

## **Lot's Wife was Turned to a Pillar of Salt (Genesis 19:15-38)**

### I. Introduction

#### A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. God's Promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
2. Lot's Fateful Decision (Genesis 13:8-13)
3. Trouble in Lot's Family and his own Life (Genesis 19:15-38)
4. The Eternal Fate of Lot (II Peter 2:8)

**Question:** What promises did God make to Abraham? What did God require Abraham to do? Did Abraham fully comply?

#### B. God's promises to Abram.

1. He promised land and a seed.
2. He promised to bless those that bless him and curse those that cursed him.
3. He promised that all families would be blessed through him.

#### C. Abram/Abraham was required to wait on the Lord.

1. He had to patiently wait for his promised son.
  - a. He was seventy-five in Genesis 12:4 when the promises were made.
  - b. The promised seed, Isaac, was not born until he was one hundred years old.
  - c. The first part of the promise took twenty-five years to happen.
2. He was not always as patient as one might expect.
3. Waiting on the Lord is difficult, and Abram had his share of difficulties.
4. He obeyed the Lord about going to Canaan, but he was not always patient concerning his promised seed.

#### D. Evidence suggests that he occasionally tried to help the Lord make the promise come true.

1. He lied to Pharaoh and King Abimelech about his wife. My opinion is that he did not want to die **until he saw that God's promise of a son had been fulfilled.** Once Isaac was born, no further incidences of such lies are found in the Bible.
2. On different occasions, he tried to make Lot (Genesis 13:11 and Genesis 14:1-24), Eliezer (Genesis 15:2), and Ishmael (Genesis 16:4) his promised son. In each case, he was wrong.

#### E. Some would argue that Abram/Abraham did not have much faith and that he was too impatient.

1. However, twenty-five years is a long time to wait.
2. God had not appeared to him visibly when the promises were made. He had probably already stopped appearing to people by the time of Noah and maybe well before.

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3. God had not spoken to him audibly when the promises were made. He had probably already stopped audibly speaking to people by the time of Noah and maybe well before.
4. **If God had spoken to him visibly and audibly, then Abraham would not be a hero of the Faith because it would not have taken much faith to believe a God that can be seen and heard.**
5. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:"
6. Our salvation requires that we put our complete faith in a God that we cannot see or hear. ***Abraham had to do the same as we.***

**Question:** Why did Abraham and Lot have to separate? What did Lot's choice say about him? What did Abraham's reaction to Lot's choice say about him?

- II. Abram and Lot became too big to share the same land.
  - A. Genesis 13:6 says, "And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together."
    1. Abram returned from Egypt wealthy in cattle (Genesis 12:16).
    2. He also had silver and gold.
    3. Lot was also blessed, perhaps because of Abram.
  - B. Genesis 13:4-9 gives a glimpse into Abram's character. Even though he made some mistakes, he had some genuine spiritual qualities.
    1. In verse 4, he worshipped the Lord.
      - a. Remember that he had probably never seen or heard him.
      - b. However, he was from the godly line of Seth through Noah.
    2. In verse 9, even though he had done everything for Lot, he went a step further and let Lot choose the better land for himself.
      - a. One reason why he might have done this is because he thought that Lot might be the promised son.
      - b. ***Another is that giving is a godly attribute.***
  - C. Genesis 13:10-13 gives a glimpse into Lot's character.
    1. He had no problem taking the better land for himself and leaving the lesser land for his uncle.
    2. Abram was like a father to Lot, and Lot was like a selfish child.
    3. He probably had a taste for an ungodly lifestyle.
    4. In verse 12, he pitched his tent facing Sodom.
    5. Genesis 13:13 says, "But the men of Sodom [were] wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."
  - D. In Genesis 13:14-18, the Lord spoke to Abram's heart again.
    1. He repeated his promises, which would imply that Lot was not the promised son.

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2. When Abram understood, he moved to Mamre in Hebron and again worshipped the Lord.
  3. While Lot was living the high life outside of Sodom, Abram was becoming closer and closer to the Lord.
- E. Even though Abraham made some mistakes, we can still see his patience and faith when we read between the lines.

**Question:** Once the decision was made, how did Lot go wrong? When the angels came to Lot's house, how did Lot show even more how far he had fallen? What happened to Lot's sons-in-law? What happened to his wife? Why did they come to such terrible ends? Was Lot in any way responsible?

