

Lessons from Lot's Life

Opening Prayer

2Pe 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

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

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

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:

By this text, we have indisputable evidence that Lot was saved before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. So, although there are many things about Lot's life that we find disappointing, WE CAN NEVER DOUBT HIS SALVATION.

Gen 11: 24-32

Terah (205) begat Haran, Abram & Nahor (living in the Ur of the Chaldees)

Haran begat Lot, Milcah & Iscah (sisters) (Iscah is not mentioned further)

Haran dies while his children are still young. Abram takes in Lot. Given the devotion that Abram demonstrates toward Lot, you have to wonder if Haran and Abram had a special understanding about Lot. It is very clear that Abram had real tenderness for Lot.

Nahor marries Milcah (His niece)

Abram marries beautiful Sarai (later known as Abraham and Sarah)

Nahor and Milcah stay in the Ur of the Chaldees (they become Rebekah's paternal grandparents)

Terah, Abram, Sarai & Lot head for Canaan, but stop short in Haran and dwell there.

Gen 12

At 75 years of age, Abram is called by God to leave Haran and Lot went with him. Lot could have stayed with Terah, but he went with Abram. The text doesn't say that Abram took him. Lot was willing to go.

God promises to give Abram the land of Canaan. Abram begins a life long practice of building an altar to the Lord wherever he goes. His calling by God was not something that he kept secret. The simple fact that Lot went with Abram on this great adventure into unknown lands could suggest that Lot had already believed God and, like Abram, was walking by faith. But, based on Lot's later experiences, his sticking with Abram more likely indicates his desire to get out and see the world.

Abram takes everyone to Egypt to escape the famine in Canaan. (Abram says Sarai is his sister and Pharaoh takes her in and is very generous to her "brother" Abram). But, the Lord plagues Pharaoh and he finds out their actually married. Pharaoh tells them to leave Egypt. Abram and Lot leave Egypt with great substance. It was during his time in Egypt that Lot got his first exposure to city life. He loved it and he began to lust for it. And, lust fosters covetousness which fosters jealousy.

Gen 13

Strife develops between Abram's and Lot's herdsmen. Origin of the strife appears to be due to too many cattle for the available grazing space. Abram recognizes that fighting between their herdsmen reflects poorly on their family. But the discord was not limited to the herdsmen because Abram says in **verse 8: "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between thee and me, and my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we be brethren"** tells us that Lot and Abram also were not getting along. But, it is Abram who takes the initiative and deals with the issue. He says that they should separate and gives Lot first choice. Lot looks out over the land and chooses the rich plain of Jordan.

Abram chooses to live in the land of Canaan and wherever he goes he builds an altar to the Lord. Finally settling in Hebron for which Abram's people came to be called Hebrews.

Scripture records no altars being built by Lot where he sojourned. He lived in the cities and "pitched his tent toward Sodom." He had his heart set to go to the city.

Gen 14

King Chedorlaomer and three conspiring kings attack and sack Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot, his clan, and goods are captured. It is unclear if Lot was married but it is likely. Abram the Hebrew (because he dwelt in Hebron) hears of his capture and with 318 men rescues Lot (his "brother") and his goods, women, and the people. But, we can see that Lot has progressed from having a tent pitched toward Sodom to actually dwelling in Sodom. Presumably, Lot goes back to Sodom. While I am sure that Lot was grateful, it is not recorded in Scripture. In fact, in the Scripture record, Lot never says a word to Abram. But, even though they may not have parted on the best terms, Abram was faithful to Lot, calling him "brother" rather than nephew. This is not a Scripture mistake. Abram meant it in the same sense as before when he said "we be brethren."

Gen 15

Abram's faith is counted for righteousness and God makes a covenant with Abram.

Gen 16

When Abram is 86 years old, he and Hagar beget Ishmael, who will be a wild man, the progenitor of the Arabs.

Gen 17

When Abram is 99, God institutes the covenant of circumcision and changes Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's to Sarah. Abraham circumcised all that were in his house, including Ishmael. There is no biblical evidence that Lot was ever circumcised. But, we know that Lot was righteous (saved) so Lot's faith was accounted to him as righteousness just it was for Abram

before the covenant of circumcision was given. This means that, although Lot was probably not among those set apart by circumcision, he was part of the Abrahamic covenant by faith. Salvation is always by faith and not by any external means or sign. Circumcision didn't save then just as water baptism doesn't save now. Even though Ishmael may have been the first person ever to be circumcised, most commentators believe that Ishmael was not among the faithful.

Gen 18

More time passes. The Lord and two angels stop by Abraham's house on their way to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. During their visit, they reaffirm that Sarah will have Isaac. The Lord reveals to Abraham that Sodom and Gomorrah are going to be destroyed. Abraham, knowing that Lot lives in Sodom, entreats the Lord to spare Sodom. Beginning at 50 righteous souls, Abraham negotiates an agreement with the Lord to spare Sodom if 10 righteous souls can be found there. The grace is amazing. For the sake of 10 righteous souls, God is willing to spare a city with thousands of wicked inhabitants. I believe that this same principle is what holds fire back from heaven on America. For it is apparent that God has given or is at the very least is giving this nation over to a reprobate mind. Our special grace becomes, for the unbelieving, common grace. But, His common grace is not an eternal grace and none of the wicked shall escape the judgment on the last day.

