



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

**LESSONS ABOUT ABRAHAM
MEETING THE LORD, AND THE
DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND
GOMORRAH.**

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION
TALKING ABOUT Genesis 18
and 19, the visit of 'The Lord'
to Abraham and the visit of
the angels to Sodom and its
destruction and the escape of
some of Lot's family!

Since this is quite a long text, I
am going to comment at intervals
after some verses. I pray this is
a big blessing as these chapters
were to me as I read them (again)
yesterday! We are using the
Amplified Classic translation in
this edition.

Abraham lived around the 18th
century before Christ. (B.C) This
part of his life, finds him already
settled in the hill country of the
'Land of Canaan'. The land which
God promised to him forever as
well as his generations.

Genesis chapter 18

18 Now the Lord appeared
to Abraham by the
oaks or terebinths of Mamre; as
he sat at the door of his tent in
the heat of the day,
² He lifted up his eyes and looked,
and behold, three men stood at
a little distance from him. He ran
from the tent door to meet them
and bowed himself to the ground
³ And said, My lord, if now I have
found favour in your sight, do not
pass by your servant, I beg of you.
⁴ Let a little water be brought,
and you may wash your feet and
recline and rest yourselves under

the tree.

⁵ And I will bring a morsel
(mouthful) of bread to
refresh and sustain your hearts
before you go on further—for that
is why you have come to your
servant. And they replied, Do as
you have said.

*'Out of the blue', The Lord and two
angels visit nearby Abraham's tent.
Abraham knew exactly who they
were immediately. He showed
great respect and high hospitality.*

⁶ So Abraham hastened into the
tent to Sarah and said, quickly
get ready three measures of fine
meal, knead it, and bake cakes.

⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and
brought a calf tender and good
and gave it to the young man
[to butcher]; then he [Abraham]
hastened to prepare it.

⁸ And he took curds and milk and
the calf which he had made ready,
and set it before [the men]; and
he stood by them under the tree
while they ate.

*the best meal he can for these
visitors.*

⁹ And they said to him, where is
Sarah your wife? And he said,
[She is here] in the tent.

¹⁰ [a] [The Lord] said, I will surely
return to you when the season
comes round, and behold, Sarah
your wife will have a son. And
Sarah was listening and heard it
at the tent door which was behind
Him.

¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were
old, well advanced in years; it had
ceased to be with Sarah as with
[young] women. [She was past the
age of childbearing].

*The Lord is visiting him for a
couple of reasons! Just like great
kings and presidents, The Lord has
a plan and a goal for his visit here.
He knew they had not had children
and were exceedingly old! He
wanted to also know where Sarah
was, so she could also hear this
message.*



Abraham prepares with his wife,

¹² Therefore Sarah laughed to

herself, saying, after I have become aged shall I have pleasure and delight, my lord (husband), being old also?

¹³ And the Lord asked Abraham, Why did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I really bear a child when I am so old?

¹⁴ Is anything too hard or too wonderful ^[b]for the Lord? At the appointed time, when the season [for her delivery] comes around, I will return to you and Sarah shall have borne a son.

The Lord gave the message and declared life into his wife to have a son by the next year! At this point Sarah had little faith. The lord



admonishes her with the beautiful message: 'Is anything too hard for the Lord?'

¹⁵ Then Sarah denied it, saying, I did not laugh; for she was afraid. And He said, No, but you did laugh.

The Lord doesn't mind confronting a woman! He wanted to bless her in fact.

¹⁶ The men rose up from there and faced toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

¹⁷ And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham [My friend and servant] what I am going to do,

¹⁸ Since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed through him and shall bless themselves by him?

¹⁹ For I have known (chosen, acknowledged) him [as My own], so that he may

teach and command his children and the sons of his house after him to keep the way of the Lord and to do what is just and righteous, so that the Lord may bring Abraham what He has promised him.

Part two of the visit begins and the two angels move towards the exit 'door' to visit Sodom. They are all up in the hill country of Canaan, North West or west of Sodom and Gomorrah.

I particularly have always loved this verse 19, as it explains at least one reason why the Lord chose Abraham! He knew Abraham would be faithful to teach his children and descendants the 'way of the Lord'. Abraham was sufficiently enough dropped out of the system or the world that God knew he could be trusted to keep his family on the same track. God

looks at us and knows our hearts and what our desires are. If He can see we truly love Him and keep His way, then He will trust us with many great blessings!

²⁰ And the Lord said, because the shriek [of the sins] of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is exceedingly grievous,

²¹ I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether [as vilely and wickedly] as is the cry of it which has come to Me; and if not, I will know.

Apparently the Lord was going to investigate the situation of the infamous city (cities) of Sodom and Gomorrah.*

²² Now the [two] men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord.

