

# God's Grace Displayed at Sodom

Genesis 19:1-38

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## Introduction:

In our sermon series from Genesis, we are presently looking at Genesis 19.

- This is the chapter that speaks about the destruction of Sodom and the cities around it.
  - This event is something we need to be familiar with because of the prominence it is given in the Bible.
  - As I have pointed out to you, it is referred to again and again in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.
    - Moreover, we have found that it has some things to say to us that are very relevant to us in our day when so many are ignoring God and living as if there will never be a judgment day.

What are some of things we have covered so far?

- The first week, we looked at the vileness to which societies decline when they do not acknowledge God.
  - For a while, there is still restraint from laws and conscience, but there is a downward progression over time so that they become like Sodom.
    - Sodom had degraded to the place where the only thing its inhabitants could think about when upright men visited their city was raping them...
      - Not only the young men, but also boys and elderly men were involved, and when Lot tried to dissuade them, they became angry and violent and did not even slacken their efforts when they were supernaturally blinded.
    - We saw that Lot, being a righteous man, was rightly grieved by the wickedness and ungodliness around him...
      - We ought to be grieved by such things too—and we ought to shudder.
- The second week in Genesis 19, we saw a disturbing thing about the righteous—
  - That even though we may be rightly grieved by the wickedness around us, we are, at the same time, often strangely attracted to it.
    - Each one of us has remaining corruption even after we have been born again and even after we have walked with the LORD for years.
    - And the truth is that Sodom is seeking to have the good things of this life—things that the LORD gave us at creation...
      - The problem is that they let nothing restrain them from pursuing these things—God's commandments do not matter—
        - They run hard after whatever their hearts desire without regard for Him or for others—or even just for common decency.
      - And sadly this kind of life can attract us at the same time it repulses us.
        - There is a war that goes on inside of us.
        - We see Lot so caught up with Sodom and its comforts, that the angels have to drag him out...
          - And we see his wife so caught up with it that she looks back and is turned into a pillar of salt.

- The third week, in Genesis 19, we looked at the dreadful judgment that falls upon Sodom and the other wicked cities of the plain.
  - We saw that the LORD Himself rained fire and brimstone upon this place.
    - The sun rose up in the morning as it always does, but then suddenly this terrible judgment began to fall.
    - There was no turning back, all the cities of the plain were utterly destroyed except for Zoar where Lot was.
  - We saw that Lot’s sons-in-law and all the people and all their property was taken.
    - And that this became a picture in scripture of what the final judgment will be like for those who do not come to Christ—fire and brimstone forever!
      - The judgment of Sodom reveals to us the glory of our God as a consuming fire—He is glorious in His holiness and judgment!
- And today we come to our fourth week in this chapter.
  - This week, we are going to see the marvellous grace of God that is revealed at Sodom!
    - It is quite remarkable to see how God goes out of His way to be gracious to Lot—to deliver him from the terrible destruction.
    - This is what He does for all those who are being saved.
    - There is a lot for us to learn about grace here.

Let me read to you today the entire chapter.

- Please give me your attention because this is the Word of God.

**Gen. 19:1-38:** Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. <sup>2</sup> And he said, “Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant’s house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.” And they said, “No, but we will spend the night in the open square.” <sup>3</sup> But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. <sup>4</sup> Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. <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 know them *carnally*.” <sup>6</sup> So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup> and said, “Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! <sup>8</sup> See now, I have two daughters who have not known a

man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof.” <sup>9</sup> And they said, “Stand back!” Then they said, “This one came in to stay *here*, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.” So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. <sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> And they struck the men who *were* at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary *trying* to find the door. <sup>12</sup> Then the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take *them* out of this place! <sup>13</sup> For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.” <sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who

had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. <sup>15</sup> When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." <sup>16</sup> And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. <sup>17</sup> So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed." <sup>18</sup> Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! <sup>19</sup> Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. <sup>20</sup> See now, this city *is* near *enough* to flee to, and it *is* a little one; please let me escape there (*is* it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." <sup>21</sup> And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. <sup>22</sup> Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. <sup>23</sup> The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. <sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. <sup>25</sup> So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. <sup>26</sup> But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. <sup>27</sup> And Abraham

went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. <sup>28</sup> Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace. <sup>29</sup> And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt. <sup>30</sup> Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave. <sup>31</sup> Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father *is* old, and *there is* no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth. <sup>32</sup> Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father." <sup>33</sup> So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. <sup>34</sup> It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, "Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in *and* lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father." <sup>35</sup> Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. <sup>36</sup> Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. <sup>37</sup> The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he *is* the father of the Moabites to this day. <sup>38</sup> And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he *is* the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

May the LORD bless the reading of His holy and infallible word.

