



Women's Bible Study

Remember to begin your study with prayer and be open to The Holy Spirit.

Context - In Genesis 13 we observed that Abram and Lot separated because of strife between them and their herders. Lot moved east and pitched his tents near Sodom. It was known at that time (Gen 13:13) that the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD. Notice that Lot later moved into the city of Sodom and was later carried off during the battle of the kings in chapter 14. Abram along with his allies had to rescue Lot from this captivity. Nothing is said about Lot again until after God establishes the covenant of circumcision with Abraham and reconfirms His promise of a son in chapter 18. Also in this chapter we find Abraham intercedes for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah after God tells him of His plan to destroy the city. This turn of events shows us that there are times when the eternal destiny of men and women depend on an intercessor's prayer despite their deserved judgement. God wanted to draw out of Abraham a heart that cared for people made in the image of God. By this we see that Abraham could be conformed into the image of His Son (Romans 8:29) who is our intercessor (Hebrews 7:25). Lot on the other hand demonstrates a result of decision making and life without God at the center, advising and guiding our every move. He ends up in one troublesome situation after another.

Sodom and Gomorrah were politically allied with three other cities, namely, Admah, Zeboiim, and Bela or Zoar. These five cities were known as the "cities of the plain". They were situated along the coastline of the Jordan River to the south of Canaan. The coastline of the Jordan River is now believed to be the Dead Sea. This place was well-watered and green enough to raise animals.

Genesis 19:1 - The two angels that came to Sodom are likely the same angels who appeared to Abraham earlier with the Lord (Gen. 18:1-2, 18:22).

Hospitality toward strangers was generally considered a moral imperative in the ancient Near East. This honor code meant that Lot could not turn the strangers over to the men of Sodom. In a patriarchal culture, daughters would have been viewed in lesser terms than Lot's male guests. However, Mesopotamian law codes parallel to biblical laws make it clear that violating a betrothed woman—which Lot's daughters were (Gen 19:14)—was a crime punishable by death. According to even ancient Near Eastern customs, then, Lot understood just how evil offering his daughters to the men was, but he may have considered it a lesser evil.¹

he rose to meet them and bowed himself A gesture of hospitality in the ancient Near East.²

Genesis 19:5 - we may know them The men of Sodom seek to humiliate Lot's guests by raping them.

While the attempted rape is terrible, other OT passages (Lev 18:22, 24; 20:13, 23) also indicate that homosexuality was regarded as a repugnant Canaanite practice. In addition, Ezek 16:49 indicates that Sodom also had a reputation for excess and injustice. Sodom and Gomorrah is regularly used in the OT as an example of general wickedness and lawlessness (e.g., Jer 23:14).³

¹ John D. Barry et al., [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 19:8.

² John D. Barry et al., [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 19:1.

³ John D. Barry et al., [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 19:5.



Read Genesis chapter 19, highlight repeated words and phrases, and anything that stands out to you, then, keeping the above context in mind, answer the following questions:

Observation: We will look at the text in two sections. Ask yourself what is going in each chapter? Who, what, where, when, how and why?

Section 1 - God Rescues Lot – Genesis 19:1-29

1. Write down the **main** characters (Who)
 - a. Two Angels
 - b. Lot
 - c. All the men both young and old
2. Where did the events take place (Where?)
 - a. The gate of Sodom
 - b. Lot's House
3. How did Lot interact with the angels, what did he say and do, what seems unusual to you?
 - Lot pressed the angels to stay in his home out of danger.
 - He showed hospitality
 - Lot protected the angels from the men of the city
 - He offered his daughters as a protection for the angels – This seems really odd, and awful.
 - When the angels protected Lot, he resisted their plan.
 - Lot argued with the angel's plan for him and decided his plan was better. – How many times do I do this to the Lord?
 - V. 16 "But he lingered." The angels had to physically remove him from the city.
 - He fled to a city that he feared. Is this trading one known evil for another because he is familiar with it and cannot see the better plan? He could not have feared that the angels would destroy Zoar because they said they would wait till he arrived safely.
4. How did the angels interact with Lot, what did they say and do?
 - They physically pulled him back into the house for his safety.
 - They struck the men with blindness – displaying their power. – how often do we see God's power at work, but then act in ways that demonstrate disbelief.
 - They instructed Lot to gather his family and leave before they would destroy the place. They warned him of what was to happen. They pressed him just as he had pressed the angels. They had to tell him 6 times (display of God's grace and patience) – God tells us what will happen beforehand, do we take him seriously?
 - They protected Lot despite his arguments, resistance, disbelief, because of the belief of Abraham.
 - The angels destroyed the city as soon as Lot and his family were safe – This is God's wrath upon the sinful.
5. How did Lot's sons-in-law react to the angels' instructions to leave Sodom?

His sons-in-law did not believe him and stayed behind to their destruction. How do we not miss the call for salvation?



Until now, Lot's behavior hasn't reflected a life centered on God's will, so their skepticism comes as no surprise.⁴

6. What were the angels' commands to Lot in vs. 12-29?
 - V. 12 "...bring them out of this place" (sons-in-law, sons, daughters, anyone?)
 - V. 15 "...the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment..."
 - V. 17 "...Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away."
 - V. 22 "Escape there quickly..."

7. What was Lot's answer to the angels in v. 18-20? And what did the angels say in v. 22?
 - V. 18 "...Oh, no, my lords."
 - V. 19 "...your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in **saving my life**. But **I cannot escape** to the hills, lest disaster overtake me and I die.
 - V. 20 "...this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there – is it not a little one? – and my life will be saved!" – *What he acknowledges their mercy, that he has their favor, that they are saving his life, yet he denies it all at the same time. Do we do this?*
 - V. 22 "Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." – *they are prohibited by God's grace to act until he is safe. We need to know what God says, what He means, and trust Him for his protection as the days draw to a close.*

Section 2 – Genesis 19:30-38

1. What drove Lot's decisions?

Fear, disbelief, being embroiled in the culture of Sodom after a while it becomes normal.