Prior to this meeting with Jesus (John 8:58), Abraham's nephew, Lot, had moved to Sodom, some years before. They had both come

into the land of Canaan some years previously, (that story of their separating in this new land, is in all of Genesis chapter 13!)

Abraham appeals to the Lord.

²³ And Abraham came close and said, Will You destroy the righteous (those upright and in right standing with God) together with the wicked?

²⁴ Suppose there are in the city fifty righteous; will You destroy the place and not spare it for [the sake of] the fifty righteous in it?

²⁵ Far be it from You to do such a thing—to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as do the wicked! Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth execute judgment and do righteously?

²⁶ And the Lord said, If I find in the city of Sodom fifty righteous (upright and in right standing with God), I will spare the whole place for their sake.

²⁷ Abraham answered, Behold now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord.

²⁸ If five of the fifty righteous should be lacking—will You destroy the whole city for lack of five? He said, If I find forty-five, I will not destroy it.

²⁹ And [Abraham] spoke to Him yet again, and said, suppose [only] forty shall be found there. And He said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

³⁰ Then [Abraham] said to Him, Oh, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak [again]. Suppose [only] thirty shall be found there. And He answered, I will not do it if I find thirty there.

³¹ And [Abraham] said, Behold now, I have taken upon myself to speak [again] to the Lord. Suppose [only] twenty shall be found there. And [the Lord] replied, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

³² And he said, oh, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again only this once. Suppose ten [righteous people] shall be found there. And [the Lord] said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

As this negotiation goes on between human Abraham and God Almighty, we see probably that it is slowly dawning on Abraham, that for Lot to survive the imminent destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, there would possibly be not many in Lot's family after all who qualified as being 'righteous! The Lord knows who are righteous, and He even condescends to spare a very wicked city (ies) just because of a very tiny percentage of 'righteous' people, who might be living there! This is truly amazing and shows us how God stoops to our level, and also possibly why He has not destroyed a great deal of other cities or lands up to this point! The Lord was very fair and patient with dear Abraham, and finally the negotiation went down to just ten righteous people. Abraham in a way, was very much like a lawyer, bringing to the Lord's attention that He was as judge of all the earth, going to do the right thing, right?!

³³ And the Lord went His way when He had finished speaking with Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

It's all over! They made a 'deal' we can say, and how wonderful to see a human like Abraham, obviously a human of tremendous importance to the Lord, to see Abraham reworking his thoughts and putting some other options to God is truly brilliant to see. Praise the Lord. 50 people, 45 people, 40 people, 30 people, 20 people, and finally 10 people.

Footnotes

Genesis 18:10 One of the three guests was the Lord, and since God the Father was never seen in bodily form (John 1:18), only the "Angel of the covenant," Christ Himself, can be meant here; see especially Gen. 18:22 and also the footnote on Gen. 16:7.

Genesis 18:14 The word "Lord" as applied to God is obviously

the most important word in the Bible, for it occurs oftener than any other important word—by actual count more than 5,000 times. Nothing is "too hard or too wonderful" for Him when He is truly made Lord.

Genesis chapter 19.

19 It was evening when the two angels came to Sodom. Lot was sitting at Sodom's [city] gate. Seeing them, Lot rose up to meet them and bowed to the ground.

Lot, who was also wealthy, as we can see in earlier chapters, had moved to Sodom. Why did he do that? Originally he only moved to more fertile land in the valleys for his abundant livestock, rather than stay in the harsher mountainous agricultural future of his uncle Abraham. We see this decision in Genesis 13 also. However eventually, it appears he traded in his flocks or perhaps some of them to become a leader and judge in Sodom. Shocking really, when you consider his upbringing and the example he had grown up with by observing Abraham all his life! I would say Lot was in at least some form of a backslidden condition, spiritually

² And he said, My lords, turn aside, I beg of you, into your servant's house and spend the night and bathe your feet. Then you can arise early and go on your way. But they said, No, we will spend the night in the square.

Lot shows the same form of traditional hospitality or at least offers it to the two angels.

³ **[Lot] entreated and urged them** greatly until they yielded and [with him] entered his house. And he made them a dinner [with drinking] and had unleavened bread which he baked, and they ate.

However we can see that one characteristic attitude of Lot's personality is that he was 'pushy' as we say in modern English, a further example is coming in a

minute



⁴ But before they lay down, the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old, all the men from every quarter, surrounded the house.

⁵ And they called to Lot and said, Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know (be intimate with) them.

It didn't take long for news to spread to the rest of the city, since Lot had met them right at the city gates' which is like our 'downtown' of modern cities. These men wanted to have sex with the angels, thinking they were 'men' as angels often work incognito! What a disgusting thought! Being a sodomite, means you have allowed an unclean spirit to possess you and affect your behaviour at will. This is very clear.

