

Righteous Lot

We were first introduced to Lot in the genealogy of Terah, "*Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot*" (11:27), and when the left Ur, "*Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot.*" After Terah's death, "*Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him.*" (12:4)

Lot remained with Abraham and even after his sojourn in Egypt, Lot was still with him (13:1). But the time finally came when "*Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. 6 Now the land was not able to support them.*" (13:5-6). When given the choice by Abraham, "*Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord.*" (13:10). So they separated and "*Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.*" Unfortunately for Lot, "*the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord.*" (13:12-13).

We don't know how long Lot sojourned there, but he had ample opportunity to leave, especially after the events with the war against Sodom and the surrounding cities in which Lot was captured and carried off. Even after his deliverance, he chose to remain in Sodom. Yet Peter informs us that his moral integrity remained intact. "*Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds).*" (2Pet 2: 7-8). From the subsequent events and the loss of his wife in the overthrow, it may be there that we find why Lot remained. But up to the point of the destruction, his righteous character remained intact.

Destruction of Sodom

After Abraham had interceded for Sodom, he returned home to await the outcome. The narrative returns to the two who had left before the LORD spoke with Abraham. They are now clearly identified as angels. But they still appear as men and that is what Lot and the men of Sodom initially believed them to be. They had come "*because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave*" to "*see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it.*" (18:20-21).

*Now the **two angels** came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. 2 And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." 4 Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to Lot and said to him, "**Where are the men who came to you tonight?** Gen 19:1-2; 4-5*

Even as wicked as the world today has become, what happened in Sodom was shocking! These men were so wicked that the safety of the two men who had come in to stay with Lot mattered not at all. They were going to rape them. Added to this, it wasn't just a few renegades, "*the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house*" (19:4). When Lot sought to dissuade them, they decided they would rape him as well, "*we will deal worse with you than with them*" (19:9). Even Lot's offer of his daughters did not interest them. At that point the angels intervened, saving Lot and striking all the men with blindness. But even the judgement of blindness did not deter them as they "*became weary trying to find the door*" (19:11).

The doom of Sodom was sealed but Lot is shown special favor as the angels give him the opportunity to save others. "Then the men said to Lot, "*Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city — take them out of this place!*" (19:12). But though Lot has sojourned for a long time no one will listen to him. Even his son-in-laws refuse to leave so in the end it is Lot, his wife and his two daughters. Lot interceded for the city of Zoar so he could escape there, and as soon as they arrived, the Lord destroyed those cities.

Abraham arose early and witnessed the destruction from the place he had pleaded with the Lord the day before. He "*saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace. 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 had dwelt.*"

Remember Lot's Wife

Sadly, Lot's wife disobeyed the angels command not to look back. "*Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain.*" "*But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*" (19:17, 26). Though many have sought for a deeper meaning behind her looking back, the closest we come is Jesus warning. In a clear warning to all disciples, He reminds them of how quickly the destruction of Sodom occurred. It will be identical at the destruction of Jerusalem and at the second coming. For either event, we are told to remember Lot's wife.

Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. 31 "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away.

And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. 32 Remember Lot's wife. Luke 17:28-33

How are we to remember her? In the context of not looking back with longing at what was lost. If there is anything in the world that is more important to us than escaping with our souls at the coming of the Lord, we should remember Lot's wife. Which seems to indicate that this was her fault.

The Sin of Sodom

Even after the destruction of these cities as a result of the wickedness seen by the angels, God still wanted us to know even more about the exact nature of their sin. In Ezekiel, the Holy Spirit described it as pride, fullness of food, abundance of idleness, no care for the poor, haughty(individual) and the committed abomination. The order in which these things are recorded also appears to be the order in which they occurred. It wasn't just the homosexuality, but it ended there as it also did in Romans 1.

Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. 50 And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit. Ezek. 16:49-50

In Jude, the Spirit focuses directly on the sexual immorality. First, instead of being content with the marriage relationship they had given themselves over to sexual immorality, specifically in going after strange flesh(homosexuality). For these things, they are set forth as an example.

as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Jude 7

Righteous Lot

As noted above, Lot's righteous character remained intact throughout his entire sojourn in Sodom even including the visit of the angels and the destruction of Sodom. Peter used the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as an example to all future generations of what will happen if a people choose to live ungodly. He also used it as an example of God delivering a godly man out of the midst of such wicked if they are not overcome by it.

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; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — 9 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 Pet. 2:6-10

But note the details. From day to day(day after day), Lot's soul was tormented by this conduct. He never learned to tolerate or accept it. He saw it as people doing lawless deeds and filthy conduct. He never assimilated and never lowered his own standards and how he viewed others. Even the people of Sodom felt it. "Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. (19:9-10).

Living in a Cave.

The final events of Lot's life are only sorrow and bitterness. God gives a second terrible indictment of alcohol(the first was Noah). Alcohol led Lot to participate in something he never would have done sober. The two daughters clearly were not unscathed from their time in Sodom. They envision an act that should never have been done. Knowing Lot would never agree, they put him out of any ability to think clearly. He never knew anything about either one of them. Perhaps he was just too ashamed to face Abraham. But for whatever reason, we learn nothing more of him than his descendants.

*Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. 37 The firstborn bore a son and **called his name Moab**; he is **the father of the Moabites** to this day. 38 And the younger, she also bore a son and **called his name Ben-Ammi**; he is the father of the people of **Ammon** to this day. 19:36-38*

*"And when we passed beyond our brethren, the descendants of Esau who dwell in Seir, away from the road of the plain, away from Elath and Ezion Geber, we turned and passed by way of the Wilderness of Moab. 9 Then the Lord said to me, '**Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.**'" Deut 2:8-9*

*"So it was, when all the men of war had finally perished from among the people, 17 that the Lord spoke to me, saying: 18 'This day you are to cross over at Ar, the boundary of Moab. 19 And **when you come near the people of Ammon, do not harass them or meddle with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as a possession.**'" Deut 2:16-19*

The children of Israel were strictly warned not to touch or meddle with Ammon or MOab because they were the descendants of Lot. This is why Balaam's visit was so sad. It never needed to happen. Israel did not need to be cursed to protect these nations, God had already protected them.