

Genesis Chapter 19 Commentary

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;

In chapter 18; Abraham saw three men, the representation of the triune Godhead. God the Father conversed with Abraham in chapter 18. Here, in chapter 19; there are two angels sent, whose mission is to bring out the saved and destroy the rest. This gives to us a picture of God the Son being sent to earth to save God's people from their sins; in conjunction with God the Holy Spirit, who Christ sent in his place to be with us on earth during this age of grace.

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. 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 note here; Lot, like Abraham, does obeisance and extends hospitality to them. By these characteristics and others we shall see as we go onward, help us to understand why God called him righteous in the New Testament in: **2Pe 2:7 "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:"**

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: 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.

Know as used here does not mean to find out about them. It carries the same meaning as we see in: **Ge 4:1 "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD."** Here know means to enter into a conjugal relationship, which is what the men of Sodom wanted to do, to sodomize them. They are confirming that the things God had heard in heaven are true.

This reminds us that God declared that this was sin in the Old Testament and is also sin in the New Testament and in the world today. Actually, it is an abomination to God as seen in: **Ro 1:21-32; 21 "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 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 recompense of their error which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their**

knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, 7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. 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.

Lot is bound by the laws of hospitality of the day to protect those who he has invited into his home. They are now, by the laws of hospitality, under his protection. Lot, therefore, goes out and tries to placate these violent sinners. He even offers to prostitute his virgin daughters, in an effort to satisfy the lust of their flesh, and keep the angels safe as he is required to do.

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

These men have no regard for godliness, or for carnal morality. They even accuse Lot of attempting to be a judge. This is because; the custom of the day was for the judges to sit in the gates of the cities, where we find Lot at the beginning of this chapter.

We understand that the men of the city rejected the pleadings of Lot and set upon him to destroy him; however, the angels drew him back into the house and blinded the men's eyes so they could not carry out the desires of their hearts and destroy Lot, his family, and they themselves.

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: 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. 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.

We find here a reason and principle that we should apply to our own lives. What is it you ask? Do not live in a place of ungodliness. See what happened to Lot's sons and daughters that had married or left home? They no longer regard the words of Lot. Ungodliness has taken root, and invaded their hearts and minds to the point, they reject God's commandment and the words of God.

From the mockery of his sons in law and the daughters married to them, we see that these were not brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, which we are commanded to do in: **Eph 6:4**

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Lot, by living in this sinful place, has allowed his children to be totally influenced by the sinfulness thereof. If Lot had truly brought up his children in ***"the nurture and admonition of the Lord"*** then his own children, and the in laws, would have been taught to believe, and trust, God; before they were married and went out of their father's house. This is why we are commanded in scripture: ***2Co 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"*** As we plainly see here; Lot's married children are lost in the destruction of this sinful city; being yoked to darkness and unrighteousness. God help us to be taught ourselves, and to teach our children the whole truth of God.

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. 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.

We notice that the angels had to physically drag Lot, his wife, and the two daughters that lived with him, out of the city. Even these that are saved from the destruction of this city are reluctant to leave it. This is another result of the principle we spoke of above about living in a sinful place.

As we consider these things; we see that God has given us pieces of defensive armor to put on; and the sword of the spirit to use when tempted by satan to yield to sin.

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. 18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: 19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: 20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

We see that Lot has not learned his lesson yet, how? Instead of just obeying the command and going on to safety, he desires to go to another city, pleading safety there. Can't you see a sinner who is born again but is not yet willing to live the life and make that public profession of faith? Being given knowledge of the new birth that has happened to them, they are not ready to go where the Lord leads and commands, but draw back and still desire their own will.

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. 22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. 23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. 24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. 26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Sodom means; *to scorch; burnt (i.e. volcanic or bituminous) district*. Gomorrah means; *a (ruined) heap, to chastise*. We see that these cities, prophetically named, had an end which is described in meanings of their names.

God destroys these cities, and their inhabitants; as Lot and his family are entering the city of Zoar. Lot's family that stayed behind was destroyed with them. This is another reminder to pray for our families for their salvation and eternal life in heaven and immortal glory.

What about Lot's wife? In New Testament scripture we find: ***Lu 17:28-32; 28 "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. 31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. 32 Remember Lot's wife."*** As we consider this New Testament text we see the lesson we should learn from Lot's wife. Lot's wife looked back, which was a direct disobedience to God's commandment, and showed where her heart's desire really was. Why did she look back? She had not lost her desire for the things that those cities offered, I believe.

How does it apply to us? When we are born again we are not to ***"look back"*** nor desire to live in sin as we did aforetime. We are to press forward, to the mark of the prize of the high calling, which we have received; as we see in: ***Php 3:12-15: 12 "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."*** Prefect means to be complete. Therefore, we understand that Paul is telling us; being born again; we are now complete being indwelt with the Holy Spirit.

27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: 28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace. 29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt. 30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.

Notice; God remembered his conversation with Abraham, the intercessor for Lot, and impressed upon Lot the need to do as commanded. As Lot beheld, the judicial wrath of almighty God poured out, not only on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah but the plain and the cities around them, his heart and mind were made afraid that the destruction would reach to where he was in Zoar; then he obeyed God's original command and went to the mountain as he was directed.

We see in this scene; God the Father remembering our kind intercessor, Jesus Christ, who has covenanted to save us from eternal damnation. This is why we repent of our sins, make the public

profession of faith, get baptized if possible, and live the life of a Christian, as Christ has commanded. Being born again and given understanding; we know that God is going to destroy this old world; thereby, we lay up our treasures in heaven and not on corruptible earth, as seen in: **Mt 6:19-21; 19 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."**

31 And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth: 32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. 33 And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. 34 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. 35 And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. 36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. 37 And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day. 38 And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.

We see a lesson for us to observe in our own Christian walk today. What is that? Be totally obedient to God. Why? Observe Lot and his descendants and you will see:

- Lot lived in a place he should not live, because it was filled with sin.
- Lot lost a portion of his family in the destruction of Sodom.
- Lot's wife looked back and was lost.
- Lot's daughters, the only family Lot had left, had learned of the influence of alcohol and used it to make their own plans of salvation work out.
- When Lot was drunken the daughters committed incest with their father.

Look at the fruit of incestuous relations in the lives of Lot's family. The Moabites and the Ammonites who both were a nuisance and pestilence to the children of Israel. We shall see this as we continue our study of scripture. We will see that God will use Israel to destroy them; when their iniquity is full.

In summary; this chapter is good demonstration of what God has done, in providing salvation by grace, to those whom he has chosen to save out of the depths and depravity of sin. How? We see sinful man at his worst. Figuratively, we see our intercessor, Jesus Christ, telling us what God will do to the world. We see the intercessor pleading for the salvation of his family. We see; as God has declared to not destroy the righteous, that we are declared righteous by the finished work of Christ Jesus, therefore, we have that glorious hope of salvation and eternal life.

We see; that the time will come when the iniquity of the world will be full, and those who Christ has saved will be taken out of the world, and God will end time, destroy heaven and earth. As God took Lot by the hand and dragged him forth from the city doomed for destruction, so God has taken us by

the hand and dragged us out of the miry pit of sin, which has saved us from the judicial wrath and destruction of God the Father.

Praise the Lord; we have the New Testament scriptures, where we find; our intercessor, Jesus Christ, has gone to prepare a place to receive us; a new heaven, a new earth, and the new Jerusalem, described for us in: ***Re 21:1-5; 1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."*** Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for thy finished work of salvation by grace on our behalf. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!