What a wonderful display we have in this account of God's grace!

- The Old Testament has such a graphic way of displaying God's salvation.
  - Here we have this wicked city with this terrible judgment of fire and brimstone, but in the middle of it we have the deliverance of God's elect!
  - What a picture this is of His salvation of all of His people!

- We are just like Lot—in this world of wickedness with hearts that are far too attached...
- And He comes and graciously delivers us from it all by His mighty hand of grace!
- How marvellously we see His hand of grace in the darkness of Sodom!
  - Please look with me with a grateful heart as we walk through this most excellent display of His grace!

We will, as God enables, look at six ways that His grace is displayed in this account!

**I. First, see how gracious our LORD is to use persecution in our lives.**

- A. You see in the first 11 verses how Lot is persecuted for righteousness...
1. He knows the wickedness of Sodom, so he shows great kindness to these strangers who have come to Sodom.
    - a. He insists that these men stay under his roof rather than in the open square.
      - He knows that the men of his city will lust after them and will not leave them alone until their wicked lust is satisfied...
        - so he insists on lodging these strangers.
    - b. But then when these perverted men come to Lot's house, demanding to have these men that they may lay with them,
      - Lot does all he can to stop them...
        - He gently pleads with them to refrain and then he even offers his daughters to them to dissuade them.
        - Offering his daughters is inexcusable, but his desire to protect his guests is itself a righteous desire.
  2. And because he is doing what is righteous in trying to stop these men, the men of Sodom turn against him in rage...
    - a. They threaten to deal worse with Lot than they were going to with the men.
      - In verse 9, it tells us what they did: **And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.**
        - Those who do great wickedness cannot bear to have someone call them on their sin!
    - b. And so you see that Lot is persecuted for righteousness!
- B. Our Lord Jesus says, **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Mt 5:10)**
1. But why are those who are persecuted said to be blessed?
    - They are blessed because persecution shows that they do not belong to the world but to God's redeemed people.
    - They are persecuted because the gracious LORD has delivered them from the world—He has given them repentance...
      - He has turned them away from sin to follow Him and it is because they are not of the world but of God's redeemed people that they are persecuted.

2. Lot's persecution shows that he is not of Sodom and that means that he will not be destroyed with Sodom in the judgment that is about to come.
    - So when persecution comes to you, rejoice and be glad for it!
    - It is a sign that you will not be destroyed with the wicked.
- C. What is more, God graciously uses persecution in your life!
1. He uses it to wean you away from the world—
    - a. Like Lot, we have too much attachment to the world...
      - Lot had moved to Sodom on account of his riches instead of staying with his uncle Abraham who had the oracles of God.
    - b. But you see, when these vile men come after Lot's guests and then after Lot, it is a great help to break down Lot's attachment for Sodom...
      - It would be much easier for Lot to leave Sodom after this event!
      - Those who are persecuted have less love for the world and more love for Christ...it always works that way in a true believer...
        - Don't you find it so?
        - I hope you do—
          - If you are not a true child of God, persecution will have the opposite effect—it will drive you away from Christ!
          - But if you are persecuted for true righteousness it will deepen your love and your commitment and your obedience to Him!
  2. And see also how God graciously delivers us from persecution as soon as it has fulfilled its purpose...
    - a. The men that were staying with Lot were angels, and they could have easily stopped these men much sooner...
      - But Lot needed this persecution—as I just showed you, it was a preparation for him to make it a little easier for him to leave Sodom...
    - b. But once that purpose was accomplished, the angels reach out and bring Lot to safety.
      - Learn from this that the LORD can deliver us from persecution as soon as He wishes...
        - That means that whenever persecution goes on—we can be sure that the LORD has good reasons for it!
        - He will deliver you, but not until His purpose is fulfilled.

