

# LOT

Genesis 12 - 19

## STRUCTURE

**Key-persons:** Abram/Abraham, Lot

**Key-location:** Canaan

**Key-repetitions:**

- Abraham's concern for Lot: he took Lot with him when he left Haran (12:1-5); when they separated, he allowed Lot first choice (13:6-11); he rescued the captured Lot (14:1-16); he prayed for the city where Lot lived (18:16-33).

- Lot caused Abraham problems: God told Abram to leave his father's household. Lot went with him (12:1-4); conflict developed between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's (13:6-11); Lot was taken prisoner and Abram freed him (14:1-16). Abraham was concerned when he learned God would visit Lot's city of Sodom (18:16-33).

- Lot made unwise decisions: he took advantage of Uncle Abram (13:6-11); he pitched his tents near the wicked city of Sodom (13:12-13); he went to live in Sodom (14:12); when the angels predicted Sodom's destruction, Lot hesitated to leave (19:16); Lot desired to stay close to Sodom (19:18-20); Lot became drunk and slept with his daughters (19:30-36).

**Key-attitudes:**

- Negative attitude toward Lot.
- Positive attitude toward Abraham.
- Selfishness of Lot.
- Generosity of Abraham.
- Abraham's concern for Lot.
- Lot's concern for the two angels in form of men.
- Lot's resistance in leaving Sodom.
- Connivingness of Lot's daughters.

**Initial-situation:**

God called Abram to leave his family and his country. God promised to bless Abram and make him a blessing. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran (12:1-5).

**Initial-problem:**

The Lord God had told Abram to leave his family; however, Lot went with him.

**Final-situation:**

While Lot was drunk, he got both of his daughters pregnant.

## BIBLE STORY

### **Abram and Lot Leave Haran**

When Abram was 75 years old, God called him to leave his country, his family and his father's home. Abram left Haran; however, his nephew Lot went with him (12:1-5).

### **Abram and Lot Separate**

Time past, and Abram became very rich, loaded with livestock, silver and gold (13:1-5).

His nephew Lot also had many sheep, cattle and servants. There was not enough pastureland for both Abram's and Lot's herds. Fights broke out between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen. Abram told Lot, "Let's not have fighting between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are family. Let's separate. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Lot saw that there was much water in the fertile plain of the Jordan. Lot chose for himself the Jordan valley and left for Abram the dry, hilly land. The two men separated (13:6-11).

Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived near among cities of the plain. He pitched his tents near the wicked city of Sodom (13:12-13).

Lot was living in Sodom when four kings joined together to war against the king of Sodom and his allies. The four kings conquered Sodom and took captive all the people and everything they owned. They also took Lot and everything he owned. One of Lot's servants escaped and fled to

Abram. When Abram heard that Lot had been taken captive, he called out 318 trained men born in his camp and went in pursuit. During the night, Abram divided his men and made a surprise attack against Sodom's conquerors. Abram recovered everything the enemy had stolen. He freed from captivity his nephew Lot, together with other conquered citizens of Sodom (14:1-16).

### **Destruction of Sodom**

Many years later, when Abram was 99 years old, the Lord changed Abram's name to Abraham and his wife's name to Sarah. That was the year the Lord and two angels in the form of men visited him. On that occasion, the Lord promised Abraham that he and Sarah would have a baby within a year (18:1-15).

When the Lord and the angels who looked like men got up to leave, Abraham walked with them. They looked down toward Sodom.

Then the Lord told Abraham, "The cries of the victims in Sodom and Gomorrah are deafening; the people there are evil. I will go down and see if they are as bad as I have heard."

The two angels who looked like men went on toward Sodom, but Abraham stood in the Lord's path, blocking his way. Abraham asked, "Will you kill the good people along with the wicked? What if there are fifty good people in the city? Won't you spare the place for the sake of the fifty good people in it? Far be it for you to kill the good with the wicked."

The Lord said, "If I find fifty good people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the entire city for their sake."

Abraham spoke up again, "What if the fifty fall short by five? Will you destroy the whole city because of the missing five?"

The Lord answered, "If I find forty-five there, I will not destroy it."

Abraham once again spoke, "What if only forty good people are found there?"

The Lord answered, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

Abraham decreased the number to thirty then to twenty.

Then Abraham said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten good people can be found there?"

The Lord answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

The Lord finished speaking with Abraham and left; Abraham returned home (18:16-33).

