

W030109a – 03/18/26

Genesis 18-19

“A Blessed Life or a Blasted Life”

Introduction

- Tonight we will continue our study of the Old Testament and the Book of Genesis, remember

The word Genesis means “beginnings.”

- And truly so many things in scripture have their beginning in the book of Genesis
 - The universe, life in general
 - Man, marriage
 - Sin and evil, Language, government, nations
 - And specifically, we will see the nation of Israel
- In fact, understanding what this book is about is the beginning is really a good way to divide up our look at this book

Outline for the Book of Genesis

#1 – The Beginning of All Nations – Genesis 1-11

The Creation – Genesis 1-2

The Fall – Genesis 3-5

The Flood – Genesis 6-9

The Tables of Nations – Genesis 10-11

#2 – The Beginning of the Jewish Nation – Genesis 12-50

Abraham – Genesis 12-23

Isaac – Genesis 24-27

Jacob – Genesis 28-36

Joseph – Genesis 37-50

Tonight we continue in our story of Abraham’s life

- But instead of sailing the seven “C” of Abraham’s life, tonight we are really going to see a contrast between Abraham and Lot
 - Now both Abraham and Lot had similarities in that they both had failures and struggles

And they were both were saved – now you may wonder about Lot

But the Apostle Peter mentions in his epistle three times that Lot was righteous after talking about judging Sodom and Gomorrah, Peter says God...

“God delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked, (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds).” – 2 Peter 2:7-8

- Peter makes the point three times – this man is righteous, he is a believer
 - So they are both saved, but as we go through our study tonight, I really want you to be thinking why Abraham turned out blessed and why Lot turned out blasted and how you can apply that to your life

Genesis 18-19

#1 – Abraham – A Blessed Life – Genesis Chapters 18

#2 – Lot – A Blasted Life – Genesis Chapter 19

- Let's look at these one at a time
 - the first thing I want you to notice about Abraham, being blessed is what God says here Genesis 18:1-5

Blessed, not blasted....

#1 – Be a worshipper – Genesis 18:1-5

- When my kids were little, we were taking a day to hang out with the Christian musician Jeremy Camp as most of you know Jeremy and I met in Bible College and lived together here in North County after Bible college and so when I was hired here, this became both Jeremy and I' church, well we are still friends and in this pedicular story he and his family he had rented out a beach house up in San Clemente and we were all there together, and our kids were playing on the beach, but it had lots of rocks and my son starts putting something together, and I said “what are you doing son?” and he said – I am building an alter like Abraham did – oh my Dad heart was so proud

Especially because Jeremy's girls were painting rocks and then selling rocks to passersby, which gave me the ability to say – your kids are using God's creation for commerce, mine is building an altar to worship God – do you need some advice on parenting or anything?

- And of course, I was kidding and worse than that, what I didn't tell him was a few weeks before we had a guest worship leader come to the church when I pastored in Texas, and after I was done greeting people I noticed my son has set up a table next to the guest worship leader's merchandize table and he was selling paper fans for a \$1 and he had made like \$20 by the time I realized and shut it down

I like it so much better when my son is building altars, than selling merch because worship is a huge part of what we do as believers

- when you think about it, we dedicate almost as much time to worship as we give time to the study of the word of God
 - worship is a huge part of our Christianity

And it is important to study the subject of worship here in Genesis 18 – Why???

- in verse 2 it says the Abraham 'bowed himself down' and that phrase "bowed himself" is one word in Hebrew

“Saha”: to “bow down in worship”

- now not Shaw Ka, as in Shaw Ka Zulu
 - Not “Shawka” as in ‘hang loose’
- No – Shachah means to bow down in worship
 - And more importantly for our study here tonight is Genesis 18 is the first time this word or the concept of worship is ever mentioned
 - And as we have talked about already with other subjects, the first time something is mentioned in scripture, it sets the tone and definition for the rest of the scripture
- So what do we learn from this first mention of worship?