TRANS> What a gracious LORD He is to use persecution in our lives with such wisdom and concern for us!

- Do not doubt Him dear child of God!
- He knows just what He is doing to deepen your walk with Him and to turn you away from Sodom!
- Now let us look at the second way we see God's grace in this account...

## **II. Secondly, see how gracious our LORD is to call people to salvation.**

- A. As soon as Lot is rescued from the persecution, these angels warn him of the coming destruction!

1. You can see the warning in verse 12 & 13: **Then the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.”**
  - This is something far worse than the assault that Lot just experienced from these wicked men of Sodom!
    - Our God is a consuming fire, and He is going to destroy the whole city!
2. With what forcefulness this message comes to Lot!
  - It is clear that these messengers who spoke to Lot are no ordinary men—that they are divine messengers from the LORD!
    - When God brings His warnings to His elect, we know that it is the word of God that has been spoken to us—
      - We know that the warning is from God!
      - We know that it is a very serious matter!
3. When a person is called out of the darkness into God’s kingdom, there is a great awakening that occurs...
  - He was bopping along with the world—heedless of any danger...
    - And suddenly God’s word breaks in and he realises that judgment is coming and that he must flee from the wrath to come!
  - Does the thought of being without Christ rightly terrify you?
    - Is being in Christ more important to you than anything else?
    - Are you following Christ with great joy as your Saviour, knowing from what He has saved you?
      - even from eternal fire and brimstone?

TRANS> What a wonderful thing it is be called by God to flee from the wrath to come!

- To be told by Him that you must escape from this fallen world or perish!
  - It is a marvellous act of God’s grace to warn us.

B. His gracious call goes out very widely!

1. His warnings always reach those who are elect if they are of age and ability to understand them.
  - The warnings are real and the elect respond to them—God uses them to bring them to repentance.
  - The warning comes and they take it seriously and repent.
2. But the call also goes out in an outward way to everyone who is in the visible church...whether they are elect or not...
  - a. Covenant children, what a great blessing it is for you that you were born in a Christian home!
    - You are privileged to have the warnings of God—
    - To be told that the world will be destroyed and to go out with the church from Sodom to follow Jesus Christ so that you will not be destroyed!
      - Lot’s daughters had this privilege—it was God’s grace to them!

- b. And then there was Lot's wife...
  - She also heard the call—she too went out with the church for a time...
  - God's grace to her reached very far, but like a dog, she returned her vomit.
    - She was like the ones Peter talks about in 2 Peter 2:20 who escape the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of Christ, but then are entangled and overcome with the world...so that the last state is worse than the first.
  - This is like the person who joins the church and who begins to clean up his life—but his heart is still in the world...
    - It is only a matter of time and they return to the filth.
- God graciously brings His call, but they spurn it...
  - But His call goes even wider than the church!
- 3. There are also those outside the church who hear the call and the warnings!
  - a. Lot went to his sons-in-law that very night to warn them.
    - It was a marvellous act of God's grace to them that they heard the warning—but it was their folly to make sport of the call...
      - They said something to Lot like, "You've got to be kidding—Sodom has been here for years and nothing like that has ever happened!"
  - b. What a terrifying thing it must have been for them the next day as the brimstone and fire began to fall on them!
    - How they must have yearned to go back in time, but it was too late!
      - They could have gone out with Lot that very morning, but they had spurned God's gracious call!
  - c. How many are in this sorry state!
    - God has extended His gracious call, but they have not profited from it.
      - Their judgment will be much greater than that of those who never heard.
- C. We should be very thankful for warnings all along in our walk.
  - 1. God uses them not only to bring us to Christ...but also to keep us in Him.
    - We grow dull—we lose the sense of the danger of God's judgment...
      - But our gracious LORD comes to us again and again to warn us...
    - In this passage you can see how the LORD warns Lot repeatedly, reminding us that as His people, we have to be warned all along.
      - There is the initial warning in verse 12-13...
      - Then a renewed warning the following morning when Lot starts to linger.
      - Then yet another warning in verse 17 after he is brought outside...
      - And then yet another in verse 22 when they say, "hurry, escape."
  - 2. God's word is full of warnings addressed to His church—because we need them!
    - The difference between the elect and those who are not elect is not that the wicked need the warnings and the elect do not!
      - It is rather that the elect pay attention to the warnings and are continually turned away from the path of destruction that they were on!

