

## Genesis 19

Verses 1-3

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting at the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he stood up to meet them and bowed down *with his face to the ground*. <sup>2</sup> And he said, “Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant’s house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.” They said, “No, but we shall spend the night in the public square.” <sup>3</sup> Yet he strongly urged them, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting at the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he stood up to meet them and bowed down *with his face to the ground*.

Lot sitting at the gate meant he was a leader of the city. We also know that Lot was a rich man because he and Abraham had to separate because their flocks were too large for the two men to stay in the same area.

Peter refers to Lot as being righteous.

See 2 Peter 2:7

<sup>6</sup> and *if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made *them* an example of what is coming for the ungodly;* <sup>7</sup> and *if He rescued righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the perverted conduct of unscrupulous people* <sup>8</sup> (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by *their lawless deeds*),

<sup>2</sup> And he said, “Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant’s house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.” They said, “No, but we shall spend the night in the public square.”

Lot knew these men would not be safe staying in the public square and being righteous he invited them to stay with him.

**<sup>3</sup> Yet he strongly urged them, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.**

Lot extended hospitality to the strangers and prepared a “feast” for them much like Abraham did when the three men arrived.

Verses 4 - 8

**<sup>4</sup> Before they lay down, the men of the city—the men of Sodom—surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; <sup>5</sup> and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.” <sup>6</sup> But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup> and said, “Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly. <sup>8</sup> Now look, I have two daughters who have not had relations with *any* man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do not do anything to these men, because they have come under the shelter of my roof.”**

**<sup>4</sup> Before they lay down, the men of the city—the men of Sodom—surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; <sup>5</sup> and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.”**

Lot knew these men would not be safe in the square but having all these men show up at his door had to be a surprise. With him being a leader in the town he would have heard if something like this had happened prior to this event.

Whether this was a complete surprise or not this had to be a terrifying time for Lot. He was responsible for the safety of these two men and they were in great danger.

**<sup>6</sup> But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup> and said, “Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly.**

Lot refers to these men as his brothers but it is clear that that was not the case. So why would a wealthy man who has a lot of options in life remain in Sodom knowing what he knew about these people. It definitely wouldn't be a good place to raise two daughters and it says in 2 Peter 2:8 that he was “**tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds**”. So why did he stay?

**<sup>8</sup> Now look, I have two daughters who have not had relations with *any* man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do not do anything to these men, because they have come under the shelter of my roof.”**

The obligation of hospitality is no excuse for offering his daughters to these godless men but perhaps he knew that they had no desire for his daughters and they would not harm them. However, that is not a chance that any father should take. For those who might argue that Lot's attitude was the result of a male centric society then why did Jacob's sons kill the men of Shechem for dishonoring their sister?

Verses 9-11

**<sup>9</sup> But they said, “Get out of the way!” They also said, “This one came in as a foreigner, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them!” So they pressed hard against Lot and moved forward to break the door. <sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> Then they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, from the small to the great, so that they became weary of *trying* to find the doorway.**

**<sup>9</sup> But they said, “Get out of the way!” They also said, “This one came in as a foreigner, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them!” So they pressed hard against Lot and moved forward to break the door.**

If Lot thought that he had any influence in Sodom because he was a leader of the city he was wrong. They were ready to abuse and harm him.

**<sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> Then they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, from the small to the great, so that they became weary of *trying* to find the door.**

Given the size and anger of this crowd the only reason Lot was able to get back into the house was because the two men were angels of the Lord.

Lot had entertained angels unaware but after they struck the men with blindness this was no longer possible.

Verses 12-14

**<sup>12</sup> Then the *two* men said to Lot, “Whom else do you have here? A son-in-law and your sons and daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring *them* out of the place; <sup>13</sup> for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it.” <sup>14</sup> So 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 is destroying the city.” But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be joking.**

**<sup>12</sup> Then the *two* men said to Lot, “Whom else do you have here? A son-in-law and your sons and daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring *them* out of the place;**

As far as we know the only people that Lot talked too were his two sons-in-law. Because of his wealth and position as a leader in Sodom he must have had many workers, friends and other acquaintances but nothing is mentioned about Lot going to any of these people. However, we know that God would not destroy the righteous with the wicked so while it is sad that so many had to die we also know it was based on God's righteous judgment.

**<sup>13</sup> for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it.”**

When people leave no room for repentance the only option that remains is their destruction. This was true during the time of the global flood and now it applies to the cities around the Dead Sea.

**<sup>14</sup> So 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 is destroying the city.” But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be joking.**

The two virgin daughters of Lot were engaged to be married but when he talked to his sons-in-law they did not take him seriously. Their inability to see the danger cost them their lives and the two daughters of Lot were also affected in a very negative way (they will have a child by their father).

