felt that God did not answer his prayers?

Absolutely not!

I totally believe Abraham knew that God removed the righteous before He destroyed the wicked.

How did he know that?

Because he spent time with the Lord and thus, he believed in God's promises, that God is faithful, that God is righteous and-so-on.

Folks, God wants that kind of relationship with us, He wants us to know Him intimately so that we can trust in Him. And what He has promised to us through His Word we can believe and walk by faith as Abraham did.

Now let me add this. I think we try to figure out earthly reasons for how these cities were destroyed. They had oil and gas in the area and if there was an earthquake it could have ignited them.

I don't think so. Yes, the area had these things, but understand what it says in Genesis 19:24, "**Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.**"

I think that God did this and yes, it may have ignited the oil at gas deposits, but this is a specific judgment for a specific area and not widespread. So this is the judgment of God!



VERSES 30-32

Where did the angels tell Lot to go in the first place?

Up into the mountains.

But Lot didn't want to go there, he went to Zoar and when the judgment of God fell, he fled to the mountains for safety. That is where the Lord wanted him to go in the first place and he took the long way home.

Why do we run to Zoar or the "*little ones*" of this world when we should be running to the Rock, Jesus Christ and take refuge beneath the shadow of His wings!

It is as David said in Psalm 61, **"Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. For You, O God, have heard my vows; You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name. You will prolong the king's life, His years as many generations. He shall abide before God forever. Oh, prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him! So I will sing praise to Your name forever, That I may daily perform my vows."** Psalm 61:1-8.

Now, when you read what his daughters are going to do, you may come to the conclusion that they think God destroyed all life except for them and thus, they need to have sexual relations with their father to keep life going on planet earth.

Sounds reasonable but it is wrong.

The reason I say that is because they just came from Zoar and there were people there, they were not destroyed.

So there were other people out there and they were aware of that, even though some may have fled from Zoar.

It could be that they felt no one would have contact with them because they came from the cities that were destroyed, so they wanted to preserve their lineage. That is possible, but whatever the reason, they did not trust in the Lord and resorted to their own plan to fulfill what they wanted. They knew it was wrong and they knew their father, Lot. He would never go for this, so they had to get him drunk to carry out this sin. Living in Sodom did affect Lot's daughters and not in a good way!

One other point here and that is, where did they get the wine? They were not there long enough to make it so they must have brought it with them from Sodom!

That tells me they were more interested in worldly things than with their own family, with the people of Sodom. Lot must have been aware, maybe he brought it himself, but whatever the case, a heart filled with compromise will lead to destruction, as we will see.

Think about it. Your house is on fire, and you rescue your family and what else do you go back to bring out of the burning house? A bottle of wine? No way, but that is what they did!

### VERSES 33-38

Now some have a hard time with this. They wonder why in the world God would place this immoral act and many other sexual sins in the Bible for people to read?

I like the way that Donald Barnhouse put it. He wrote:

*It is far better for children to learn the facts of life from the Word of God where sin is condemned than from dirty words on alley walls, or from lewd stories. No one can escape knowledge of sin . . . these things are never mentioned without being accompanied by the stern warnings that God hates sin and punishes it.*

- Donald Barnhouse

How true that is. The world calls good evil and evil good and it has no problems with flaunting sin, they are proud of it.

Do you want your children learning those lessons from them or do you want them to learn what God has to say about these things and the warnings He gives if you go down that path? Don't let Hollywood or any ungodly group teach your children what is right and what is wrong!

For me, I am glad they are there so no one can say, ***"I didn't know!"***

They do know, but many times they just choose not to believe and obey the Lord.

Also, why did Lot allow himself to drink to the point where he was drunk and had no control over his actions? Again, I just think it shows the state of Lot, maybe he believed it was hopeless and might as well drink instead of trusting in the Lord and resting in Him.

One person said, ***"Ironically, in his own drunkenness Lot carried out the shameful act that he himself had suggested to the men of Sodom: he lay with his own daughters."***

(Shailhamer).

So both his daughters have sexual relations with their dad and end up conceiving a child with their father.

The oldest daughter has a son by the name of Moab and the younger daughter has a son by the name of Ben-Ammi.

Now here is the thing, these children become the father of the Moabites and the Ammonites, and they will be a thorn in the side of the children of Israel, just as the sin of Abraham, having a child with his wife's maidservant, Hagar, and their sons name was Ishmael.

They all were and continue to be a thorn in the side of Israel. There are consequences to our sin and sometimes they last a lifetime!

The Moabites seduced the men of Israel and caused them to sin. We are told of this in Numbers 25:1-3, where we read, **“Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel.”**

And the Ammonites taught Israel to worship Molech and they would sacrifice their children in the arms of this bronze statue, this god they worshiped. They would heat up the hands of this god in the fire, and then they would burn their children!

He is also called Milcom as we are told in I Kings 11:33, **“because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David.”**

And In Jeremiah 32:33-35 we are told, **“And they have turned to Me the back, and not the face; though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive instruction. But they set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to defile it. And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.”**

As I close this evening may we learn these lessons God is showing us, may we remember Lot’s wife as an example of what we are not to do.

You see, we are in the world but not of this world as Peter tells us, **“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”**

I Peter 2:11-12.

Folks, a boat needs to be in the water to function properly but when water gets into the boat the boat is sunk!

The same is true for us as Christians, we need to be in this world shining brightly for Jesus, not compromising our faith, but as soon as the world gets into us, we are sunk!

May we listen and obey.

May we not look back, but as Paul said, **“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”**

Philippians 3:12-14.

May we press on as we look up are guided by our Lord!