This brings us to the big event. So, let's look at it verse by verse.

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;

Immediately, we see God's providence and his ordering of all things. In a large town like Sodom, who is the first person the angels run in to, Lot! He was sitting in the gate and recognized that they were not Sodomite men. Somehow, probably by their apparel and angelic countenance (not wings), he knew that they were not the typical travelers who would visit Sodom, renowned for its revelry and debauchery. He calls them "my lords," he bows to ground, and refers to himself as their "servant." Like Abraham earlier, he was sensitive to their Godliness.

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.

He very quickly wants to get them into his house before dark and send them on their way at dawn. Lot knows that the Sodomites sleep late because they spend their nights in wickedness. He fears for their safety because He has lived long enough in Sodom to have seen the Sodomite welcoming committee in action. These men were alone and he could see their innocence. They were not worldly wise. Only, fools would enter Sodom on foot alone. But, incredibly, they tell Lot no, we'll stay 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.

Lot is starting to panic and practically shoves them into his house. Apparently, you don't want to be out at night in Sodom! So, Lot makes them a feast and they eat. This is proof that angels can appear as humans and do some things that humans do. How far that goes, I am not sure. The writer of Hebrews (13:2) tells us to entertain strangers and that some have entertained angels unawares, just as Lot did, initially.

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.

The visitors did not go unnoticed by the Sodomite men. Fresh meat. I can't help but think of the Orcs in the Lord of the Rings. Man Flesh. Sadly, the text says both young and old. How young? No telling. But, sodomy seems to have become natural and normal to them. It is no different for us. The righteous are surrounded by the wicked. No matter which way you turn, there it is. It is not a passive wickedness, it is a wickedness that pursues and sometimes kicks in your door. Not just the door to your house, but to your mind. An unrelenting assault on mind and body. Surely, as Lot was

compassed by wicked men, we are surely compassed by wickedness and temptation.

**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.**

By calling them, brethren, Lot reveals to us that he probably knows most of the men. Referring to them as brethren suggests some degree of association with them. But, when backed into a corner, Lot was willing to confront wickedness. He vented his pent up vexation. Note that he did not call the men wicked, but only said that homosexuality was wickedness. When it pressed against him personally, when it was at his door and an imminent threat to him, then he spoke out against it. He knew that these men practiced wickedness, to them it had become the natural way, but Lot had not made it his business to confront them. He was content to sit at the gate. America is going the way of Sodom. We Christians are like Lot sitting vexed in our houses, with the homosexual agenda beating on our doors. To confront it is to ask for trouble. Now, it is considered hateful to say that homosexuality is abnormal, let alone say that it sinful. Now, homosexuality is promoted, defended, legitimate and cool.

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 has two virgin daughters that live with him. In order to protect these visitors, Lot offers his daughters to the men of the town in hope of turning them away. To us this seems inconceivable that he would make such an offer, but in his culture, it was considered acceptable to offer a daughter to a visitor. Before we are too shocked, however, let us consider whether we do the same. We offer our children to the world in many ways. So, before we are quick to judge Lot, let us examine ourselves and how we offer ourselves and our kids up to the world. I leave you to judge that for yourself.

In all likelihood, Lot was praying that the men would not be interested in his daughters and that they would turn down the offer and move on. By custom, because Lot had taken them under his protection (under the shadow of his roof), he had to do anything necessary to protect them, even to the point of offering his daughters. But, it was to no avail.

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.

Lot, having judged their desires to be wicked, has inflamed their anger. They are an angry mob and they intend to take the men from Lot's house by force. This verse helps us to see Lot's relationship with the town of Sodom. Even though he has dwelled there many years and had a place at the gate, he was considered a sojourner or visitor. His place at the gate was likely due to his great material wealth. Lot would not have been one to refuse an honor such as a seat at the city gate. But, Lot had never integrated himself with the Sodomites and was vexed in his spirit by their wickedness. The Sodomite men turn on him and basically say "Where does this outsider get off judging us." In all probability, when they say they are going to do worse to him than his visitors, they intend to murder him.

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

At the moment when Lot appeared to be overtaken by the wickedness, at the moment when failure and death seemed imminent, the hand of God stretched forth and drew Lot back into the house. Christian, have you ever been assailed by sin. I tell you that if you separate from your Godly loved ones, if you go your own way, if you leave your house of God as did Lot, sin will compass you and leap upon you to beat you to death. So, stay in the house! But, if you, child of God, do go out and are leapt upon, as surely as you think you are a hopeless case and a lost cause, the hand of God will reach out and pull you back. He may use the hands of angels or He may extend the hands of the church. But, He will do it. And, the day shall come when, for you, he will shut the door against all wickedness for evermore.