Verses 15-17

**<sup>15</sup> When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.” <sup>16</sup> But he hesitated. So the men grasped his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, because the compassion of the Lord was upon him; and they brought him out and put him outside the city. <sup>17</sup> When they had brought them outside, one said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the surrounding area; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away.”**

**<sup>15</sup> When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.”**

Because verse 15 says “your two daughters who are here”, some commentators believe that Lot may have had other daughters besides the two virgin daughters. That is possible but it is interesting that the same commentators don’t suggest that Lot might have had another wife. After all it does say, “Take your wife who is here”.

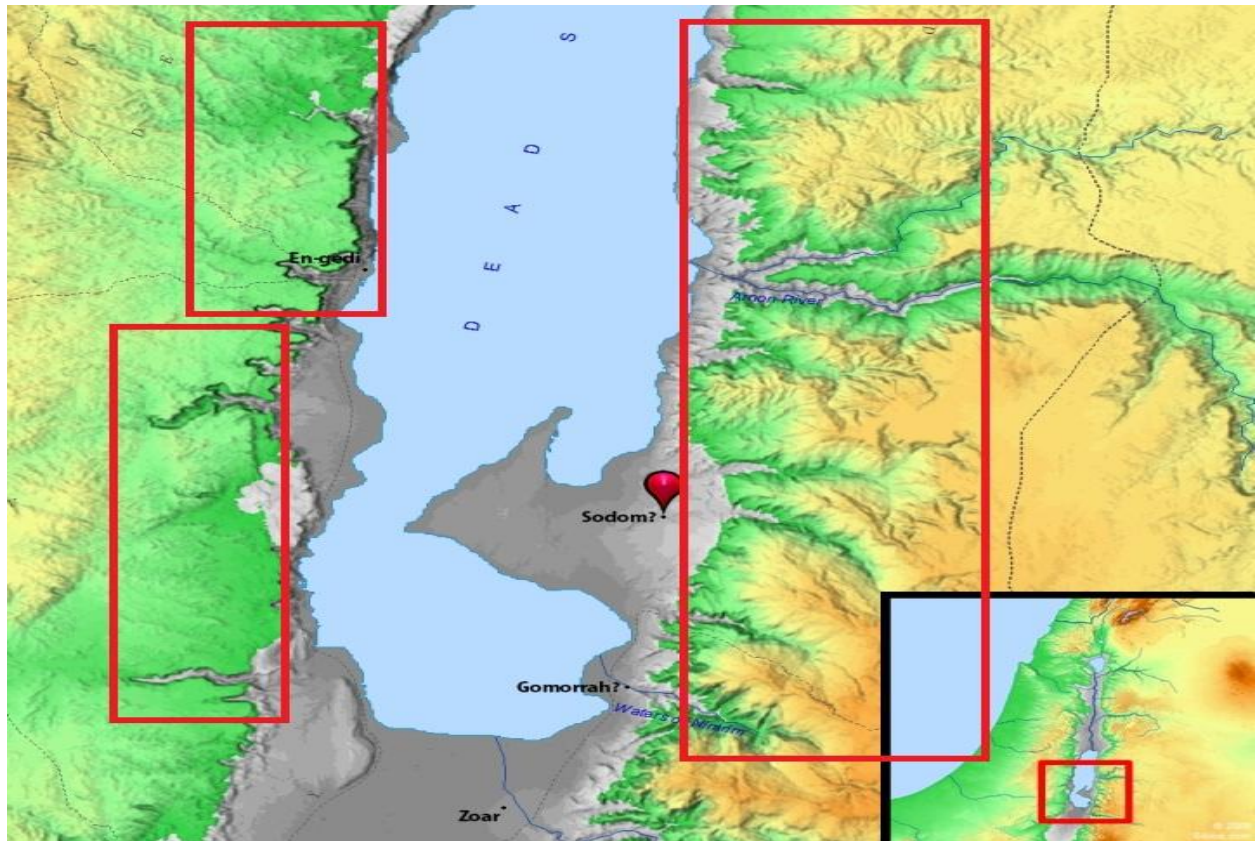
**<sup>16</sup> But he hesitated. So the men grasped his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, because the compassion of the Lord was upon him; and they brought him out and put him outside the city.**

We are not told why Lot hesitated but if he did have other daughters that would be a valid reason for his hesitation. It would be very difficult to leave any child behind knowing the fate of the city.

**<sup>17</sup> When they had brought them outside, one said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the surrounding area; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away.”**

As mentioned before, we don’t know the exact location of Sodom and Gomorrah but there are mountains on either side of the Dead Sea.