Abraham's Worship

#1 – Was in response to who the Lord is

In verse one of chapter 18, we are told that Abraham had 3 visitors that day – now who are these guys because the church is divided

➤ We are told clearly that one of them was the Lord
The Church of England or the Anglican church teaches this is the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and they read Genesis 18 every Sunday on Trinity Sunday which May 31st this year just in case you wanted to celebrate that this year, personally I had no idea when Trinity Sunday was until I looked it up

- So the Angelicin church thinks this is the trinity, but I don't think so because chapter 19, verse one seems to indicate these two men who appeared to be men, just like the Lord appeared to be a man, but the two others were actually angels, because they are identified as such in Genesis 19

But we know one of the three is definitely the Lord and Abraham falls down and worships Him

- But what I want us to notice is that Abraham's worship was for no other reason other than because of who God was
- God still hadn't provided the promised son
 - Abraham was not yet the Father of many nations
 - Abraham didn't even own anything in the promise land that God had given him yet
 - This was not results orientated worship

And this is such an important lesson to learn

- because there are many ideas out there of what worship is
- If we worship God because He gave me that relationship or that job – well what do you do when you get fired?
- If I worship God because I feel like worshipping, or I like the music – well what happens when you don't?

I have always been challenged by what David, a man after God's own heart said about worship, David said...

**“I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness” –
Psalm 7:17**

- We worship not because of how we feel, not because of what He gives us, and not because of how righteous we are, but because He is, because He is worthy

You see Worship in its first context is recognizing that there is a living God in our midst and He is worthy of our praise

- Our worship is not a response to the music, or to feelings or to gifts, worship is our response to the Living God who is worthy to be praised just because He is

Abraham’s Worship

#1 – Was in response to who the Lord is

#2 – Was seen as a privilege, he ran to worship

- Abraham’s worship was not self-centered
 - It was in response to who the Lord was
- But I also want us to notice, that he ran to the opportunity to worship the Lord

And this is even more radical when you read carefully in verse 2 when this all occurs

- It was the middle of the day, when it was super-hot outside

What a privilege all of us have to worship

- you realize that only one man one day a year could be in the presence of God under the old Jewish system
 - and he only after elaborate sacrifices – why?
 - Because we are all sinners

But Jesus by His blood and His death on the cross has taken away our sin

- and when Jesus died the veil that separated mankind from the presence of God was ripped from the top to the bottom, saying to all of us – come on in!
 - Jesus died to give us the privilege to worship

So am I taking advantage? - like Abraham, running to get here even when it's hot, man this applies to us

Because I see in my own heart to sometimes say, “oh, its only worship, I don’t need to be there for that, I don’t need to be in that time”

- And that would be true if worship was only a time to share songs, a time for someone to show how great they play guitar – that would be fine to be late to

But as we have looked at already tonight

- that is not what worship is
 - It is a time to express to the Lord how good He is, because He is
 - And we need to see the great need to run to those opportunities - to seize those opportunities before me

Abraham’s Worship

#1 – Was in response to who the Lord is

#2 – Was seen as a privilege, (he ran to worship)

#3 – Involved waiting upon the Lord

- Notice Abraham worships the Lord, yes by bowing down, but also by getting up to serve
 - And in doing this He is waiting on the Lord
 - We are told in Isaiah 40:31

“But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength” – Isaiah 40:31

- I am blessed as I wait upon the Lord
 - But that doesn’t mean I sit around and wait for God to work
- It means like Abraham, I wait on Him, like I am a server at a fine restaurant
 - Not Denny’s, nothing wrong with Denny’s, I like Denny’s, I just not willing to pay \$200 for my wife and I to dine at Denny’s

For that kind of money, once in a while, on an anniversary or birthday, Ruth Chris is where we go for fine dining – and I love it, food is just like you like it, you don’t feel bad if something needs to be corrected, they want you to tell them – my ice tea never hits the bottom of the glass – that is being waited upon – what can we get you, how can we bless you?

That is how Abraham saw worship

- Lord how can I bless you? What can I do for you in this moment?

Abraham's Worship

#1 – Was in response to who the Lord is

#2 – Was seen as a privilege, (he ran to worship)

#3 – Involved waiting upon the Lord

#4 – Was with all he was

- It says that Abraham bowed himself down

Now that word entails prostrating himself, laying down completely out on the ground

- And I want you to think about this for a moment
 - This guy is 99 years old
 - This would be full commitment at 99

When you are 99 getting down on the ground isn't as easy as it was at Highschool football practice – you know the drill where you follow the football, and when the football goes down, you hit the ground and then you pop back up in full pads, lots of us guys did that, but not recently, let's be honest

- Abraham is 99, now I'm under half his age, but at 48, I see a pen I have dropped on the ground and my first thought is, do I really need it that bad?
 - Getting old is not for wimps
- But with Abraham, just laying all out at 99, it shows me, he is into this, he is serious about worshipping the Lord
 - And he doesn't care about anything else

These descriptions of worship, this first mention of worship should really set the tone of our understanding of what God is looking for

- That we understand why we worship – who He is
 - That we understand the privilege and make it a priority in our lives
- That we understand the idea of waiting up on the Lord – not sitting by, but God what do you want
 - That we are all in – committed to worship
 - The result?? – Abraham was blessed

Blessed, not blasted....

