

# Genesis 19-20

January 16, 2011

## **19:1-11: Who can tell us what takes place in chapter 19 verses 1 to 11?**

- Have someone tell the story. These two angels (who had the appearance of men {18:2,22}) had been at Abraham's tent with Jesus (THE Angel of the Lord).

## **What do you think it means the Lot was "sitting in the gate"?**

- Some think it means that he had some official status in Sodom. Verse 9 seems to indicate that this is not true. The fact that Lot was sitting in the gate does seem to indicate that he was "at home" in Sodom.

## **What do verses 4 and 5 tell us about the people of Sodom?**

- They were *very* immoral people. They wanted to sexually abuse these angels whom they mistook for men. Notice that verse 4 says that essentially the entire town was in on this.

## **What do we learn from verse 8?**

- Lot has *entirely* lost his moral compass and common sense. He offers to give his daughters for their abuse. He is trying to negotiate with a reprobate mob. See and read Romans 1:21-32.
- 21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. 22 Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. 23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. 25 They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. 26 That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. 27 And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. 28 Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. 29 Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. 30 They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. 31 They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. 32 They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too. [NLT](#)
- Notice here that Lot (and probably his entire household) was saved by the Angels. It would have been justice for the angels to have given Lot to the mob and saved his household, but God extended grace (getting what you don't deserve) and saved Lot and his daughters from the bisexual mob.

## **19:12-14: What takes place in verses 12 to 14?**

- The angels reveal to Lot that they have been sent by God to destroy Sodom for its wickedness and tell Lot to gather his family and escape. Lot goes to the two men who were to marry his daughters and tries to convince them to join him in the escape; they don't take him seriously and refuse to go.

### Why do you think that these two young men refused to take Lot's warning seriously?

- See what you get. Lot obviously had little if any moral influence on these two men.

### Why do you think that Lot had no influence?

- See what you get. The fact that Lot would live in such a wicked place and expose himself and his family to such immorality had taken from Lot the right to claim that what these people did was wrong. See and read **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**.
- **14** Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? **15** What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil\*? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? **16** And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. **17** Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. **18** And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. **NLT**"

### **19:15-22: What takes place in verses 15 to 22?**

- The angels tell Lot and his family to flee but they hesitate. The angels then grab them and drag them out of the city. They were told to flee to the mountains but Lot got permission to escape to a small town nearby.

### What do you make of the hesitating and the fact that they had to be dragged out of the city?

- Their "hearts" were in Sodom. The worldliness of Sodom was now a part of who they were.

### **Read 2 Peter 2:7-8. How do you reconcile these verses to what we see here in chapter 19?**

- **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. **NLT**
- See what you get. Lot was a righteous man when he moved to Sodom. He probably saw their sin, had compassion on them, and thought that he could save them or help them. He was wrong. Over time, they influenced him rather than him influencing them. They didn't repent, he backslid.

### Is it easier to lift someone to higher moral ground or to pull someone down to lower moral ground?

- It is far easier to pull down than to lift up. We are not to isolate ourselves from the world because we are supposed to impact our world for Christ. We must, though, insulate ourselves from the worldliness.
- See **1 John 2:15** and **James 4:4**. **15** Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. **4** You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

### **19:23-26: What takes place in verses 23 to 26?**

- God destroys Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone. Lot's wife looks back (**told not to in verse 17**) and turns into a pillar of salt.

### Why a pillar of salt? (See **Matthew 5:13**).

- **13** "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. **NLT**
- Salt preserves from decay and gives flavor to that which it touches.

### How is this story a picture of hell?

- God is righteous and just; He judges sin. These two godless towns are judged and destroyed by fire; hell is a place of fire. **Matthew 25:41** is one of many verses that speak of hell as an “eternal fire”.

**19:29: What do we learn in verse 29?**

- God rescued Lot and his family because of Abraham, *not* because of Lot. Lot reaped what Abraham sowed.

**19:30-38: What takes place in verses 30 to 38?**

- Lot’s daughters think they will never have husbands or babies, so they get Lot drunk, sleep with him, and become pregnant by him.
- Notice that these babies become the heads of tribes of people. The **Moabites** and the **Ammonites** will be enemies of Israel (Abraham’s family) for hundreds of years to come.

**20:1-18: Who can tell us what takes place in chapter 20?**

- Have someone tell the story.

**What is unusual here with Abraham being concerned about someone killing him to take his wife?**

- Abraham was worried about someone killing him in order to have his **89-90 year** old pregnant wife.

**How many times had Abraham lied about who Sarah was?**

- Abraham did this same thing in Egypt (**12:10-20**). He possibly did the same thing in other places (**20:13**).

**Why do you think that God would speak to a man in a dream that was not a follower of the Lord?**

- See what you get. Abimelech (*uh-BIM-uh-leck*) was apparently a man of integrity and God honored that integrity by keeping him from being with Sarah.

**What do we learn about walking with the Lord from what Abraham did in this chapter?**

- It is possible to be doing everything “right” and then to mess up and do something really “wrong”. We never arrive; we have to continue to “tame” our sin natures. Abraham is eventually known for his faith (**Hebrews 11:8-10**), but here he is driven by his fear of men rather than his faith in God.

**20:12: Was Sarah really Abraham’s sister?**

- Sarah was apparently Abraham’s stepsister. **Genesis 11:31** indicate that Sarah was Terah’s daughter-in-law. The fact that Sarah also said that she was Abraham’s sister (**20:5**) seems to indicate that she might have also been Terah’s stepdaughter. In other words, her mom was a wife of Abraham’s father.

**What is God’s opinion of Sarah’s submission to Abraham in this chapter?**

- See what you get. **See 1 Peter 3:1-6**. Notice that even though Abraham didn’t have the faith to believe that God would protect *him*, Sarah did have the faith to believe that God would protect *her*. We can probably assume that Sarah would have told the Pharaoh or Abimelech that she was actually Abraham’s wife had either of them tried to sleep with her. God lifts up Sarah’s submission and faith as an example to all women.

**20:18: Besides the obvious, what do we learn from verse 18?**

- The “obvious” thing we learn here is that God had shut up the wombs in **Abimelech’s** household. What this verse also tells us is that Sarah was likely under Abimelech’s care for some extended time (long enough for them to realize that no one was able to get pregnant).