- There is a lot of confusion about this today, and it has caused great harm to the professing church.
    - I see even churches that are otherwise solid—that teach justification by faith and the imputation of Christ’s righteousness—but that suppose that warnings are not addressed to the elect!
    - The result is that these churches do not warn their own people, and as a result many of them go astray without being warned.
      - The fact that the warnings are absent shows that many in those churches are not among the elect...
        - But it is our responsibility to warn God’s people!
        - And when we do, He uses the warnings to preserve them!
3. Give thanks for the warnings!
- Rejoice when God again and again reawakens you when you were going astray and would have gone to destruction!
  - Rejoice when a brother comes to rebuke you or when you are stung by a sermon.
  - And warn others when you see them straying—warn them with urgency!
    - It is just as necessary to warn someone in the church who is going astray as it is to call someone who is outside the church to repent.
    - Both are integral to the way that God keeps and brings His people to glory.

TRANS> How gracious God is to warn us and to keep warning us to flee from the wrath to come—

- that is the second way we see His grace in this passage—
  - now let us move on to the third...

### III. How gracious our LORD is to force us out of Sodom.

A. You see here how the LORD has to drag Lot away!

1. The angels actually take Lot and his wife and daughters by the hand and drag them out of the city!
  - **Verse 16: And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.**
  - It was so foolish for them to linger when they had received the warnings!
    - If they had known the danger they were in they would have run for their lives with desperation—but they have to be dragged out!
2. But are we any different?
  - I say not!
    - Breaking our ties to Sodom requires forceful action by the LORD.
  - We are such stubborn fools and our hearts are so attached to the world that Jesus says: **Joh 6:44: No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.**
    - The word *draws* that Jesus uses here is a strong word—
      - It is what a horse does when it pulls a wagon...
      - Or what a person does with a rope when they draw water from a well!



- What we have with the angels grabbing Lot by the hand is a graphic illustration of what God does when He draws us to Christ.
    - He must do this with every person He saves!
    - Divine power has to be exercised to deliver us from our bondage!
  - We have another illustration of this with God bringing Israel out of Egypt... how reluctant they were—what a tight grip Pharaoh had on them...
    - but God drew them out by His power and grace!
3. This is His being merciful to you (as it says of He was to Lot)!
- How thankful you ought to be that He took such measures with you if indeed you are among those who have been drawn to Christ!
    - We are all reluctant idiots and have to be dragged along if we are going to continue in Christ.

TRANS> Perhaps you find it hard to see how this is so...

B. Consider some of the ways He does this...ways that are often visible if you have eyes to see...

1. Take the man who starts a business and it begins to really succeed—
  - But then pride starts to creep in.
    - Perhaps that man starts to neglect that Sabbath for his business—
    - Perhaps he compromises his integrity to please his investors...
  - Do you know what God does in such cases if that man is His child?
    - He applies force to break that man of his idol...
      - He applies force because he loves that man.
      - Perhaps the man gets cancer—or maybe God brings his business down!
    - The man starts to pray for his business but God does not seem to hear.
      - The man struggles and he wonders why—why is God doing this?
        - His business crashes and the idol is broken.
2. Or take the man who starts dabbling in porn—
  - He repents, and then falls again—and again—and gradually the thing starts to take over his life...
    - And then his family starts to fall apart—and he wonders why and he prays for his family, but God does not hear him...
      - What is God doing?
      - He is doing this because He loves that man and He wants to break his idol—
        - God does not hesitate to use violence to break us of our idols!
        - He wounds us, He attacks us, all to break us so that we will not perish in Sodom!
          - How gracious He is!
3. There are many other illustrations that could be used.
  - God works in all different ways, but He uses force to deliver us from bondage to Sodom—to sin and to the world.
    - That is His gracious way with us!

