

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #45

Genesis 19:12-26

Lot never had the same heart his uncle Abraham had, for Lot fell more in love with the world than he did with God. This is a tragic story because Lot spent several years pursuing the wrong objectives. As a result, his soul lived in constant torment (II Peter 2:8).

**ONE WHO DEVOTES HIS LIFE TO PURSUING OBJECTIVES OTHER THAN GOD MAY DISCOVER THAT EVEN IF HE CHANGES IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR HIS FAMILY.**

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION #1** - The message of the angels to Lot. Genesis 19:12-13

The Hebrew word “destroy” (v. 13) refers to a destruction that literally lays something to waste or ruin. This word speaks of a very ferocious judgment that implies that God’s wrath is a savage wrath (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 816). Those who think God is only a God of love should take a very serious look at verse 13, for this is terrible destructive judgment against real live people.

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION #2** - The message of Lot to his sons-in-law. Genesis 19:14

Some commentators suggest the Hebrew means the sons-in-law were future to be sons-in-law and others suggest they already were his sons-in-law. But regardless Lot went to his family to warn them and they viewed it as some joke. In fact, the word “jesting” means a sporting type laughter. **Lot’s message of God’s pending judgment had no credibility because his testimony had no credibility.** Now he is talking about God’s judgment and those closest to him think it is funny.

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION #3** - The message of the angels to Lot. Genesis 19:15-17

When the angels challenged Lot to get out of the city, he “hesitated” (19:16), which means he delayed and refused to leave instantly. Dr. Allen Ross said this verb demonstrates just how much Sodom had become a part to Lot’s life (Allen Ross, *Creation & Blessing*, p. 361).

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION #4** - The response of Lot to the angels. Genesis 19:18-20

This is pathetic - when the angels tell him to quickly get out of the city and get to the mountain, they literally, physically lead him out of the city and have to point him in the right direction. As Dr. Marcus Dods observed While the people with whom he worked and lived are in the “throes of their death agony,” Lot is at “leisure to weigh the comparative advantages of town and country life” (Marcus Dods, *Genesis*, p. 85).

Lot doesn’t want to go the mountains for he thinks he will be killed, so he asks to go to Zoar - the smallest city in the vicinity. Drs. Albright and Glueck have located the ruins of this city and say it sat in a very fertile valley, like Sodom. In fact, Dr. Hughes said it was a “mini-Sodom” (p.274)

Dr. Bernard said there are three kinds of bad prayer: 1) Timid - pray with no confidence in God; 2) Tepid - pray to God with no warmth or fervency; 3) Temerarious - pray with no thought of consequences, recklessly. As Strahan said here **Lot teaches us how not to pray, not Thy will be done, but My will be done** (*Hebrew Ideals In Genesis*, p. 131).

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION #5** - The response of the angels to Lot. Genesis 19:21-22

Here is an amazing picture of God's grace and **this is definite support for a Biblical theme which says God will deliver even the worldliest of believers before He sends His wrath.**

**FINAL COMMUNICATION #6** - The judgment of God. Genesis 19:23-26

God waited until Lot and his wife and daughters got to Zoar and then He rained down fire and brimstone and destroyed all the cities and the people. Liberals have tried to suggest that this was probably some volcanic eruption, but recent geological research has ruled this out and has concluded this destruction came down from the sky, rather than from the earth (John J. Davis, *Paradise to Prison*, p. 203). No one survived. God's judgment was quick, complete and devastating.

When the judgment came, Lot's wife disobeyed. She looked back, something God commanded her not to do (Genesis 19:17), and she became a "pillar of salt" (v. 26). Dr. J. Vernon McGee said there were two reasons she looked back: 1) She loved Sodom; 2) She didn't believe God (*Genesis*, Vol. 1, pp. 83-84).

On the southwest shore of the Dead Sea are many salt rock formations and some of them resembling human form. Many visitors have speculated one of them is Lot's wife. In fact the famed Jewish historian Josephus (A.D. 70-100) claimed he saw her - "But Lot's wife continually turning back to view the city as she went from it, and being too nicely inquisitive what would become of it, although God had forbidden her so to do, was changed into a pillar of salt; **for I have seen it, and it remains at this day**" (*The Complete Works of Josephus*, p. 35).

There is coming a day, in the not too distant future, when Israel will need to remember this illustration. When the Antichrist unleashes his venom against Israel she will need to flee Jerusalem quickly and not turn back (Luke 17:31-32).

Most of Lot's entire life was devoted to making a name and plush life for himself and family in Sodom. He built a nice home and enjoyed nice things. He accomplished what he set out to accomplish. Life was good to Lot until God's judgment came and then in one flash, everything dramatically changed. His goals and objectives were burned up along with most of his family. The one thing that never seemed to interest Lot was the will of God. He never seemed to wonder what does God want me to be or do? In the end that is the one thing that brought everything down.

If you are a believer living life in some fleshly sinful Sodom-type existence, you know you are not winning, you are being defeated and there is great torment in your soul. Flee evil now or you will end up a wreck.