

## **SALT Church**

### **Genesis 19**

#### ***“The Wages of Sin”***

March 11, 2026

#### ***“In the Beginning”***

### **Recap Genesis 18**

- Abraham and his family had taken a break in the heat of the day and were found resting under the shade of the trees of Mamre.
- He had apparently dozed off for when he opened his eyes, he found that there three strangers approaching.
- These men appeared to be nobility for Abraham kneels before them and insist that they come, rest, and be fed as his guest.
- Quickly, he has a feast prepared.
  - Calf (300 + pounds of meat and 16 gallons of flour for bread)
  - Water to drink and water to clean their feet.
- Hours of conversation not recorded but what was recorded is amazing.
  - The promise of a son for the 100 year old Abraham and the 90 year old Sarah.
  - The name of the son (Issac)
  - The approximate date of his birth
  - And the promised return visit next year
- As the afternoon comes to a close several important details become clear:
  - One of the three men is the Lord Jesus

- The other two are named in the beginning of chapter 19 as angels.
- Jesus tells Abraham of His intentions to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Abraham pleads for grace and mercy for those cities and for his nephew Lot and his family.
- In the end, The Lord's mind was not changed but reassurance that Lot would be rescued is conveyed in this chapter.

### **Romans 6:23**

***<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.***

### **Genesis 19**

***<sup>1</sup> That evening the two angels came to the entrance of the city of Sodom.***

- Until this sentence the true identity of these men was unknown.
  - They were simply referred to as the two men.
- (Time stamp) Genesis 18 and the 1<sup>st</sup> part of 19 are all one day (***That evening***)
- Supernatural travel times. (They had just left Abraham and Jesus)

***Lot was sitting there, and when he saw them, he stood up to meet them.***

- The entrance to the city (the city gate) would be where business was conducted.
  - This tradition would be held on to for a very long time.

- Even the Romans did the same thing as judgement on Jesus would have been pronounced at the gate of Jerusalem.
- Why would I bring this to your attention?
  - Lot is sitting there.
    - It has been more than a decade since Lot chose the land near Sodom and Gomorrah.
    - Since that time, Lot has moved into the city.
    - He has become successful
    - Found a wife and has at least two daughters.
      - But the “good life” has come at a price.

Peter through the power of the Holy Spirit has a lot to say about this moment.

## **2 Peter 2:6-10**

*<sup>6</sup> Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. <sup>7</sup> But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because **he was a righteous man** who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. <sup>8</sup> **Yes, Lot was a righteous man (hard to believe)** who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. <sup>9</sup> So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment. <sup>10</sup> He is especially hard on those who follow their own **twisted sexual desire, and who despise authority.***

## **I bring this to your attention for a reason:**

- Lot is successful and accepted because of his success.
  - Lot was blessed because of his relationship to Abraham.
    - Lot, who had made some mistakes in judgement now sits as a type of city leader who would no doubt be asked to make judgments on the city's behalf.
      - Also, is considered righteous not because he got it right all of the time, he is righteous because he placed his hope and faith in the Lord.

## **Back to Genesis 19**

***Then he welcomed them and bowed with his face to the ground.***

- Like Uncle Abraham, Lot recognizes that these two men are special nobility.
- I am guessing that they are perfect in appearance based upon the reaction of the men of the city.
- Lot, bows with respect and like Abraham extends hospitality.

***<sup>2</sup> “My lords,” he said, “come to my home to wash your feet, and be my guests for the night. You may then get up early in the morning and be on your way again.”***

- It is interesting to me that Lot does not consider that they are there to do business for a while but rather he assumes they are just passing by.

***“Oh no,” they replied. “We’ll just spend the night out here in the city square.”***

- Knowing what we know about what is going to happen at Lot's home, can you imagine if Lot had said, “suit yourself.”

***<sup>3</sup> But Lot insisted, so **at last they went home with him.*****

- I can't imagine traveling like this.
- I can't imagine inviting strangers to come and sleep at our house.
  - Times and cultures have changed so much.

***Lot prepared a feast for them, complete with fresh bread made without yeast, and they ate.***

- Lot and Abraham's family would have been a nice fit for Salt Church as we see the value of breaking bread together every chance we get.

***4 But before they retired for the night, all the men of Sodom, young and old, came from all over the city and surrounded the house.***

- This is where things start getting weird.
- Pay attention to the connection of darkness with the actions of darkness.

***5 They shouted to Lot, "Where are the men who came to spend the night with you? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them!"***

- It sounds to me like it has been time to move for quite some time.
- Based on verse 5, it sounds like they think Lot is keeping these guys all for himself.
  - Or they know who Lot is and this "goody two shoes" is once again being the stick in the mud!
- **No matter how we look at it**, Moses under the power of the Holy Spirit wants us to know the depravity of these men and this city.
  - We can only imagine the amount and the depth of sin that has already occurred to get them to this type of boldness.