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.

When God stretches out His hand, it is an all mighty hand. Lot now knows that these are not normal men. They have the power to make men blind at will. That God struck the Sodomites blind is particularly ironic seeing that

they were already spiritually blind. It only served to make their blindness complete. I suspect that it was a temporary blindness from which they recovered just soon enough to see judgment rain down on them from heaven. Although He could have struck them dead on the spot, doing so might have precipitated a panic in the city and a mass exodus. Since it was God's intent to destroy all of the inhabitants of Sodom, it better served His purpose to blind them. Soon, they would understand the error of their ways. Just as they could not find Lot's door, neither will they find the true Door that leads to life.

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.

Now, it is clear that, in stopping at 10 souls, Abraham overestimated the number of righteous souls in Sodom. So, after all of Abraham's bargaining, the outcome was the same: Sodom was to be destroyed. Even if he had not stopped at 10 and asked for 5, it still would not have been few enough for God to withhold judgment. God's mind in the matter was set and thus the outcome was set. The beauty of Abraham's pleading is that the Lord listened and so long as Abraham asked in accordance with God's will, the Lord answered YES. You have to wonder what would have happened if Abraham had whittled it down to one righteous soul.

Lot then receives a great blessing. He can gather all of his family and whatever possessions he can carry and leave before the destruction.

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.

Here we discover that Lot apparently had ONLY daughters. While it was likely a disappointment to him that he had no sons, it was also a blessing. I cannot imagine having sons in a Sodomite culture. We also see that Lot had married daughters, who have probably married Sodomite men. The weakness of Lot's witness for God in his family is obvious because his sons-in-law thought he was joking or demented. This is exactly what happens

when Christian men set a worldly example before their children. Hypocrisy destroys your witness. Lord help us to be better witnesses and leaders in our families.

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.

For all we know Lot spent the night trying to convince his sons-in-law and daughters to flee with him. But, I think that he spent it paralyzed by the prospect of what he was about to lose. Because he had invested his life and wealth in Sodom, he was going to lose essentially everything in its destruction. Because he had been such a poor witness to his family, when he tried to warn them that God was going to destroy Sodom, they didn't believe him. Now, because of his poor example, they will be consumed. Is all this really happening? Can it really be true? But, more than losing his daughters, I think that he dreaded losing his comfort. Lot was a selfish man.

Even with the destruction about to begin, Lot lingers. He just doesn't want to let go of everything he holds dear. Let's not forget that he was ready to toss his daughters to the wolves. It is his own comfort that he holds most dear. But, when his strength failed, when he was weak, the Lord was merciful unto him. The angels dragged him, his wife, and daughters out of the city.

Sometimes, this event is said to typify "irresistible grace" or the "effectual call" of God in saving people. But, this is incorrect, because we know from the 2 Peter text that Lot was already saved. The event better typifies perseverance of the saints. Before God will let sin destroy a believer, he will make a way of escape.

19:17 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:Ge 19:19 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.

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 any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

Lot says “I really, really appreciate what you are doing, but if I have to live in the mountains I’ll just die! Let me go to this little city that’s close by. Poor Lot, he was worried about evil in the mountains when his city friends were ready to beat him to death hours earlier. I guess he was afraid of being eaten by mountain lions. The grace is even more amazing when we can put conditions on it. Lot was ciftified through and through. “Green Acres ain’t the place for me...”

So, in spite of himself, Lot was spared. And I will spare you going the end of the chapter verse by verse because you know the rest.

Lot’s wife looks back and is turned into a pillar of salt. Jesus uses her as a lesson to us all not to look back but to press on. Lot ends up living in caves in the mountains. He had come to fear living in Zoar. His daughters get him drunk and each girl has a son by him. Ammon and Moab. But, there is a silver lining to that dark cloud. Ruth, who is in the lineage of Jesus, was a Moabite woman whom Boaz married. Boaz begat Obed, Obed begat Jesse and Jesse, David.

And for whose sake was Lot spared? Not for his own sake.

19:29 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.**

Lot was spared for Abraham’s sake. Strong Christian, pray for your weaker brother. For in doing so, you may bring mercy their way and spare them from temporal judgment.

Lot was saved, but became entangled in the world almost to his own destruction. One thing this tells us is that we need to be careful in judging the salvation of others. If it were not for the infallible witness of Peter, I believe that most would say Lot was lost based on the Genesis account. Not, that Lot is a person that we should aspire to. He instructs us **BY HIS MISTAKES**. Lot's life should never be used as justification for worldly living.

Worldly Christian, do not linger in the world as did Lot, repent so that God will not bring sudden destruction upon what you hold dear. Note that Lot repented of the city-life and retired to the mountain caves. But, Lot lost nearly everything and, different from Job, had nothing restored. Tempted Christian, have faith that **The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations.**

The church is made up of both types of Christians: Abrahams and Lots. Abrahams, rescue your brothers when they are captured. Lots, walk away from the world before sudden destruction comes upon you.

Closing Prayer