

Faith and Judgment

Abraham—part 11

Genesis 19

August 16, 2026

DAY 1: Lot in Sodom

1. Archeologists believe that the city of Sodom's ruins lie under the waters of the Dead Sea. Last week, God and Abraham spoke about finding out the true nature of Sodom. Two of the travelers, angels in disguise, travel on to Sodom. That's where we pick up the story.

Genesis 19:1 The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. ² "My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning."

"No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square."

³ But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.

2. Travelers regularly spent the night outdoors in the city square. There was safety there, but notice that in Sodom, Lot insists that the two travelers stay in his house, instead. Do you have a guess as to why he insisted?

The need for judgment in stark technicolor

3. Now we find out why Lot strongly insisted that the two travelers spend the night at his house and not in the town square.

Genesis 19:4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. ⁵ They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."

a. Who came to Lot's house?

b. What did they do?

c. What did they want and demand?

Lot tries to handle the situation

4. A raging and raving mob bent on sexual predation and rape has exploded just outside Lot's house. It's as if hell opened its doors and let loose the asylum. There is the danger of being overwhelmed, raped, and murdered.

5. Imagine an ominous threat outside your house at two a.m. Ten thugs have broken some of your windows and have your house surrounded. It is an overwhelming show of force and determination to gobble you and everyone in the house up in a horrific orgy of rape. Lot can't call 9-1-1. He can't call in the local police force. He is at the seeming mercy of the mob.

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 2: Lust-filled mob rule

1. To Lot's credit he faces the mob outside on his front porch, closing the front door behind him. He has lived in the city a long time. He is the mayor and up until now believed that he had won the respect of the men of Sodom. But that was an ill-fated delusion, as we'll see. He makes an appeal to morality.

Genesis 19:6 Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him...

Genesis 19:7 ...and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing...."

2. Lot tries to fend off the mob. He pulls out the biggest verbal hammer he has—"This wicked thing."

3. But the men of Sodom don't give a rip about morality anymore. They care about unbridled lust. The mob is in a frenzy, angry at Lot for not turning over the two visitors to them, and angry at Lot for calling them on their wickedness. They are inflamed sexually, stubbornly, will not be denied. The situation is spiraling out of control, to the point of real danger.

4. He can think of only one way to save the situation.. He offers these men what is unthinkable in utter desperation and terror.

Genesis 19:8 "Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof."

5. I suspect that had these men wanted his two older daughters before they would have raped them. But these men are not after two young women. He hopes that somehow this will quell the madness and frenzy ready to explode.

Genesis 19:9 "Get out of our way," they replied. "This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.

6. Lot now sees what the Sodomites really think of him.

a. First, they see him as a nothing—a foreigner.

b. Second, instead of referring to him as the mayor, they ridicule him as wanting to be their judge!

c. Third, they threaten him with something worse than sexual assault and rape. The mob is in a frenzy, out of control.

7. The situation is dire and about to explode. Once the Sodomites have shown their cards, revealed who they were, and Lot sees that the men scorned him, and have secretly scorned him for a long time, then the two angels, disguised as travelers spring into action.

*Genesis 19:10 But the men (THE TWO ANGELS) inside **reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door.** ¹¹ **Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.***

8. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: Judgment is coming; Lot hesitates

1. If you had any questions about why God would judge evil in Sodom and Gomorrah, this should settle the case. Remember Abraham's prayer for the city? Remember Abraham asking God, "If there are fifty righteous in the city, would you spare it? 40? 30? 20? 10? Look back at v. 4. "...**all the men from every part of the city—both young and old...**"

Genesis 19:12 The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, ¹³ because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the Lord against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."

Genesis 19:14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the Lord is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

2. Lot's own sons-in-law completely blew him off. The terrible warning had NO effect on either of them. When Abraham counted down to ten in order to spare the city, perhaps Abraham thought, "surely there must be ten. And then throw in Lot and his wife, his daughters and future sons-in-law, some of Lot's household servants, surely there must be ten."

But there wasn't even ten.

3. The blindness inflicted on the men kept the mob at bay. The night hours passed, but dawn is approaching and the angels see the need for speed in the escape.