#1 – Be a worshipper – Genesis 18:1-5

#2 – Believe God’s Word – Genesis 18:6-15

- back in chapter 17 Abraham laughed when God told him he was going to have a son
 - but Abraham’s laugh was different than Sarah’s laugh in this chapter

Abraham laughed just blessed at the goodness of God – “really Lord? You are so good!”

- Now he didn’t have any indication that God was going to keep His Word
 - He just believed and again I think this set Him apart

And you contrast with Sarah who laughed and her laugh was based on unbelief

- When you really break it down, what she is basically saying – “oh stupid God” – He doesn’t really understand the real world, He doesn’t understand I am 90, menopause has been and gone – I am not having a baby – what a stupid God
 - That may sound too harsh to you – but that is exactly the intent of the Hebrew phraseology

Her heart is mocking God’s promise and because of that the Lord rebukes her

- but before we get too hard on Sarah, I really think all of us need to look in the mirror on this one

Because I think all of us can say the same thing to God about issues of His word

- some of us have passages of scripture that we, if we are honest with ourselves, we just don’t think God has it all together, He doesn’t understand the times

“let the wife see that she respects her husband.” - Ephesians 5:33

- respect your husbands? – oh Stupid God, He doesn’t know my husband – He would never if He did

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” – Ephesians 4:31

- oh that’s stupid, if God really understand how wronged I was by that person, He would understand my bitterness and allow it

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;” – 1 Thessalonians 4:3

- oh Lord’s that stupid, this is the modern world we live in not 1955
 - living together is the new norm
- Well the language in I Thessalonians 4 is actually even more strict than that, the Greek word for immorality there is “pornei” – abstain from pornica in your life
 - Oh we are talking about Porn now? – we are not talking actual fornication but now just pictures
 - Does that even really matter?

Oh well God doesn’t understand the pressures of my life and the difficulty in my marriage, it’s just escape

- stupid God – He doesn’t understand me
 - you see we can all be just like Sarah!

The reality is, either He is God or He is not

- Either His Word is truth and therefore must be obeyed or it is not
 - How long will we falter between two opinions?

Or we love those parts of the Bible where God loves me, saves me by grace and is taking me to heaven one day

- But precious ones, if that part of God’s word is true, and it is - So are the parts where He dares to tell you the truth about what you are right now and how you must live
 - We can say – stupid God He doesn’t understand
 - But He does

And I know this is not popular today to say things like Wives submit to your husbands, Husbands love you wives and run from all types of sexual sin - And we have a choice of whether like Abraham we say – Lord I have heard your Word

- I don't see how that is going to work out
 - I don't see how that happens
 - But Lord you are God and I am not – so I will obey your Word
- That is not going to make God love you anymore or make you any more saved, but it will work out in a life that is blessed instead of blasted as will this last one...

Blessed, not blasted....

#1 – Be a worshipper – Genesis 18:1-5

#2 – Believe God's Word – Genesis 18:6-15

#3 – Be an interceder – Genesis 18:16-33

- Here again we see Abraham's heart beating with the heart of God

He hears people are going to be judged and He is asking God to be merciful

- Lord if you find 50, 45, 40, do I hear 30, 10?
 - And God says I won't destroy it for the sake of 10
- By the way, in Judaism this is why they build a synagogue in every city that has at least 10 Jewish men in that city
 - And the reason is here in Genesis 18

They don't want to waste their money and build a synagogue that is just going to be destroyed, so if there are at least 10 they will do it – investment safe!