***6 So Lot stepped outside to talk to them, shutting the door behind him. 7 “Please, my brothers,” he begged, “don’t do such a wicked thing.***

- I went to the Hebrew to see if it said, “***my brothers***” and it does!
- This gives us some insight to how Lot felt about these men.
- They were his friends.
  - Close friends.
    - And righteous Lot was tormented by what he saw in his ***“brothers.”***

**This next verse is the most difficult for me, I just cannot imagine saying this.**

***8 Look, I have two virgin daughters. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do with them as you wish. But please, leave these men alone, for they are my guests and are under my protection.”***

- ***That’s it!***
  - I am done with “righteous Lot!”
    - Are you kidding me, you offer your two daughters so that two strangers can be kept safe?
    - Two guys that you say are under your protection, what about your daughters?
      - How can this man be called righteous by God?

***Maybe it is a translation issue?***

- Nope!

- In the Hebrew it is ***let me hand them over to you so that you can do them whatever is considered good in your eyes.***
  - In other words, do as your heart desires with them.

### ***“Righteous Lot”***

- He was righteous because he believed God, this gives me great hope that there will be many people in Heaven that I was sure that would never be.

### ***Back to verse 9***

***9 “Stand back!” they shouted. “This fellow came to town as an outsider, and now he’s acting like our judge!***

- I believe this is a reference to Lot’s success and the fact that he sits at the city gate making judgements for the city.
  - Much like our city councils do now.

***We’ll treat you far worse than those other men!”***

- This is an admission that they knew what they were doing and what they had planned to do was wrong.

***And they lunged toward Lot to break down the door.***

- Can you imagine?

***<sup>10</sup> But the **two angels** reached out, pulled Lot into the house, and bolted the door.<sup>11</sup> Then they blinded all the men, young and old, who were at the door of the house, so they gave up trying to get inside.***

- In the Hebrew it says ***they became weary of trying to find the door.***
- Blindness will do that.
  - I wonder if it was temporary or if it was permanent.
    - Either way, these men have only hours left as does the rest of the city, which according to Jesus was just as wicked.

***<sup>12</sup> Meanwhile, the angels questioned Lot. “Do you have any other relatives here in the city?” they asked. “Get them out of this place—your sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone else.***

- This leads me to believe that their orders from the Lord was to destroy the cities that were in the plan and to spare Lot and his family.
- In the Hebrew it says “son-in-law” singular.
  - Sons’ plural
    - And daughter’s plural
  - We know that only Lot, his wife, and two daughters leave.
    - But we also know that his wife stops to witness the destruction and, in the process, dies with those in the city.
    - For years I have believed that she stopped to gaze upon her home and the city that she grew up in.
    - Now, I wonder if she was looking back for the rest of her family.
      - More on this later.

***<sup>13</sup> For we are about to destroy this city completely.***

- Complete destruction is exactly what will happen, and the ruins of those large cities still bear testimony to the truth of God’s word and His judgment on sin.

***The outcry against this place is so great it has reached the Lord, and he has sent us to destroy it.”***

- **What was the outcry?**

- Sodom and Gomorrah were evil in all their ways but especially in the area of sexual sin.

- **Who made the outcry?**

- The victims of their sexual assaults
- The weak and neglected
- The poor and infirmed

- **Why did it take so long?**

- God is very patient
  - In this case all the righteous people had to be removed.

***Listen to some of the Bible verses that reference Sodom and Gomorrah:***

### **Jeremiah 23**

***14 But now I see that the prophets of Jerusalem are even worse!***

***They commit adultery and love dishonesty.***

***They encourage those who are doing evil***

***so that no one turns away from their sins.***

***These prophets are as wicked***

***as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah once were.”***

### **Lamentations 4:6**

***For the iniquity of the daughter of my people***

***Is greater than the sin of Sodom,***

**Which was overthrown as in a moment,  
And no hands were turned toward her.**

**Matthew 10:14-15**

**<sup>14</sup> If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. <sup>15</sup> I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.**

**Matthew 11:23-24**

**And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. Nevertheless, I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.”**

**Luke 17:28-30**

**It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.**

***[Back to Genesis](#)***

***14 So Lot rushed out to tell his daughters' fiancés, "Quick, get out of the city! The Lord is about to destroy it." But the young men thought he was only joking.***

- This is the same way people look at you when you tell them that Jesus' will return soon.
- When He returns, He will rescue His own 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Then there will be great difficulty, death, and destruction on the earth.
- Jesus will destroy all His enemies.