Genesis 19:15 With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."

4. The warning is as clear as a warning can be. The time is now! There is nothing left to do but flee. There was no time to collect nick knacks or pictures, memorabilia. Urgency! Now! Flee! And then in yet another picture of the dimness and dullness of human nature, look what Lot does.

Genesis 19:16 When he hesitated,

5. His heart and hands were so gripped on Sodom and what he had collected and purchased, his possessions and things that he could not bear to leave any of this behind. But while his hand was tightly gripped on the things and possessions the hands of the angels were open and free to act and act they did!

...the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them.

6. But just because they had passed through the city gates didn't mean they were in the clear.

Genesis 19:17 As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"

7. Again, "Urgency! Urgency! Urgency! "Flee for your lives. Flee to the mountains! Don't stop anywhere on the plain! Don't stop to look back!"

¹⁸ But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please! ¹⁹ Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die. ²⁰ Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared."

8. Raw human nature is arrogant and stubborn, even in the face of being overwhelmed. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: Judgment falls; Lot still wavers!!!

1. The arrogance of human nature seems to be without limit. These two angels have already saved his life by yanking him back inside his own house, inflicting blindness on everyone in the mob, and somehow got him, his wife, and two daughters out of the city unscathed, and yet... and yet... and yet... “I know better.”

2. Arrogance comes up over and over and over, like a machine you can’t turn off. It’s like being in a parking lot where someone’s car alarm goes off and the driver has no idea how to get it to turn off. Everything he does doesn’t turn off the alarm. Same with Lot. Same with you and me.

Genesis 19:21 He said to him, “Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. ²² But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it.” (That is why the town was called Zoar).

Genesis 19:23 By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. ²⁴ Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens. ²⁵ Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. ²⁶ But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

2. Sodom had infected Lot’s wife as well. Her look back at Sodom was a look of sadness, a “forced” letting go of everything she had built her life on. It was these very values to which she still clutched and clenched.

Genesis 19:27 Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the Lord. ²⁸ He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

²⁹ So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

3. Lot had originally chosen to move toward Sodom, live near Sodom, and finally to live in Sodom. Unfortunately, Sodom and Sodom’s values overwhelmed Lot.

a. How much of Lot’s wealth did he retain? Nothing.

b. How many animals were in his herds? None.

c. What happened to his home and land holdings? Destroyed

d. Lot also lost his family. First, the death of his wife. Second, he “lost” his young adult daughters who also allowed Sodom to get in them, creating misery for themselves and eventually for the nation of Israel down through the generations!

What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 5: The awful epilogue; Sodom still in Lot

How has your choice of Sodom affected your family?

1. We read about how Lot lost his wife. Lot's wife did not look back out of innocent curiosity. She looked back with longing, angry that she was losing all that really mattered to her. Even the moral degradation that affected her own husband's attitudes toward their own daughters??? And she still longed for that place? Those values? That life?

2. Jesus remembered Lot's wife and used her as a solemn example of what not to do and be!

Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's wife! ³³ Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.

3. But the story of Lot's family does not stop with the loss of two young men engaged to his daughters, nor does it end with the death of his wife.

4. Lot had lost his wife, everything he owned, his wealth, his work, and his home.

Genesis 19:30 Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave. ³¹ One day the older daughter said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man around here to give us children—as is the custom all over the earth. ³² Let's get our father to drink wine and then sleep with him and preserve our family line through our father."

³³ That night they got their father to drink wine, and the older daughter went in and slept with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.

³⁴ The next day the older daughter said to the younger, "Last night I slept with my father. Let's get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and sleep with him so we can preserve our family line through our father." ³⁵ So they got their father to drink wine that night also, and the younger daughter went in and slept with him. Again he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.

³⁶ So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father. ³⁷ The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today. ³⁸ The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.

5. The descendants of both of the boys born to the two daughters would be a thorn in the side to Israel for centuries!

6. What had happened to Lot's two daughters. Though they were both virgins prior to this episode, the godless secular culture had ravished their souls. They had become so accustomed to debauchery and lewdness, unrestrained lust that when the lamest of excuses presented themselves this story ends with drunkenness and incest.

7. What strikes you from today's epilogue?