Abraham & Lot: the Fate of Sodom & Gomorrah

Genesis 18 – 19

Contents

• Three Men Visit Abraham in the Plains of Mamre (Gen. 18)
  ◦ Abraham Cooks a Meal for the Strangers (vv.1-8)
  ◦ Promise of a Son for Sarah, Sarah Laughs (vv.9-15)
  ◦ The Lord Reveals His Plan to Judge Sodom and Gomorrah (vv.16-22)
  ◦ Jehovah Communes with Abraham over the Righteous in Sodom (vv.23-33)
• Two Angels Visit Lot in the Gate of Sodom (Ch. 19)
  ◦ Lot’s Invitation to the Visitors (vv.1-3)
  ◦ The Wickedness of the Men of Sodom, their Blindness (vv.4-11)
  ◦ The Angels Tell Lot of Judgment and Ask him to Warn his Family (vv.12-14)
  ◦ The Morning Comes, the Forced Evacuation of Sodom (vv.15-16)
  ◦ Lot Asks for Alternative Destination, Afraid to be Alone with God (vv.17-22)
  ◦ Fire and Brimstone Rained on Sodom and Gomorrah (vv.23-25)
  ◦ Lot’s Wife Looks back to where Her Heart was, Becomes a Pillar of Salt (v.26)
  ◦ Abraham Views the Judgment from His Place before the Lord (vv.27-28)
  ◦ The Salvation of Lot Shown to be for Abraham’s Sake (v.29)
  ◦ Lot’s Incestuous Progeny (vv.30-38)

Three Men Visit Abraham in the Plains of Mamre (Gen. 18)

Abraham Cooks a Meal for the Strangers (vv.1-8)

CHAPTER 18

1 And Jehovah appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre. And he sat at the tent-door in the heat of the day. 2 And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, three men standing near him. And when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent-door, and bowed himself to the earth, 3 and said, Lord, if now I have found favour in thine eyes, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant. 4 Let now a little water be fetched, that ye may wash your feet, and
rest yourselves under the tree. 5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread; and refresh yourselves; after that ye shall pass on; for therefore have ye passed on towards your servant. And they said, So do as thou hast said. 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, Knead quickly three seahs of wheaten flour, and make cakes. 7 And Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf tender and good, and gave it to the attendant; and he hasted to dress it. 8 And he took thick and sweet milk, and the calf that he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood before them under the tree, and they ate.

Promise of a Son for Sarah, Sarah Laughs (vv.9-15)

9 And they said to him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. 10 And he said, I will certainly return to thee at this time of the year, and behold, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah was listening at the tent-door, which was behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and advanced in age: it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. 12 And Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am become old, shall I have pleasure, and my lord old? 13 And Jehovah said to Abraham, Why is this, that Sarah laughs, saying, Shall I indeed bear, when I am become old? 14 Is any matter too wonderful for Jehovah? At the time appointed I will return to thee, at this time of the year, and Sarah shall have a son. 15 And Sarah denied, saying, I did not laugh; for she was afraid. And he said, No; but thou didst laugh.

The Lord Reveals His Plan to Judge Sodom and Gomorrah (vv.16-22)

An Order with Regard to Prophecy. We have in vv.16-22 the Lord unfolding to Abram the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah. But before this takes place, we have what comes before in vv.1-15. First Abram makes a meal for the Lord, and then the Lord explains to Abram and Sarah that they would have a son, according to the promised blessing of God. It speaks of (1) worship and (2) getting an understanding of our blessings in Christ. If we get into prophetic events before we understand our portion in Christ, we may become unstable. God first reveals what He would do for Abram, then what He would do to Sodom and Gomorrah.

16 And the men rose up thence, and looked toward Sodom; and Abraham went with them to conduct them. 17 And Jehovah said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing? 18 Since Abraham shall indeed become a great and mighty nation; and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him. 19 For I know him that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of Jehovah, to do righteousness and justice, in order that Jehovah may bring upon Abraham what he hath spoken of him. 20 And Jehovah said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grievous, 21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come to me; and if not, I will know it. 22 And the men turned thence,
and went towards Sodom; and Abraham remained yet standing before Jehovah.

Jehovah Communes with Abraham over the Righteous in Sodom (vv.23-33)

23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also cause the righteous to perish with the wicked? 24 There are perhaps fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not forgive the place for the sake of the fifty righteous that are therein? 25 Far be it from thee to do so, to slay the righteous with the wicked, that the righteous should be as the wicked — far be it from thee! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right? 26 And Jehovah said, If I find at Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will forgive all the place for their sakes. 27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have ventured to speak unto the Lord; I, who am dust and ashes. 28 Perhaps there may want five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city on account of the five? And he said, If I shall find forty-five there, I will not destroy it. 29 And he continued yet to speak with him, and said, Perhaps there may be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for the forty’s sake. 30 And he said, Oh, let not the Lord be angry that I speak! Perhaps there may be thirty found there. And he said, I will not do it if I find thirty there. 31 And he said, Behold now, I have ventured to speak with the Lord. Perhaps there may be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for the twenty’s sake. 32 And he said, Oh, let not the Lord be angry, that I speak yet but this time! Perhaps there may be ten found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for the ten’s sake. 33 And Jehovah went away when he had ended speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Two Angels Visit Lot in the Gate of Sodom (Ch. 19)