2. What were the hallmarks of Lot's behavior, did this behavior open himself up, or others to sin? He resisted God's rescue from sin and death. He relied on self and not God, He reached for the small town of Zoar rather than for God. He could not see that living in Sodom had eroded his awareness of his condition and the condition of the people who lived there. He chose to live among the wicked and which puts his family in danger, as well as welcoming the moral decay to mix with his family (daughters) He reached for the wrong things as the solution for his security.

He lived in fear and hid in a cave, therefore, modeling this behavior to his children.

3. What did Lot's daughter's plan? Does it remind you of anyone we have studied so far?

They took it upon themselves to ensure the family line lived on rather than praying about it and trusting God would provide.

Eve – she believed the lesser creature of the garden for knowledge and wisdom. Sarai believed she had to take action to make God's promise of a son come true, so she abused

⁴ John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 19:14.



her slave as the daughters abused their father. Abraham was complacent and listened to Sarai on the matter. Lot was complacent and lost self-control which allowed his daughters to abuse him.

4. Lot's daughters bore a child each, what were their names?

Look up the meaning of the first-born son's name Moab = "of his father"

Look up the meaning of the second-born son's name, Ben-ammi = Son of my people

What do you find interesting about how the chapter ends? What conclusions can you draw from the text?

Moab is a common setting in the bible Numbers 21-Joshua 3

- The kings of Sihon and Og were defeated in Moab.
- Balaam attempted to curse the Israelites upon the order of Balak, king of Moab Numbers 21:21-35; 22:1-24:25
- Moses reviewed the law and shifted leadership from himself to Joshua on the plains of Moab.
- Judges 3:12–31 recounts the oppression of the Israelites under Eglon, king of Moab, and depicts the tension between these two entities at that time. This tension may have carried over from their interactions on the east side of the Jordan River prior to the Israelites' entry into Canaan. Second Kings 3 describes the international relations between Judah, Israel, Edom, and Moab in the ninth century bc.⁵
- David entrusted his parents to the king of Moab while he dealt with Saul's hostility (1 Sam 22:3–4).
- Solomon took wives from Moab and implemented practices involving their god, Chemosh, which cost him his kingdom (1 Kgs 11:1, 7, 33).
- The first chapter of Ruth took place in Moab, and one of the primary messages of the book is that the genealogical line of King David is through Ruth the Moabitess.
- The poetic and prophetic genres treat Moab as an enemy along with other neighboring states (e.g., Psa 60:8; Isa 15–16; Jer 48)⁶

Interpretation:

1. Abraham pleaded with the Lord to spare the city for the sake of the righteous according to chapter 18, and according to the text in chapter 19, how many righteous people were in the city? Maybe 10. Lot, his wife, his two daughters, maybe servants.
2. Did Lot know the men at the gate were angels, if not then, when did he figure it out? I don't think he knew who they were since he felt like he had to protect them. When in fact the angels were there to rescue him.
3. Did Lot know that the angel's safety was in peril? what is the evidence to support your conclusion? And what does this tell you about Lot's life decisions and how he protected his family? Yes, Lot

⁵ Ronnie Adam Dodd, "Moab." ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

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knew their safety was in peril as he knew the culture in the city since he lived among them day to day. It was also known this city was wicked

Yes, Lot said to the men of the city, “do not do this wicked thing. Lot insisted the angels stay with him. V. 3.

Lot did not make wise decisions; he knowingly placed his family in a culture that was wicked and sinful according to Gen 13:13. Gen 14:10 the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled from the battle and allowed Lot to be carried off, it was Abram who rescued him not the king of the city he lived in.

4. How bad is the moral state of Sodom? (Read Leviticus 18:22-24 detestable (a disgusting thing) sexual sin; 20:13, 23 same sex relations is punishable by death, It fills God with disgust; Ezekiel 16:49; Jeremiah 23:14 Sodom is the standard for evil and wickedness; Romans 1:26-28 to support your answer) Those who do such things deserve death
5. What happened to Lot’s wife? And why? She disobeyed the angels command; her heart was in Sodom and not on her redemption. She did not believe in the God who sent the angels nor understood she was being released from a sinful existence.
6. What does Lot’s responses to the angels’ commands indicate about Lot, what is ironic, where was his heart? He hears their words but does not understand. Lot was trying to protect the angels from destruction when in fact they were there to rescue him from destruction. He just didn’t comprehend what the truth was. His heart was in his self sufficiency even though it was a self sufficiency that was doomed.
7. What do Lot’s daughters believe about their future, cite the verses that support your conclusions, does their belief explain their behavior or justify it (make it ok)? They believed that their future was solely in their hands, v. 31-35. Their belief demonstrated by their parents and adopted by them explains their behavior but it does not justify it.
8. Was Abrahams intercessory prayer answered? Yes. His faith and petition saved Lot from destruction.

Application:

1. There are many pressures to accept the ways of the world today, to shame you into submission, to intimidate you into acceptance. Where do you pitch your tent? It is close to Godly influences or wicked influences, or have you moved into the city, so to speak, what drove your decision? And finally, what can you do to pitch your tent close to Jesus?
2. Do you have friends, family or acquaintances that have made poor decisions in their life that you have given up praying for or do you continue to intercede on their behalf? What drives your decision?



3. Does God ever waver from his standards? Thinking about what you have read in Genesis so far, read also Luke 17:26 – 30. Note what God is teaching you right now through this study.

4. Has God brought you out of a sinful state, or is He trying right now and you are delaying submitting to his correction?