The two angels, who had the appearance of men, arrived at Sodom in the evening. Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. He got up to meet them and bowed down. He said, "Gentlemen, please come to my house to spend the night. You can wash your feet, sleep and then go on your way in the morning."

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

Lot insisted, and they agreed to go to his house. Lot prepared a meal for them. Before they had gone to bed, all the men from the city of Sodom surrounded the house. 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."

Lot went outside and closed the door behind him. He said, "No, my friends. Please, don't do this wicked thing. Look, I have two daughters who are virgins. I will send them to you. But don't do anything to these men, they are my guests under the protection of my roof. I must protect them."

They replied, "Get lost! You came here as a stranger and now you play the judge!" They moved forward to break down the door.

The angels pulled Lot back into the house, shut the door and temporarily blinded the men of Sodom.

The angels said to Lot, "Do you have any other family in the city, sons, daughters, in-laws or anyone else? Get them out of here. The outcry to the Lord against this place is so loud that the Lord sent us to destroy it."

Lot went out and spoke to his daughters' fiancées. He said, "Evacuate this place; the Lord is about to destroy the city!" But his future sons-in-law thought he was joking.

At the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Quick! Take your wife and your two daughters, or you will be destroyed when the city is punished."

Lot hesitated. The angels took their hands and led them safely outside of the city. As soon as they were outside, one of the angels said, "Run for your lives! Don't look back. Flee to the mountains or you will be destroyed!"

But Lot said to them, "Oh, no. Please! You have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't run as far as the mountains; the disaster will catch me, and I'll die. Look, there is a small town nearby. Let me flee to it. Then my life will be spared."

The angel replied, "Very well. We agree not to destroy that town. But flee quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it."

Lot reached Zoar when the sun was rising. Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Thus he eliminated all life on the Jordan Valley: people, plants and animals alike.

But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt (19:1-27).

### **After the Destruction of Sodom**

Early the next morning Abraham returned to the place where he had stood with the Lord. He looked down toward Sodom and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. When God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he delivered Lot from the catastrophe that destroyed the cities (19:28-29).

Lot feared staying in Zoar; so he and his two daughters fled to the mountains and settled in a cave. One day the older daughter said to the younger, "Our father is old. There is no man around here to sleep with us. Let's get our father drunk, and then we will sleep with him, so that our clan will not become extinct."

That night they got their father drunk, and the older daughter lay with him. Lot was not aware when she lay down or when she got up. The next day they got their father drunk again and the younger daughter lay with him. Again, Lot was not aware when she lay down or when she got up.

Both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father with baby boys. The older daughter named her son Moab. He is the ancestor of the Moabites. The younger daughter named her son Ben-Ammi. He is the ancestor of the Ammonites (19:30-38).

## **GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS**

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

## SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did Abraham express his concern for Lot?
2. What unwise decisions did Lot make?
3. What actions did God make on Lot's behalf?
4. What does the dialogue between the Lord and Abraham teach about prayer?
5. What does the destruction of Sodom teach about God's judgement?

## LIFE-LESSONS

1. The principles that guide a person, when he faces a crossroad that requires a life-changing decision, will influence his future. Lot could no longer stay with Abram. His older Uncle Abram chose to peacefully resolve the conflict. Lot chose prosperity and comfort when he chose the fertile plain of Jordan and left Abram the dry hilly land (13:6-11). Lot went near Sodom (13:12-13). He suffered when tragedy struck Sodom (14:11-12; 19:1-29).

Abraham's request to spare the city if there were only ten righteous people. However, when God decided to act, judgment came.
2. God is omniscient. He knew everything the people of Sodom were doing (18:20). He also knows what people do today.
3. God is a righteous judge. He has patience with sinners; however, when he decides to punish, nobody can stop him. Sodom is an example of that (19:23-29). God exercised grace and granted
4. The person who knows God, but prefers an easy life and the comfort of a sinful environment, will pay a high price. Lot preferred the easy life close to the wicked city of Sodom (13:10-13). He suffered when his future sons-in-law didn't believe in his word (19:14), when he lost his wife (19:26) and everything that he possessed in Sodom.
5. It is God's mercy that saves the sinner from divine punishment. Lot and his daughters were saved from the destruction of Sodom because of God's mercy (19:14). Eternal salvation is also the result of God's mercy (Ep 2:8-9).