

## Genesis 19:1-29 Compromise, Judgment, and Rescue in Sodom

### I. Compromised Lot Realizes the Visitors' Danger (1-3)

#### A. Lot Displays His Hospitable Heart (1-2a)

##### 1. Lot is Found Sitting At Sodom's Gate (1a)

- a. Lot has become more and more comfortable in Sodom
  - i. First he moved toward Sodom (13:12), then he dwelt in Sodom (14:12), now he sits in the gates of the city
  - ii. The city gate may imply Lot holds an administrative status (like an elder) in the city. In the Ancient Near East, the city gates were where civil decisions were made (See Gen. 34:20-21; Ruth 4:1-2)

- b. Lot is characterized as "righteous" in 2 Peter 2:7-8 but we will see that he has also severely compromised with the sinful world.

##### 2. Lot Bows To Meet The Visitors (1b)

- a. Lot demonstrates his heart here as he responds exactly as Abraham responded to the visitors
- b. Lot will demonstrate the same hospitality that characterized Abraham

##### 3. Lot Offers The Hospitality Of His Home (2a)

#### B. Lot Insists The Visitors Accept His Offer (2b-3)

##### 1. The Visitors Reject Lot's Offer

- a. The visitors (who we know are angels) refuse Lot's offer and choose to stay in open air (probably in the city square)
- b. Under normal circumstances, this may have been a better idea. People would have brought out food and accommodations for the visitors to their city

##### 2. Lot Strongly Urges The Visitors To Accept (3a)

- a. Lot understands what their decision means. He knows all too well what the men of Sodom will do. Why is he continuing to live there?
- b. Lot pressures the visitors greatly to accept the offer of his home
  - i. Whatever compromise Lot is engaged in, his heart is first and foremost loving toward these strangers
  - ii. Lot does not want the wickedness of the city to harm these visitors. He is truly hospitable and loving (i.e. walking in the way of the Lord?)

##### 3. The Visitors Accept Lot's Hospitality (3b)

- a. Lot takes them into his home
- b. Lot makes them a feast and they ate together

## II. Misguided Lot Attempts To Protect The Visitors (4-9)

### A. The Men of Sodom Come For The Visitors (4-5)

#### 1. All The Men Of Sodom Surround Lot's House (4)

- a. Notice who is stated to have come for the visitors – All the men (why no women?)
- b. The text repeats itself several times to make sure we understand – “the men of the city...the men of Sodom...both young and old...from every quarter”
  - i. This was not one select group of sinners within the city – this was a representation of every man in the city
  - ii. The wickedness of the city had spread and infected everyone

#### 2. The Men Of Sodom Intend To Rape The Visitors (5)

- a. The men demand the visitors be brought out so they can “know” (Yada) them
  - i. Some pose the argument that the men simply wanted to get acquainted with the men (as per the codes of hospitality)
  - ii. That argument is unconvincing – why would Lot offer his daughters (who have not “known” a man?) – Why would the men attempt to “abuse” Lot when he stepped out of the house?
- b. The Sodomites had been turned over to their sinful desires which now drove their behavior
  - i. 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: 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 recompence of their error which was meet. – Romans 1:26-27
  - ii. The men openly declare what they desire – homosexual practice that degenerated into violence had affected the entire city
  - iii. Evidently this was a common practice of abuse toward travelers, which is why Lot was concerned when the visitors arrived
- c. NOTE: These people had been turned over to a reprobate mind. While their activities are disgusting, we should be aware that the potential for this evil lies in every person.

### B. The Men of Sodom Are Addressed By Lot (6-8)

#### 1. Lot Pleads For The Visitors' Safety (6-7)

- a. Notice that Lot firmly classifies the men's behavior as wicked – in this he is right
  - b. But Lot also calls these wicked men “brothers” – as if he has aligned himself with them in some way
  - c. Lot's every action shows us that he is living a life of compromise
- 2. Lot Offers His Virgin Daughters To The Men (8)
  - a. Instead of standing firm against wickedness, Lot attempts to appease their wickedness with another wicked act
  - b. Lot evidently takes his responsibility as a proper host more seriously than his responsibility as a father.
    - i. Lot doesn't offer himself to the men – he prepares to sacrifice his daughters
    - ii. Lot is trying to do what he thinks is the lesser of two evils
    - iii. Lot tries to compromise by appeasing them with a different kind of wickedness
  - c. NOTE: 2 Peter 2:7-8 shows us that Lot was righteous but the constant wickedness of the city wore him down and caused him to compromise
    - i. And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: <sup>8</sup> (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)
    - ii. The word “vexed” means wearied or wore down – Lot was worn down by constantly living among the wicked which led to compromise.
- C. The Men of Sodom Lash Out At Lot (9)
  - 1. The Men of Sodom Accuse Lot of Judging
    - a. They recognize that Lot is a “sojourner” – he is recognized as an outsider with no right to condemn their way of life
    - b. They chastise Lot for “judging” their behavior as wicked
  - 2. The Men of Sodom Turn Their Anger Toward Lot
    - a. Even though Lot was offering a compromise, the men turned their focus toward him
    - b. They came near promising to “do worse” to him than the visitors – no doubt they planned to abuse him as well
      - i. Compromise never appeases or lessens wickedness
      - ii. Compromise with wickedness will always draw man into greater wickedness.