### III. What was Lot thinking?

- A. Genesis 13:12-13 says, "Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and ***pitched his tent toward Sodom***. But the men of Sodom were ***wicked*** and ***sinnners*** before the LORD exceedingly."
1. Toward (ad) - as far as, up to, even to.
  2. Wicked (ra) - bad, unpleasant, evil (giving pain, unhappiness, misery).
  3. Sinners (chatta) – sinful.
- B. Lot pitched his tent towards Sodom because he wanted to either see what was going on or be a part of it.
1. The tradition of Sodom's sinfulness went back a long way.
    - a. Genesis 9:20-22 says, "And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. ***And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.***"
    - b. Genesis 10:6 says, "And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan."
    - c. Canaan's descendents were the Canaanites.
    - d. Genesis 10:8-10 says, "And ***Cush begat Nimrod***: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And ***the beginning of his kingdom was Babel***, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar."
    - e. Ham was the grandfather of Nimrod, and Nimrod was the leader of the rebellion at the tower of Babel.
      - 1) God had told Noah's sons to spread and multiply.
      - 2) One hundred years later, they had multiplied, but they had not spread.
      - 3) Under Nimrod, they were trying to build a tower into heaven to prepare for another flood if it were to ever occur. ***His actions were a direct rebellion against the Lord.***

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- f. Genesis 10:19 says, "And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, ***unto Sodom, and Gomorrah***, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha."
  2. Genesis 9:22 revealed in Ham an unhealthy appetite for sexual perversion.
  3. Being the father of Canaan and the grandfather of Nimrod revealed a general evil streak that seemed to run through much of the family.
  4. ***Abraham and Lot were descendents of Noah through Shem. Shem was the godly line from Noah through which Jesus would be incarnated.***
  5. God promised Abram the land of Canaan, and that may be one more time that the Lord orchestrated a plan to destroy evil.
- C. **MY OPINION:** Lot's attraction to the people of Sodom was very similar to the sons of God (the godly line of Seth) and the daughters of men (the ungodly line of Cain) marrying and having children.
1. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah by fire just as he had destroyed all life except Noah and his family in the flood.
  2. Genesis 9:11 says, "And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth."
  3. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was a glimpse of things to come.
  4. II Peter 3:10 says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, ***the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.***"
  5. The Lord is especially angry over sexual perversion and immorality.
    - a. He killed off life on earth with the flood because the godly line of Seth (or angels) had crossed the line into sexual immorality with the ungodly line of Cain (or all women without concern for the godly or ungodly line).
    - b. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sexual perversion.
    - c. ***As we approach the return of Christ, we should not be surprised that the world today has been overtaken by sexual perversion and immorality.***
    - d. In the recent Miss USA contest, the runner-up lost, according to one of the judges, because she said that she believed marriage should be between a man and a woman.
    - e. ***And Lot wanted to be right in the middle of the perversion.*** And it was not long before he was.
    - f. Genesis 14:12 says, "And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, ***who dwelt in Sodom***, and his goods, and departed."
- D. Lot had a negative influence on his entire family.
1. In Genesis 19:8, Lot was willing to offer his two daughters to those that wanted to commit homosexual acts with the two angels that had come to Sodom (Genesis 19:5 – (know means to know by experience)).

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2. In Genesis 19:14, his sons-in-law laughed at him when Lot tried to warn them to leave.
  3. In Genesis 19:26, Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt.
  4. Genesis 19:26 says, "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."
  5. In Genesis 19:32-38, his two daughters got him drunk, had sex with him, and produced two evil nations, Moab and Ammon, that would become enemies of Israel.
- E. Each person has the freedom to accept or reject the Lord. ***But Lot failed to be the right kind of influence on his family, and one by one, they made the wrong choice.***

**Question:** Do you think Lot was saved?

- IV. According to the Bible, Lot was saved.
- A. II Peter 2:7-8, "And delivered **just** Lot, **vexed** with the filthy **conversation** of the wicked: (For that **righteous** man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds)"
    1. Vexed (**kataponeo**) - afflicted or oppressed with evils
    2. Conversation (**anastrophe**) - manner of life, conduct, behavior, deportment
    3. Just (**dikaios**) - in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God
    4. Righteous (**dikaios**) – Same word used for “just”.
  - B. The effects of Sodom on Lot.
    1. Lot mistreated his uncle by taking the better land for himself.
    2. Lot chose the evil of Sodom and Gomorrah over a more righteous existence elsewhere.
    3. Lot continually brought himself lower with each passing day.
    4. Lot had a devastating effect on his family.
    5. **But the Bible describes his soul as righteous (dikaios).**
  - C. Peter's commentary on Lot strongly suggests that he was saved. If true, then what does that say about salvation?
    1. It is neither earned by good works nor lost by bad works (Ephesians 2:8-9).
    2. By being saved, Lot was one of the elect.
    3. **But be careful.**
      - a. Lot lost his family.
      - b. Lot lost his personal testimony.
      - c. Lot may have suffered one or more of the three ways that God deals with His children.
        - 1) Chastening (Hebrews 12:5-6)
        - 2) Premature death (John 15:2)
        - 3) Loss of reward (I Corinthians 3:15)

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Next week's lesson: "One of God's Names is Jehovahjireh" (Genesis 22:1-18)

### Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 22:1-10
Tuesday:	Genesis 22:11-18
Wednesday:	Genesis 22:19-24
Thursday:	John 3:1-16
Friday:	John 3:17-36

### Study questions:

1. In Genesis 22:1-24, what did the Lord want Abraham to do? Why was Abraham willing to obey?
2. What does Abraham's behavior say about his faith?
3. What does Isaac's behavior say about his faith?
4. How is Isaac a type of Christ?
5. How does the Lord reveal Himself to His people? What does Jehovahjireh mean? What are some other names for God that tell us about Him?