Lot’s Invitation to the Visitors (vv.1-3)

CHAPTER 19

1 And the two angels came to Sodom at even. And Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. And Lot saw them, and rose up to meet them; and he bowed down, the face toward the ground, 2 and he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant’s house, and lodge, and wash your feet; and ye shall rise up early, and go on your way. And they said, No; but we will pass the night in the open place. 3 And he urged them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house. And he made them a repast, and baked unleavened cakes; and they ate.
The Wickedness of the Men of Sodom, their Blindness (vv.4-11)

4 Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, from the youngest to the oldest — all the people from every quarter. 5 And they called to Lot, and said to him, Where are the men that have come in to thee to-night? bring them out to us that we may know them. 6 And Lot went out to them to the entrance, and shut the door after him, 7 and said, I pray you, my brethren, do not wickedly! v.7 A desire to remain in the world to be a good influence is no excuse. Instead Lot was influenced by them. Abraham had more power with God outside the city than Lot had sitting in the gate with the leaders of Sodom.

8 Behold now, I have two daughters who have not known a man: let me now bring them out to you; and do to them as is good in your sight: only, to these men do nothing; for therefore have they come under the shadow of my roof. 9 And they said, Back there! And they said again, This one came to sojourn, and he must be a judge? Now we will deal worse with thee than with them. And they pressed hard on the man — on Lot; and drew near to break the door. 10 And the men stretched out their hand, and brought Lot into the house to them, and shut the door. 11 And they smote the men that were at the entrance of the house with blindness, from the smallest to the greatest; and they wearied themselves to find the entrance.

The Angels Tell Lot of Judgment and Ask him to Warn his Family (vv.12-14)

12 And the men said to Lot, Whom hast thou here besides? a son-in-law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and all whom thou hast in the city — bring them out of the place. 13 For we are going to destroy this place, because the cry of them is great before Jehovah, and Jehovah has sent us to destroy it. 14 And Lot went out, and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, Up, go out of this place, for Jehovah will destroy the city. But he was as if he jested, in the sight of his sons-in-law.

The Morning Comes, the Forced Evacuation of Sodom (vv.15-16)

15 And as the dawn arose, the angels urged Lot, saying, Up, take thy wife and thy two daughters who are present, lest thou perish in the iniquity of the city. 16 And as he lingered, the men laid hold on his hand, and on the hand of his wife, and on the hand of his two daughters, Jehovah being merciful to him; and they led him out, and set him without the
Lot Asks for Alternative Destination, Afraid to be Alone with God (vv.17-22)

17 And it came to pass when they had brought them outside, that he said, Escape for thy life: look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain: escape to the mountain, lest thou perish. 18 And Lot said to them, Not so, I pray thee, Lord; 19 behold now, thy servant has found favour in thine eyes, and thou hast magnified thy goodness, which thou hast shewn to me in preserving my soul alive; but I cannot escape to the mountain, lest calamity lay hold on me, that I die. 20 Behold now, this city is near to flee to, and it is small: I pray thee, let me escape thither — is it not small? — and my soul shall live. 21 And he said to him, Behold, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow the city of which thou hast spoken. 22 Haste, escape thither; for I cannot do anything until thou art come there. Therefore the name of the city is called Zoar.

Fire and Brimstone Rained on Sodom and Gomorrah (vv.23-25)

23 The sun rose upon the earth when Lot came to Zoar. 24 And Jehovah rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from Jehovah out of heaven, 25 and overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew upon the ground.

Lot’s Wife Looks back to where Her Heart was, Becomes a Pillar of Salt (v.26)

26 And his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. v.26 She looked to where her affections were. See Matthew 6:21. The judgment fell not only on those in the city, but on those whose hearts were there. Therefore we are exhorted to “Remember Lot’s wife”. Lot was married to a woman that was in love with Sodom. Our companions can have a tremendous influence in our lives. How much Lot’s wife influenced them is unknown, but we can be sure that she was no help to him. As another has said, “You can get your wife out of the world but you cannot get the world out of your wife.”

Abraham Views the Judgment from His Place before the
Lord (vv.27-28)

27 And Abraham rose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before Jehovah; 28 and he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and lo, a smoke went up from the land as the smoke of a furnace.

The Salvation of Lot Shown to be for Abraham’s Sake (v.29)

29 And it came to pass when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot dwelt.

Lot’s Incestuous Progeny (vv.30-38)

30 And Lot went up from Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar. And he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters. 31 And the first-born said to the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the land to come in to us after the manner of all the earth: 32 come, let us give our father wine to drink, and let us lie with him, that we may preserve seed alive of our father. 33 And they gave their father wine to drink that night. And the first-born went in, and lay with her father, and he did not know of her lying down, nor of her rising. 34 And it came to pass on the next day that the first-born said to the younger, Lo, I lay last night with my father: let us give him wine to drink to-night also, and go thou in, lie with him, that we may preserve seed alive of our father. 35 And they gave their father wine to drink that night also. And the younger arose, and lay with him; and he did not know of her lying down, nor of her rising. 36 And both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. 37 And the first-born bore a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites to this day. 38 And the younger, she also bore a son, and called his name Ben-ammi; the same is the father of the children of Ammon to this day. v.38 contrast Abraham’s posterity by the third generation. Hebrews 11:9.