

CGYG & LIFE Bible Study – Genesis 18-19

Read Genesis 18:1-15

-Who were the three men who came to Abraham? (see also Genesis 18:22, 19:1)

-What promise did the LORD make to Abraham & Sarah? How did Sarah respond, and why? (cf. Gen. 17:17)

Read Genesis 18:16-33

-What does God reveal to Abraham, and why does He reveal it? What does this tell us about God's relationship with Abraham? (see also Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23; John 15:14-15; Psalm 25:14)

-On what basis does Abraham intercede with God for Sodom? What can we learn about prayer from his example?

Read Genesis 19:1-38

-What is the significance of Lot sitting in the gateway of the city (19:1)?

-Why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? (Genesis 13:13; 18:20-21 & 19:13; see also Ezekiel 16:49-50; Jude 7; Leviticus 18:22 & 20:13; Romans 1:18-32)

-Why do you think Lot (and his wife) hesitated to leave Sodom, to the extent that they had to be dragged out and that his wife turned back?

-Consider the progression of Lot's life in the following passages: Genesis 12:4-5; 13:8-13; 14:12; 19:1. What direction did his life take, and why? What was the result of this progression? (see also 2 Peter 2:7-8; Genesis 19:25-26, 30-38)

-What lessons can we learn from Lot's example? (you might also consider Galatians 6:7-8; Hebrews 12:1; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

-What are some things we learn about God from Genesis 18-19? (consider also 2 Peter 2:4-9)

Aliens and strangers in the world

Lot's life illustrates the principle stated in Galatians 6:7 that a man reaps what he sows. Although Lot was a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7-8), the choices he made would result in a bitter harvest. Lot started off by joining Abram in his pilgrimage to the Promised Land. Along the way, however, he looked over towards Sodom and despite the city's reputation for wickedness, was drawn to the fertile valley around the city. Though he initially pitched his tent outside Sodom (Gen.13:12), he eventually moved into Sodom (Gen. 14:12), and even became a leader of the city, sitting at the city gate (Gen. 19:1). Though he was inwardly tormented by the evil he saw (2 Peter 2:8), his reluctance to leave even in the face of God's imminent judgment showed how much he had become attached to things that were destined to perish. In the end, Lot suffered tremendous loss, losing his wife, his home, his possessions, and even his dignity, as he was led into the heinous sin of incest. He himself was saved, but, quite literally, only as one escaping through the flames (1 Cor 3:15).

We live today in a world which in many respects is similar if not far worse than Sodom. But though we live in the world, as followers of Christ, we are not to be "of the world" (John 17:14) – not loving the things and ways of the world (1 John 2:15-17), but instead living as aliens and strangers in the world (1 Peter 2:11-12), forsaking sin that we might follow Christ. Reflect on your walk with Christ, in light of Lot's example. Have you fallen in love with the things and ways of the world? In your daily choices, what are you sowing, and what might you expect to reap from those choices?