

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #46

### Genesis 19:27-38

Lot was a believer (II Peter 2:7-8). His uncle, Abraham, was one of the most godly men in all of the Bible. In fact, the reason God spared Lot was because of his connection to Abraham (Genesis 19:29). Lot had been taken under Abraham's wing and, at one point in his life, had participated in a God honoring worship (Genesis 12:4, 8). But even though he had such a wonderful beginning. . .he turned his back on it all and plunged headlong into the world, headlong into sin. It is true that being a believer guarantees you will not face God's wrath, but it is also true that if one is dedicated to this world, he will finish a loser. That is Lot's story.

### **A BELIEVER COULD BE CONNECTED TO THE GREATEST BELIEVERS IN THE WORLD AND STILL END UP BEING SO WORLDLY THAT HIS LIFE ENDS A SPIRITUAL WASTE AND FAILURE.**

The last glimpse we get of Lot is one of a man who lived in total fear, who fell deep into sin and who disappeared into oblivion. The children he fathers in this chapter end up being godless spiritual losers who are the enemies of God and Israel.

### **HISTORICAL RESPONSE #1** - The response of Abraham. Genesis 19:27-29

What we find in Abraham is a man who starts his day early in the presence of God. The next day Abraham went to the place where he had stood before the LORD (18:22). The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah prompted Abraham to think about God. God spared Lot because of Abraham's relationship to Him, not Lot's faithfulness. Abraham was a man of reverence and worship.

### **HISTORICAL RESPONSE #2** - The response of Lot. Genesis 19:30-38

#### **(Pathetic Picture #1)** - Lot ends up living in total fear. 19:30a

The particular word for "afraid" describes a fear that is so dreadful it causes one to shake and tremble (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 364). Fear plagued Lot the rest of his life. As Calvin said, he was led in life by "blind anxiety" (*Genesis*, p. 517). It was what caused him to move to Zoar (Genesis 19:19) and it is what caused him to leave Zoar (Genesis 19:30). Lot's life as a believer ends with him being an emotional wreck because he never really did obey God's word (i.e. Genesis 19:17-22).

#### **(Pathetic Picture #2)** - Lot ends up living in a cave. 19:30b

Lot's uncle Abraham lived in a tent (Genesis 13:5, 18; 18:1). In fact, he himself at one time lived in a tent (Genesis 13:12). But the people of Sodom devoted their lives to building a nice, secure home with solid doors and a roof. Their homes gave them a pseudo sense of security and for a while Lot fit right in with this philosophy (Genesis 19:2,6,8). But in the end, his devotion to worldly things left him living in a cave. Pursue pleasure as a believer and you'll end up dark, isolated, depressed, corrupt and alone. You'll end up entombed by your own lusts.

**(Pathetic Picture #3)** - Lot ends up a drunk. 19:33, 35

The Bible does not forbid drinking wine, but it strongly warns of its abuse many times. There is a close relationship between drinking wine and immorality (Genesis 9:21-22; Habakkuk 2:15). It is assumed by many who have studied this text that Lot had a serious drinking problem. His daughters knew that he liked to drink wine and it is quite probable that night after night he would drink himself into a stupor. It is interesting that Lot could not have had too many possessions in the cave, but he did see that he has a stockpile of wine. He was such a serious drinker that he would actually drink to the point where he didn't remember what he was doing. Dr. Leupold said he was trying to forget about the past, which included turning away from God, plunging headlong into the world, a judgment of God, loss of family and fear of living (H.C. Leupold, *Genesis*, Vol. 1, p. 364).

**(Pathetic Picture #4)** - Lot ends up in immorality. 19:33, 35

His drunkenness led to the abominable sin of incest with his own daughters. Dr. Hughes observed that as immoral as Sodom and Gomorrah were, this sin was immoral by their standards (Hughes, *Genesis*, p. 281). Mesopotamian culture forbade it as did God's law which made this sin punishable by death (Leviticus 20:11-13). So far in Genesis, we have couple of glimpses as to what alcohol can do to a person. In Noah's case, it left him naked in his tent in a drunken stupor, totally passed out (Genesis 9:21, 24). In Lot's case, it left him totally oblivious to the fact that he was having incestuous relationships with his own daughters. **We say again, in Scripture, there is a very close connection between drinking alcohol and sexual immorality (Proverbs 23:31-35; Habakkuk 2:15).** Every believer needs to realize that too much alcohol can break down defenses and lead to terrible, immoral sin.

**(Pathetic Picture #5)** - Lot ends up producing godless offspring. 19:37-38

The story of Lot closes with his two daughters giving birth to two sons: Moab and Benammi. Moab will eventually become the father of the Moabites and Benammi will eventually become the father of the Ammonites, two of the most godless, anti-Abrahamic groups in the Old Testament, who will lead Israel into terrible sin which includes immorality and idolatry (Numbers 25:1-18; Leviticus 18:21; Deuteronomy 23 :3-4). Lot's legacy is that of a failure. His children and wife were destroyed during God's judgment of Sodom and his two daughters who survived ended up immoral and giving birth to spiritual duds.

**HISTORICAL RESPONSE #3** - The response of Lot's children. Genesis 19:31-38

**(Pathetic Picture #1)** - Lot's children ended up afraid. 19:31

These girls had no confidence in God or in doing God's will because that's how their father was. The truth is, they had just come out of Zoar and they knew there were other men on earth.

**(Pathetic Picture #2)** - Lot's children ended up in sin. 19:32-35

Dr. John Davis observed, you could take Lot's daughters out of Sodom but you could not take Sodom out of his daughters (*Paradise to Prison*, p. 206). For these girls this thinking was logical after all they had been raised in the environment of Sodom; they had a father who loved the

world and was even willing to allow them to be raped (19:8); and they had a mother so in love with Sodom that she loved it more than her own life and the commands of God (19: 17, 26). Would we really expect these girls to think like women of God? They are thinking consistent with their upbringing. This story of Lot is a sober warning to all parents to carefully guard yourselves and the environment in which you bring up your children.

**(Pathetic Picture #3)** - Lot's children ended up godless. 19:36-38

Moab became the father of the Moabites and Benammi became the father of the Ammonites, two very godless groups of people. However, there was one Moabite woman who would turn things around and get into a right relationship with God and end up in the lineage of Jesus Christ - her name was Ruth (Matthew 1:5). So even coming from a godless environment is no excuse for not pursuing a right relationship with God.

It is interesting that Jesus said that just before He comes the second time, things will be like they were in the days of Lot (Luke 17:28-30). This implies several things. It certainly implies an increase in homosexuality. It implies an increase in brutality and lack of compassion. It implies an increase in immorality, even incest. It implies that the world will be enjoying life, eating, drinking, prospering. But it also implies a time when some believers will be more focused on the world than they are on God. Some believers will become more tolerant of evil.

One question that is worth asking here is why didn't Lot leave Sodom and take his daughters and go live with Abraham? Abraham had a great life, a blessed life one that kept its focus on God. The only conclusion we can draw is that Lot was too in love with the world and was either too proud or too ashamed to get his focus back on what was right. So instead of turning things around, the last glimpse we get of him is he is an immoral drunk, living in a cave. His life did not end in him being a happy winner, but a tragic loser. Lot lived his life in total conformity to this world and everything he lived for went up in smoke and ended a disaster. Don't let that happen to you.