TRANS> That is the third way His grace is displayed in this passage...

#### IV. Fourthly, see how gracious our LORD is to accommodate us in our weakness.

##### A. Many times it is not in us to fully forsake all when Christ calls us.

###### 1. We see this with Lot...

- The LORD tells him to go to the mountains, but he pleads that he might go to Zoar instead—
  - Zoar means “a little one”
  - Essentially, Lot wants to hang on to a little bit of the comfort of Sodom...
    - He had become a soft man in Sodom and is afraid to go to the mountains.
- When the angels tell him to go to the mountains, he pleads in a rather sickening way that he might go to Zoar instead...
  - **Gen 19:18-20: Then Lot said to them, “Please, no, my lords! Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.”**

➤ I spoke to you about Zoar in a previous sermon...when we looked at Lot’s sinful attachment to Sodom...

###### 2. We cling to Zoar whenever we do not fully follow the LORD!

- We say, Lord, “you understand my weakness—I just need to have this.”
  - We try to justify our half-baked obedience.
    - “I have to do this under the table or my business will fail...”
    - “You know that I just need to have a few drinks every once in a while...just a little more than I should you know...not too much.”
    - “I am just looking—I won’t commit adultery Lord...it’s just a little look is all—just a little self-gratification...”
    - “Lord, you understand, I just can’t forgive Joe after what he did...”
    - “But Lord, we can’t tithe now—we have to save for retirement...”
    - “But Lord, I have a chance for the Olympics—I have to go on Sunday.”

##### B. Often the LORD does not immediately chasten us for these things...

###### 1. Sometimes it is because we are not truly His people and He does not chasten us because He is leaving us to go on to destruction...

- You have no grounds for assurance when you go to Zoar...
  - Assurance comes when you follow the LORD—perhaps you are not even His true child.
  - The Apostle John puts it like this in his first epistle: **1Jo 2:3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

###### 2. Sometimes the LORD does not chasten us immediately because His is giving us space to repent...

- Perhaps He will send someone to speak to us about it...
- Perhaps He will trouble our conscience about it...
- Perhaps He will bring a sermon like this one to give us a gentle call...

3. It seems that with Lot He does something to make him afraid to stay in Zoar.
  - We are not told what it was that made Lot afraid—just that he was...
    - Was it that he was insecure when he saw the wickedness of Zoar and knew that God ought to destroy it also?
    - Or was it that he was afraid of the inhabitants—that they would do harm to him?
  - We do not know, but we know that the LORD graciously worked in Lot’s life so that he ended up going to the place that God wanted him to go.
    - What a wonderful thing that God does not leave His own people to go on in their folly!
      - How He loves us even in our weakness!
  - We come to realise, as Lot did, that it is better to be in the mountains with the LORD than in Zoar without Him!
    - It is things like these that I often see a difference in families that have children who go on for the Lord and those that do not...
      - If the children see that God’s kingdom takes second place to something, they do not have much interest.
      - Satan makes parents think they will drive their children away, but what usually drives them away is half-hearted obedience.
    - You cannot ask Him to bless you in Zoar—you are on your own!
    - Why oh why would you want to step outside of God’s blessing!
      - But if you are His true child, He will bring you out of Zoar.

TRANS> That is the fourth way His grace is seen...

- Now let’s look at the fifth...

## V. Fifthly, see how gracious our LORD is to respond to our intercessor

A. Back of Lot’s deliverance were Abraham’s prayers for Lot.

- In verses 27-29, we have Abraham come into the picture...
  1. According to verse 27-28, he comes out to look upon the scene...
    - Verse 27-28 say: **And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.**
    - What a terrible sight it must have been as Abraham stood on the hill and watched.
  - Did he know where his nephew Lot was?
    - We do not know.
    - But what we do know is much more wonderful than that!
  2. We know that the LORD spared Lot because of Abraham’s prayers!
    - a. Verse 29 tells us that **when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.**
      - God remembering Abraham means that he remembered Abraham’s prayers for Lot!