## **2 Peter 2:6-10**

**6 Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. 7 But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. 8 Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. 9 So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment. 10 He is especially hard on those who follow their own twisted sexual desire, and who despise authority.**

## **Luke 17:28-30**

**It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went**

out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

### *Back to Genesis 19*

***15 At dawn the next morning the angels became insistent. “Hurry,” they said to Lot. “Take your wife and your two daughters who are here. Get out right now, or you will be swept away in the destruction of the city!”***

- It was an act of mercy for them to wait until morning.
- They had arrived at sundown and now the sun is coming up and its time.
- They had given Lot time to warn those that he cared about most.
  - But they had rejected Lot’s message and the Lord’s warning.
    - So, it will be when the rapture of the church occurs.

***16 When Lot still hesitated, the angels seized his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and rushed them to safety outside the city, for the Lord was merciful.***

- Only Lot was ever credited as righteous.
  - His wife and daughter would receive the blessing for his faith in God.
    - This must be a shining example of how faith in God change the direction of a family if the daddy is a Godly man.

***17 When they were safely out of the city, one of the angels ordered, “Run for your lives! And don’t look back or stop***

***anywhere in the valley! Escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away!”***

- **Judgement has come**
- **It would be swift**
- **It would be complete**

***<sup>18</sup> “Oh no, my lord!” Lot begged. <sup>19</sup> “You have been so gracious to me and saved my life, and you have shown such great kindness. But I cannot go to the mountains. Disaster would catch up to me there, and I would soon die.***

- ***Why not go back to Abraham?***

***<sup>20</sup> See, there is a small village nearby. Please let me go there instead; don’t you see how small it is? Then my life will be saved.”***

- I am so happy that the rapture will take place in the blink of an eye.
- That we will not know when it will happen.
  - ***Can you imagine negotiating with an angel about what is best for you?***
- I’m not sure why Lot would think that it would be better in this little village.
- Perhaps he thought he could negotiate a place to live.
  - The only thing for certain was that God’s mercy was great for this man who really doesn’t shine so bright.

***<sup>21</sup> “All right,” the angel said, “I will grant your request. I will not destroy the little village.***

- Zoar must have been on the list.

***22 But hurry! Escape to it, for I can do nothing until you arrive there.” (This explains why that village was known as Zoar, which means “little place.”)***

- Amazing, God had said, “do not destroy anything until Lot is safe.”
  - The power of prayer on full display as Abraham had pleaded with Jesus to spare Lot’s life.

***23 Lot reached the village just as the sun was rising over the horizon. 24 Then the Lord rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah.***

- ***Joel Kramer, Bible Expedition***

- Fantastic video on this very place complete with bones and sulfur balls

***25 He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation.***

- In Joel Kramer’s video you can clearly see the death and destruction.
- Even the cemetery was burned up!

***26 But Lot’s wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt.***

- When I was a little guy, I always thought this was some sort of lighting strike.
  - Something magical.
    - Now that I am older, I understand this to be cremation.
    - If you have ever seen the remains of cremation, it looks like a pile of salt.
- **Lot’s wife is never named** because she did not belong to the Lord.

- Her heart was for Sodom.
  - Long before Lot and his daughters made it Zoar, she had stopped, perhaps she fell to her knees as she watched God's judgment rain down on her beloved home and remaining loved ones.
    - She serves a lesson to all who love this place more than God.
      - That day she traded Heaven for a wicked city that was judged with fire from Heaven.

(side note)

***Do you remember the hailstorm we had a few years ago?***

- Do you remember the sound of all that hail falling from the sky?
  - Now imagine that sound with the Hail burning at 450 degrees.

***<sup>27</sup> Abraham got up early that morning and hurried out to the place where he had stood in the Lord's presence.***

- This was the place where Jesus said that He was going to do what He said He would do.
  - The reason this is important is He will once again to what He said He was going to do, and it will be remembered from the place He said it.
    - In a strange way this was encouragement as well.
      - Jesus had promised this 100-year-old man a son
      - That would be born in this very place
        - Jesus also promised that He would visit Abraham again next year in this very place.

***28 He looked out across the plain toward Sodom and Gomorrah and watched as columns of smoke rose from the cities like smoke from a furnace.***

- What a wonderful teaching tool for Abraham
- I am sure he reminded Isaac often of Sodom and Gomorrah and how God judges' sin.

***29 But God had listened to Abraham's request and kept Lot safe,***

- ***The power of prayer!***

***removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain.***

***We close with this reminder from Jesus' brother James***

***James 5:16***

***16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.***