- But this interaction gives us an amazing insight
 - back in verse 19 it says God wants to give Abraham insight into what He is doing so he will pass it on to the next generation
 - but what insight is God wanting Abraham to have?
- Certainly sin will have consequences
 - But Peter brings up the main point of the lesson

“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)— *then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.” – 2 Peter 2:4-9

- Peter tells us the lesson
 - Sin will be judged

And yet God knows how to deliver the righteous out of the judgment

- God did not find 10 righteous people in Sodom and Gomorrah
 - But as we will see in chapter 19, God still removed Lot before the judgment began and this shows us God will punish sin and we have a choice to let Jesus take our punishment, or try and take the punishment ourselves
- And you can apply this to the rapture of the church, the church deserves judgement, we are not squeaky clean, but God knows how to deliver the righteous out of judgement, I believe God will rapture the church before the tribulation begins

We can apply this to the rapture of the church, but in a greater degree we can apply this to how we handle our sin

- A story of told of a family pushing west as Americans were coming across our new country, and they could see a fire consuming everything in their path – so the Dad, circled the wagons and burned everything within hundreds of yards of the wagons, and his daughter as the fire approached said, “we are all going to burn.” And the dad said, “no, because we are where the fire has already been”

And that is our choice friends when it comes to how we are going to deal with our sin

- Will we try to take it ourselves and be burned
 - Or will we hang out where the fire has already burned, hang out in the presence of Jesus, in relationship with Jesus, who already took God's wrath for us
 - So important – God knows how to deliver the righteous if we will only let Him in our lives
- Now just a few minutes on Lot in Genesis 19...

Genesis 18-19

Abraham – A Blessed Life – Genesis Chapters 18

Lot – A Blasted Life – Genesis Chapter 19 (read the chapter)

- Disgusting chapter – sad to read

And before we take just a couple of minutes to pick it apart, I do want to mention something that I think is very important in our culture right now

- sometimes chapter 19 of Genesis is used to teach that it is this type of sin God is forbidding when He speaks against Homosexuality
 - there are prominent Bible teachers today that will tell you and me – that God never meant to condemn two men who love each other and are committed to each other
 - He never meant to condemn two women that are committed to each other
- What God is against is this homosexual rape that we see in Sodom and Gomorrah

And the Bible teacher will then say – this is what God is against – He is against Homosexual rape, not two men that love each other, two women committed to each other

- and we hear that and we know this story from Genesis 19 and then we think, maybe that is so?
 - please hear me Bible students – of course God is against Homosexual rape, He is against all rape

However, to then make the jump that every time the Bible condemns Homosexuality, it is only taking about the kind of behavior we read in Genesis 19, that is not only misguided, it is not accurate

- We may not want to talk about it in our culture, we feel pressured to be silent
 - But the Bible is really clear in the old and the new testament – from the Old Testament...

“If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination.” – Leviticus 20:13

- No where in this verse is God speaking about homosexual rape
 - He is speaking about being intimate as a man with another man as you would with a women
 - But that is just the Old Testament pastor...
- Nope – Paul the apostle in the NT is pretty clear as well

“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.” – Romans 1:26-27

- Again you can not make the Greek text here speak of rape – it is clear what God is calling sin

Now that said, please don't misunderstand me – I think the church normally makes one of two mistakes when it comes to speaking about homosexuality

- We either pretend like the Bible isn't clear on the subject, which it is
 - Or we pretend like Homosexuality is the only thing God is bothered be – which is also wrong

God is just as offended by your pride, by your bitterness, by your heterosexual fornication or adultery as He is about homosexual sin - Sin is sin

- which means as a church when faced with someone in bondage to that particular sin we are not to treat them any different than anyone else in bondage to sin

We are not to hate them, we are not to turn our back on them or not welcome them in our church

- We are to be like Jesus – who did what? – He loved sinners, sinners loved to be around Him too by the way
 - But He also always told them the truth
- To the women caught in adultery Jesus says...

“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” – John 8:11

- Jesus didn’t condemn the women
 - He didn’t shame or shun the women
 - But He did tell her the truth – what you are doing is sin and you need to stop, you need to repent

Well back to chapter 19

- what happened to Lot, this man who grew up with Abraham that makes his life so broken

Blessed or Blasted?

#1 – Lot compromised with sin

- When we last were with Lot in chapter 13 he pitched his tent toward Sodom
 - He was not in the city, not a part of the city, just heading that direction

And yet as chapter 19 opens up – He is sitting in the gate of the city of Sodom

- which speaks of fact he was in leadership of this town

When we go to Israel you will see that some of the ancient gates have rooms in them, where the city leaders would work

- The gates speak of leadership

Lot is sitting in the gates of Sodom

- He started out messing around in the direction of sin and now He is fully compromised

“Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;” – Psalm 1:1

- You see the progression

It starts with walking by, then standing with, then sitting down among

- And the progression is slow
 - Like the proverbial frog in water that is warmed –if the water was hot, the frog would jump out, but if you bring the temperature up slowly, the frog will boil to death

I mean how is it that you become a leader in a city where every man comes to Lot's house, young and old, isn't that what verse 4 says? – this is an intergenerational activity of group rape and Lot is calling them brethren in verse 7

- How do you live in a town like this, let alone lead?