⁶ And Lot went out of the door to the men and shut the door after him

⁷ And said, I beg of you, my brothers, do not behave so wickedly.

⁸ Look now, I have two daughters who are virgins; let me, I beg of you, bring them out to you, and you can do as you please with them. But only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.

Lot, tries to fix this problem in his own mind and strength, even offering his two(teenage?) daughters to these foul creatures. Why would he even be living there? He must have compromise a lot of his received beliefs in the Lord to make this step downwards. Lot compromised a lot!

⁹ But they said, Stand back! And

they said, This fellow came in to live here temporarily, and now he presumes to be [our] judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them. So they rushed at *and* pressed violently against Lot and came close to breaking down the door.

Lot couldn't stop the onslaught and violence ensued!

¹⁰ But the men [the angels] reached out and pulled Lot into the house to them and shut the door after him.



¹¹ And they struck the men who were at the door of the house with blindness [which dazzled them], from the youths to the old men, so that they wearied themselves [groping] to find the door.

Angel power at work, solves it all immediately.

¹² And the [two] men asked Lot, Have you any others here—sons-in-law or your sons or your daughters? Whomever you have in the city, bring them out of this place,

¹³ For we will spoil *and* destroy [Sodom]; for the outcry *and* shriek against its people has grown great before the Lord, and He has sent us to destroy it.

Here the angels had now perceived the extreme wickedness of the situation, and really had already been given free reign earlier by the Lord to physically destroy the cities. Now that judgement is imminent, we have to always, like these angels, act quickly, this is visible in many other Bible stories. The time to move and 'get out of Dodge' (or Sodom) has come. HURRY HURRY AND HURRY UP!

¹⁴ And Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, Up, get out of this place, for the Lord will spoil *and* destroy this city! But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be [only] joking.

Don't be surprised, that if you are or have drifted away from the Lord that other people will not take you seriously. Lot was finally getting a sense of urgency.

¹⁵ When morning came, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, Arise, take your wife and two daughters who are here [and be off], lest you [too] be consumed *and* swept away in the iniquity *and* punishment of the city.

(midnight had passed and dawn was only a few hours away, the time for destruction, was at the door.)

¹⁶ But while he lingered, the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, for the Lord was merciful to him; and they brought him forth and **set him outside the city and left him there.**

¹⁷ **And when they had brought them forth, they said, Escape for your life! Do not look behind you or stop anywhere in ^{1a}the whole valley; escape to the mountains [of Moab], lest you be consumed.**

Here in verse 16, we see the great mercy of the Lord and the actual physical hands-on intervention of the angels. The angels got four people out of Sodom, no not ten. The sons-in-law didn't make it, and that would only have been six altogether. The angles job was firstly to get the righteous out of the city and here they literally placed them OUTSIDE and told them to do what? Sit back and watch the destruction, it's going to be so cool? No, it was flee to the mountains and don't look back at your old world! Thank God for clear instructions in times of great danger.

¹⁸ And Lot said to them, Oh, not that, my lords!

¹⁹ Behold now, your servant has found favour in your sight, and you have magnified your kindness and mercy to me in saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest the evil overtake me, and I die.

²⁰ See now yonder city; it is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Oh, let me escape to it! Is it not a little one? And my life will be saved!

²¹ And [the angel] said to him, See, I have yielded to your entreaty concerning this thing also; I will not destroy this city of which you have spoken.

²² Make haste and take refuge there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar [little].

Here we see Lot's 'pushiness' again. Instead of just saluting the angels and saying 'yes, sir', he had his own stubborn mind controlling him, which was probably his life-long problem. The angel yielded to Lot's request, knowing the mercy and instructions of the Lord in this case.

²³ The sun had risen over the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

Lot made it out.

²⁴ Then the **Lord** rained on Sodom and on Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of the heavens.

²⁵ He overthrew, destroyed, *and* ended those cities, and all the valley and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

The Lord immediately rained the destruction down, without delay. When God is ready for a major destruction, after many years in some cases of patience or observing people's sins, that judgment comes so fast and strong, that there is no way to escape. We don't know the population exactly of these cities; they vary between tens of thousands to even a million plus! The Lord 'ended' those cities, just as He did other cities in the

future of certain empires, like Babylon and Nineveh, and quite a few others. I encourage you to research your Bible about this.

26 But [Lot's] wife looked back from behind him, and she ^[b] became a pillar of salt.



27 Abraham went up early the next morning to the place where he [only the day before] had stood before the Lord. (Only 24 hours had passed!)