See Map 1905 and pic 1906



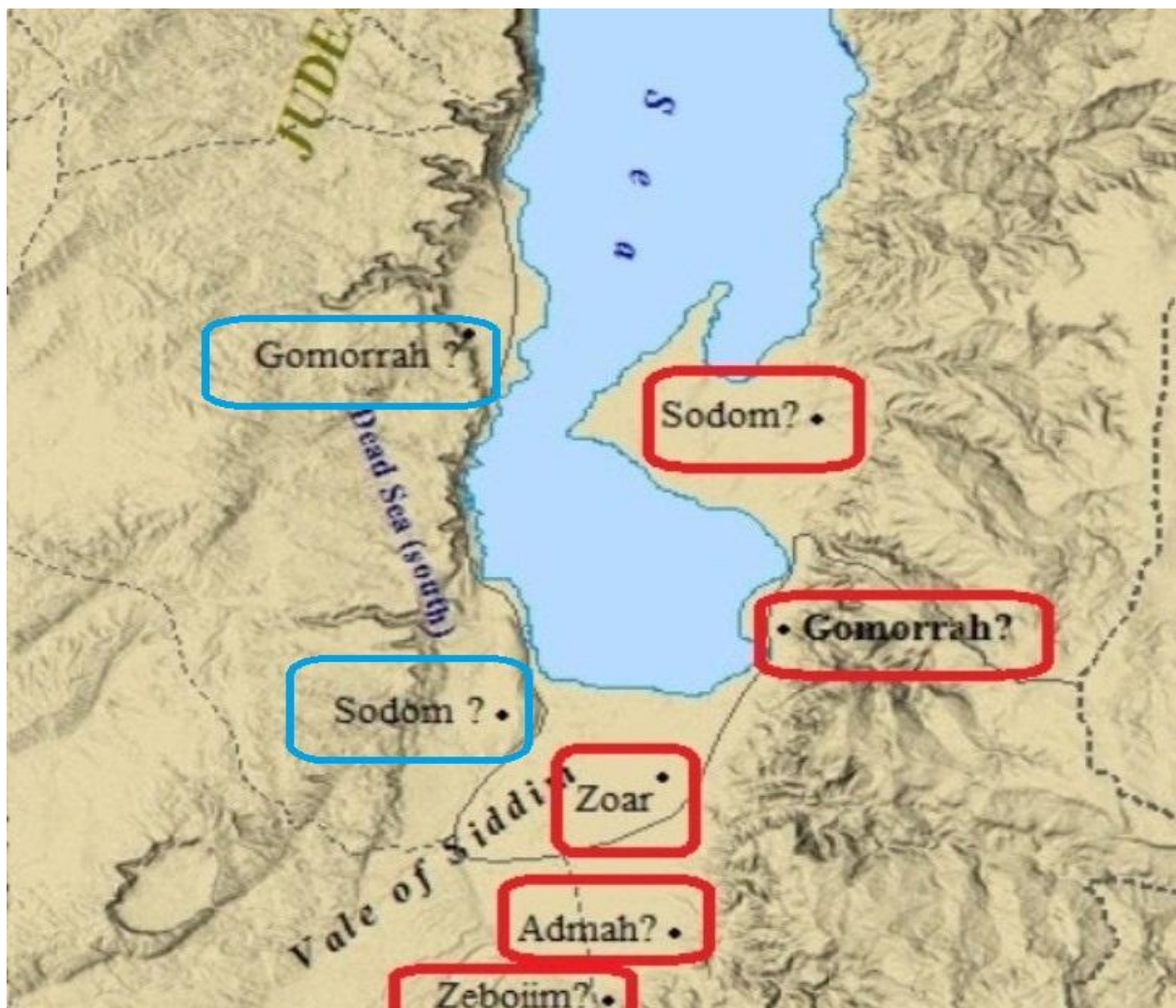


Verses 18-22

<sup>18</sup> But Lot said to them, “Oh no, my lords! <sup>19</sup> Now behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your compassion, which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, for the disaster will overtake me and I will die; <sup>20</sup> now behold, this town is near enough to flee to, and it is small. Please, let me escape there (is it not small?) so that my life may be saved.” <sup>21</sup> And he said to him, “Behold, I grant you this request also, not to overthrow the town of which you have spoken. <sup>22</sup> Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” Therefore the town was named Zoar.

During the time of Abraham there were five cities in the area of the Dead Sea.

See Map 1910



The location of these towns is still in question.

## Verses 23-26

<sup>23</sup> The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. <sup>24</sup> Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Lord out of heaven, <sup>25</sup> and He overthrew those cities, and all the surrounding area, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. <sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife, from behind him, looked *back*, and she became a pillar of salt.

<sup>24</sup> Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Lord out of heaven,

In the past God had used both natural and supernatural means to judge mankind. In the case of the global flood it was both a natural event (water flooded the world) and a supernatural event because God warned Noah about what was about to happen and He provided a means for 8 souls and countless animals to be saved from those waters.

Most likely the brimstone and fire was not a natural phenomenon but even if it was this was still a supernatural event because God warned Lot that it would happen and provided a means for Lot and his daughters to escape the judgment. In addition, we see angels blinding the town's people so they cannot harm those inside the house and later they physically grabbed hold of those who were hesitating and helped them leave.

<sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife, from behind him, looked *back*, and she became a pillar of salt.

God was doing everything He could to save her, even sending angels to take her by the hand and lead her out of the house. But in her heart she longed for something that was not right and God did not let her survive the judgment.

## Verse 27-29

<sup>27</sup> Now Abraham got up early in the morning *and went* to the place where he had stood before the Lord; <sup>28</sup> and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the surrounding area; and behold, he saw the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace. <sup>29</sup> So it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the surrounding area, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the destruction, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.



<sup>28</sup> and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the surrounding area; and behold, he saw the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace.

It is interesting that nothing remains of these cities. If they are found it will only be a thin layer of black soot and dirt.

See 2 Peter 2:6

<sup>6</sup> and *if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made *them* an example of what is coming for the ungodly;*

This is very different from many cities in Israel that have been built upon the destroyed remains of a previous city. This is the case for any city that begins with “Tel”.

<sup>29</sup> So it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the surrounding area, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the destruction, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

This event shows us how God can protect and save the righteous while bringing judgment and destruction on sinners. This was Abraham’s concern when God told him that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Remember how Abraham questioned God; “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”

Verses 30-35

<sup>30</sup> Now Lot went up from Zoar with his two daughters and stayed in the mountains, because he was afraid to stay in Zoar; and he stayed in a cave, he and his two daughters. <sup>31</sup> Then the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to have relations with us according to the custom of all the earth. <sup>32</sup> Come, let’s make our father drink wine, and let’s sleep with him so that we may keep our family alive through our father.” <sup>33</sup> So they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn went in and slept with her father; and he did not know when she lay down or got up. <sup>34</sup> On the following day, the firstborn said to the younger, “Look, I slept last night with my father; let’s make him drink wine tonight too, then you go in and sleep with him, so that we may keep our family alive through our father.” <sup>35</sup> So they had their father drink wine that night too, and the younger got up and slept with him; and he did not know when she lay down or got up.

**<sup>30</sup> Now Lot went up from Zoar with his two daughters and stayed in the mountains, because he was afraid to stay in Zoar; and he stayed in a cave, he and his two daughters.**

Lot had received divine permission to dwell in Zoar but even this small town made him fearful so he fled to the mountains and stayed in a cave. This may have relieved him of his fear but it was not a healthy situation for his daughters.

**<sup>31</sup> Then the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to have relations with us according to the custom of all the earth.”**

They had moved to a very secluded area and his daughters had no opportunity to meet a man. We are not told if the daughters ever talked to their father about this matter but Lot should have realized how his fear of outsiders was depriving his daughters of having a more fulfilling life.

**<sup>32</sup> Come, let’s make our father drink wine, and let’s sleep with him so that we may keep our family alive through our father.”**

Lot’s first mistake was living like a hermit. His second mistake was drinking too much wine. Noah was taken advantage of by his grandson after he drank too much wine and now Lot will unknowingly father two boys by his own daughters. Partaking of too much wine seems to make one vulnerable to undesirable surprises.

**<sup>33</sup> So they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn went in and slept with her father; and he did not know when she lay down or got up.**

How drunk did Lot have to be to not know what was going on? That is a level of intoxication that is hard to understand.

**<sup>34</sup> On the following day, the firstborn said to the younger, “Look, I slept last night with my father; let’s make him drink wine tonight too, then you go in and sleep with him, so that we may keep our family alive through our father.”**

How difficult would it be to drink a second night after being so drunk the night before that he was nearly comatose? Perhaps his lifestyle of seclusion had affected Lot in a way that he had not realized or fully understand.

**<sup>35</sup> So they had their father drink wine that night too, and the younger got up and slept with him; and he did not know when she lay down or got up.**

Some people seem to function fairly well in seclusion but for Lot and his daughters we can see the problems it created.

Verses 36-38

**<sup>36</sup> And so both of the daughters of Lot conceived by their father. <sup>37</sup> The firstborn gave birth to a son, and named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. <sup>38</sup> As for the younger, she also gave birth to a son, and named him Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day.**

**<sup>37</sup> The firstborn gave birth to a son, and named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.**

Moab closely resembles the Hebrew [~me'ab], meaning “from a father”.

**<sup>38</sup> As for the younger, she also gave birth to a son, and named him Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day.**

Ben-Ammi or Ammon means “son of my kinsman”. Kinsman means “flesh and blood or relative”.

Many years later (about 950) Solomon will build a high place for the gods of the Moabites and the Ammonites.

See 1 Kings 11:7

**<sup>7</sup> Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh, the abhorrent idol of Moab, on the mountain that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abhorrent idol of the sons of Ammon.**

Both of these nations were east of the Promised Land.

See map 1915