How do you get to a point where this is okay? How do you get to a point where you are offering your daughters to a group of rapists? How?

- The answer – listen – one step at a time
 - But this is always what sin does – it gets worse as we get used to it
 - What used to shock us no longer does
- And when it is full grown, sin destroys us and our families – learn from Lot
 - But he is not done

Blessed or Blasted? – Lot...

#1 – Lot compromised with sin

#2 – Lot is not quick to obey

- After the angels blind the men and you just see how entrenched their sin is, that they are still verse 11, they are blind and they have still not given up
 - But the next morning, the angels tell Lot the city is going to be destroyed and he needs to get out - And verse 16 – it says Lot is lingering

If God showed up at my house and said, a Giant Sunami is going to cover miles inland, I hope the next morning, I wouldn't be saying – well I have got to fix the leaky facet before we leave town – what???

- what is so important?

But this is just another indication of why Lot is blasted

- He doesn't trust the Lord that He needs to get out quick

He doesn't trust the Lord to take care of him in the mountains

- He doesn't trust the Lord

You see when the Lord starts to convict us of sin, we have a choice

- to be quick to repent and obey like Abraham

Or to offer excuses

- to make compromises, well I will do this but not that
 - and then we wonder why everything seems blasted around us
- It's not the tough hand you were dealt
 - It's not your parent's fault or your pastors' fault
 - It's your fault – you are acting like Lot
- Saved, totally saved, slow to obey and blasted

Blessed or Blasted? – Lot...

#1 – Lot compromised with sin

#2 – Lot is not quick to obey

#3 – Lot failed to pass on his faith to his family

- He did not pass his belief onto his wife
 - Most Bible scholars believe she was from Sodom, because there is no indication he was married before he moved there – she was probably just a sensual wicked woman that pleased Lot's flesh

Lot no doubt ignored the promptings from God when he chose her as a bride, he doubly failed because he did nothing to influence this bride to walk with God away from the way she was brought up

- And she looks back longingly is the indication of the text and she is turned into a pillar of salt

Lot also didn't pass faith onto his kids

- Verse 12, the angels tell Lot, do you have any other family? tell them to get out! - And when Lot tries, they think he is joking - He has been so compromised, so winking at sin in his own life, that now that things are serious, he has no testimony to stand on, no creditability to demand change

We see again in the disgusting end of the chapter

- what would make two girls behave like that?
 - To get their father drunk – now you see what he was packing up when he was leaving Sodom, he is living in the mountains, where he did get wine, he took it with him from Sodom – poor priorities
- But what would make these girls get their dad drunk and sleep with him? – they think it is the only way they are going to have children – they like their father don't trust the Lord
 - Well don't forget they were raised in Sodom
 - Where the nights activity we read about in chapter 19 was common not unusual
- And yet their Dad did nothing to try and impart a different culture into their hearts
 - Please hear me parents and grandparents
 - We live in a wicked society, not Sodom bad, but it's getting there
- And yet you and I have a responsibility to impart truth to our kids and grandkids

They are getting a completely different message from school, from TV, from the internet, from social media and music

- But you keep preaching the truth, you keep living it out - You never forget that years and years of schooling in the Egyptian culture could not undo what Moses' mom poured into him in those formative years
 - So that when he had a choice between the passing pleasures of sin in Egypt or to suffer with the people of God – He choose God
- Never underestimate the power of a parent that pours faith into the next generation – I promise you the enemy doesn't underestimate it – it is why he fights to destroy families

It is why the enemy get us to think – oh the youth pastors will share Jesus with my kids

- Children's ministry will lay a foundation
 - Listen all of those things can be a blessing
- But nothing can replace the power of parent who intentionally passes on faith
 - And Lot failed to do so

He was saved just like Abraham

- He had opportunities just like Abraham
 - But unlike Abraham, Lot was not blessed, he was blasted - Why?
- He compromised with sin instead of walking before the Lord, in the presence of the Lord
 - Unlike Abraham who obeyed - Lot was slow to listen to God
- And unlike Abraham who openly worshipped and prayed and passed those things on to his kids
 - Lot kept his faith to himself
 - And God loves Lot, God saved Lot, but Lot would be the first to tell you tonight – I was blasted, blasted by my own sin and compromise
 - Learn from Abraham and Lot tonight precious church family
 - Amen? Amen!