28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the valley, and saw, and behold, the smoke of ^[c]the country went up like the smoke of a furnace.

29 When God ravaged and destroyed the cities of the plain [of Siddim], He [earnestly] remembered Abraham [imprinted and fixed him indelibly on His mind], and He sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when He overthrew the cities where Lot lived.

We could speak a lot about Lot's wife. There are so many lessons, I ask you to hear this incredible and very feeding sermon on this link, it will potentially change your life! This dear preacher nails everything and every lesson we can learn about this woman, and apply to our lives today. His wife didn't make it, for numerous reasons!

[Remember Lot's Wife \(Luke 17:32\) - Charles Spurgeon Sermon](#)

30 And Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him, for he feared to dwell in Zoar; and he lived in a cave, he and his two daughters.

The end of his backslidden efforts to live in the world, Lot finally

realises that the angels were correct and moves out of the mini city of Zoar, with what's left of his family, and gets up to a mountain cave.

31 The elder said to the younger, Our father is aging, and there is not a man on earth to live with us in the customary way.

32 Come, let us make our father drunk with wine, and we will lie with him, so that we may preserve offspring (our race) through our father.



33 And they made their father drunk with wine that night, and the older went in and lay with her father; and he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she arose.

34 Then the next day the firstborn said to the younger, See here, I lay last night with my father; let us make him drunk with wine tonight also, and then you go in and lie with him, so that we may preserve offspring (our race) through our father.

35 And they made their father drunk with wine again that night, and the younger arose and lay with him; and he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she arose.

36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.

37 The older bore a son, and named him Moab [of a father]; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.

38 The younger also bore a son and named him Ben-ammi [son of my people]; he is the father of the Ammonites to this day.

Gosh and more gosh! These two daughters did think that the end of humanity had come, from what they had gone through. Their plan to survive into the future was to have sex with their own father, and obtain his seeds to continue life on earth.

Their actions created the peoples of Moab and Ammon today, part of what we all the country of Jordan. See link below.

Footnotes

Genesis 19:17 The valley which Lot had once so much coveted (Gen. 13:10, 11).

Genesis 19:26 Lot's wife not only "looked back" to where her heart's interests were, but she lingered behind; and probably overtaken by the fire and brimstone, her dead body became incrustated with salt, which, in that salt-packed area now the Dead Sea, grew larger with more incrustations—a veritable "pillar of salt." In fact, at the southern end of the Dead Sea there is a mountain of table salt called Jebel Usdum, "Mount of Sodom." It is about six miles long, three miles wide, and 1,000 feet high. It is covered with a crust of earth several feet thick, but the rest of the mountain is said to be solid salt (George T. B. Davis, *Rebuilding Palestine According to Prophecy*). Somewhere in this area Lot's wife looked back to where her treasures and her heart were, and "she became a pillar of salt." Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32).

Genesis 19:28 Not only were Sodom and Gomorrah blazing ruins, but also Admah and Zeboiim (Deut. 29:23; Hos. 11:8), as well as all the towns in the Valley of Siddim; Zoar was the lone exception.

So there you have it dear brethren, or at least a tiny portion of it. Let us live our lives on the mountain with Abraham and trust God through the hardships of life which sometimes come to us.

The Lord knows all about each person, he knows the Sarahs and the Abrahams and all about the future. How much better to watch from afar and behold the

destruction of the wicked from the high mountain than to live in the valleys of greater ease and luxuries and the things of this world.

Psalm 91: 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;
Prioritise your relationship with 'The Lord' and trust in Him.
Sarah had a son, Isaac, then the rest of Abraham's seed came; Jacob, then his 12 sons, including the great Joseph who became

second ruler of Egypt at the age of 30!

It always pays to put God first and follow the examples of those who have gone before us and lived their lives fully for God and Jesus! Amen.

With much love,
Jerry and the WCF Team.

[when did Abraham live? - Google Search](#)

[where is sodom and gomorrah](#)

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[Sulfur Balls of Sodom and](#)

[Gomorrah - YouTube](#) I highly

recommend all this man's archaeological videos. Here he finds the city walls of Sodom and many sulphur balls still embedded in the earth.

[why did Lot move to Sodom? -](#)

[Google Search](#)

[Surviving Sodom: Four Lessons](#)

[From Lot – JD Greear Ministries](#)

an excellent and detailed message containing many similar lessons to this edition today! Well done!

[Archaeology and the Destruction of Sodom | Aish](#)

a fascinating breakdown of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as scientific basic study of the temperatures created by the sulphur 'rocks'.

[where did Lot's wife coe from -](#)

[Google Search](#) this article explains

that it is believed she also came from Ur of The Chaldees where Lot and Abraham came from.

[Moab and Ammon today - Search](#)

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