### III. Indecisive Lot Is Rescued From Judgment (10-16)

- A. Lot is Rescued From the Angry Mob (10-11)
  - 1. The Visitors Reach Out And Pull Lot Into The House (10)
  - 2. The Visitors Strike The Crowd With Blindness (11)
    - a. Notice the depth of the men's wickedness. Even after they were struck blind and confused, they continued trying to get to the door to satisfy their lusts
    - b. They were so enslaved to their sin, they wearied themselves trying to get at the door – even after judgment of blindness
- B. Lot's Family is Warned Of Coming Judgment (12-14)
  - 1. The Angels Warn Lot of Judgment (12-13)
    - a. Lot is Told To Bring His Family Out Of The City (12)
      - i. His "sons-in-law" are men of Sodom that his daughters are betrothed to
      - ii. Lot is warned to bring out his family – all his family
    - b. Lot is Told The City Will Be Destroyed (13)
      - i. Enough evidence has been gathered, the city is doomed to judgment
      - ii. Lot is warned that the city will be destroyed
        - The warning of judgment is a grace of God given to man
        - Even today, warning people of impending judgment is an act of love
      - iii. The angels identity and mission are now revealed to Lot
  - 2. Lot Warns His Sons-in-Law of Judgment (14)
    - a. They Were Betrothed To His Daughters
    - b. They Did Not Believe Lot Was Serious
      - i. By living a compromised life, Lot has lost all credibility among those in his family
      - ii. Perhaps Lot's normal disposition is one of mockery and joking about sin and righteousness, so that the sons thought he was joking (moking)
- C. Lot is Taken Out of The City (15-16)
  - 1. Lot is Told To Immediately Flee With His Family (15)
    - a. As dawn came, the angels told Lot to get out now
    - b. Judgment is about to fall. The time has run out.
  - 2. Lot Tarried (Hesitated) (16)
    - a. Amazingly Lot tarries instead of immediately leaving
    - b. Why does he tarry?
      - i. Perhaps he has invested much in his life there
      - ii. Perhaps he cannot tear himself away from his possessions or his city life
  - 3. Lot is Forcibly Removed From The City (16)

- a. Notice it was by the mercy of God that the angels grabbed Lot and his family and forced them out of the city
- b. Though Lot's heart is pulled in two directions, God intends to deliver him (we will see later that it is for Abraham's sake) and God's will won't be thwarted.

#### IV. Bickering Lot Bargains The Terms Of His Rescue (17-22)

##### A. Lot is Told To Escape To The Mountains (17)

- 1. Outside the city Lot is told to escape the valley which will soon be destroyed.
  - a. He is told to "Escape for His Life" – The urgency and seriousness of the Angel's warning couldn't be made more clear
  - b. He is told not to look back as he runs for the mountains
  - c. He is told to escape the entire plain because all the cities (remember there are five) will be destroyed

##### B. Lot Negotiates His Escape With The Angels (18-20)

- 1. Lot Claims He Cannot Escape To The Mountains (18-19)
- 2. Lot Pleads To Flee To Zoar (20)
  - a. Amazingly, Lot begins negotiating with the Angel to keep from going all the way to the mountains
  - b. Perhaps Lot does not desire to live in the mountains
  - c. Perhaps Lot does not think he can make it there before the judgment falls
  - d. Lot asks to go to Zoar (which means small or little)
- 3. At every step Lot has demonstrated a hesitancy and obstinacy rather than heeding the angel's warning and immediately obeying

##### C. Lot's Request Is Granted (21-22)

- 1. The Angel Agrees To Spare Zoar (21)
  - a. The angel agrees to spare one of the cities of the plain
  - b. The Grace of God is on display here – I would have had enough of Lot by now
- 2. The Angel Pledges To Wait Until Lot Gets To Safety (22)
  - a. Notice it says, "I can't do anything until you get there"
  - b. God will not allow his chosen to face judgment

#### V. Righteous Lot Is Rescued Because Of Abraham (23—29)

##### A. Judgment Falls On The Cities Of The Plain (23-26)

- 1. The Lord Rained Fire and Brimstone (23-24)
  - a. Notice another hint of the Trinity
  - b. The Lord rained fire...from the Lord out of heaven
- 2. The Lord Destroyed Everything In The Valley (25)
  - a. The Lord destroys the cities, the plain, the inhabitants, and all the vegetation
  - b. Judgment came in absolute destruction
- 3. Lot's Wife is Caught in Judgment (26)

- a. Lot's wife looks back (disobeying the angel's command) and is turned into a pillar of salt
- b. Notice: Contrary to the movie portrayal, she didn't glance back as they were running toward Zoar
  - i. Remember, the angel said the destruction would not come until Lot reached Zoar
  - ii. Lot's wife stayed behind gazing at the city as Lot and his daughters entered Zoar
  - iii. Some have said the brimstone and sulfur engulfed her turning her to salt (all we know is that she turned to salt)
- c. Why did she look back?
  - i. She desired the comforts and possessions of living in Sodom
  - ii. She did not want to leave all their "stuff" and the luxurious living of Sodom
  - iii. We learn this from Jesus in Luke 17:29-33
    - But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. <sup>30</sup> Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> *Remember Lot's wife.* <sup>33</sup> Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

## B. God Rescues Lot For Abraham's Sake (27-29)

- 1. Abraham Surveys The Destruction (27-28)
  - a. Abraham rises the next morning and sees the smoke rising from where Sodom used to be
  - b. What was going through Abraham's mind
- 2. God Remembers Abraham To Rescue Lot (29)
  - a. Notice that it is not Lot's righteousness that God remembers
  - b. God remembers His covenant with Abraham and Abraham's intercession for the "righteous" in the city of Sodom
    - i. Lot is righteous because he is a believer although he has compromised with the world in many ways
    - ii. This is a picture of our salvation in Christ. We are delivered because of Jesus' intercession not our own goodness.