- b. Back in Genesis 18, the LORD had informed Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom because of its wickedness...
    - And perhaps you remember how Abraham plead with God that if there were fifty righteous people, the LORD would spare the city...
      - and the LORD told him that He would spare it for the fifty...
    - And then Abraham kept reducing the number—"suppose there were five less than fifty, would you destroy it them?"
      - and he kept going until he got down to ten and the Lord told him that for sake of ten righteous persons, He would not destroy it.
    - But of course Abraham's great concern was for his nephew Lot—
      - He knew that Lot was in Sodom and he was very worried that Lot would be destroyed, and that was why he prayed...
        - His main concern was that the LORD would not destroy the righteous with the wicked—that the LORD would not destroy Lot!
  - c. And you see the wonderful testimony of scripture—God remembered Abraham and brought Lot out of the destruction!
    - God brought Lot out because Abraham prayed for him!
    - He spared Lot because of Abraham's intercession!
- B. Abraham is a picture of Christ who intercedes for us—
1. Do you know the reason you are spared from God's judgment if you are?
    - Do you know why God's warnings keep coming to you?
    - It is because Jesus Christ is in heaven interceding for you!
      - The Father gave you to Him to redeem you and Jesus went to the cross for you before you were even born.
      - And God came to you and drew you out of the world the way He drew Lot out because Christ prayed for you...
        - Because Jesus who died to redeem you intercedes for you!
        - And that is why He keeps warning you and drawing you out of the world again and again to His salvation—
          - because He remembers Jesus His Son who prays for you!
  2. What a great comfort it is to know that Jesus does this!
    - Jesus will not quit until we are brought safely into glory!
      - Hebrews says that He ever lives to make intercession for us!
  3. Do you want to know that Jesus is praying for *you*?
    - I will tell you how you can know...
      - Come to Him and tell Him that you want to be saved by His saving work on the cross—that you want to be in His righteous kingdom—that you want to be delivered from your sin to serve him...
      - Look to Him to cleanse you from your guilt and corruption...
    - And do you know what He says about all who do that?
      - In John 6:37 He says **the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.**
        - And He won't!
        - He has never cast anyone out that comes to Him to be saved.
          - You are hearing His call, and all you have to do is go to Him!

- Go to Him and you will be spared because He will pray for you and the Father will hear His prayers.

TRANS> What a great encouragement this is for us!

- God graciously delivers us because He remembers Jesus Christ who intercedes for us!
- That is that fifth way that the LORD's grace is displayed in our passage.

## **VI. Sixthly, see how gracious our LORD is to bless our posterity**

A. Lot's daughters did a very wicked thing, but they did it in faith...

1. We are told that when they went to the cave with their father with all of the cities of the plain destroyed,
  - They despaired of ever having husbands and posterity...
  - So they come up with their incestuous scheme to make their father drunk and lie with him that they might bring forth children for him.
    - They did not want to be left desolate when their father died.
2. Their method was very wrong, but it is not as wicked as it might seem...
  - These women were not driven by sexual lust when they did this—they were earnestly desirous to produce children for their father that their family might not be cut off from the earth.
    - Their mother was dead and they hoped that they might be able to produce children for Lot in this way—and they did.
  - Lot also shares in much of the responsibility for this...
    - for he is the one who foolishly had settled in Sodom...
    - And it was he who allowed himself to get so drunk that he did not even know what his daughters had done to him.
3. In any case, these women did raise up a posterity to Lot in this way...
  - a. And they named them as children of incest...
    - Moab means *from our father*
    - And Ben-Ammi means *son of my nearest kinsman*.
  - b. And as might be expected these two sons of incest turned out to become very wicked nations known for immorality and idolatrous child sacrifice.
    - If these women had true faith, they would have sought the Lord and waited for Him to provide husbands for them as their godly descendant Ruth does many years later.
    - Clearly the Moabites and the Ammonites are the children of Lot's folly and stand as warning to us about joining ourselves to Sodom.
      - Lot was delivered from the fire and brimstone, but his posterity were for the most part not delivered.

B. But God's grace still shines through even in Lot's family!

1. About four centuries after Moab and Ben-Ammi (or Ammon) were born,
  - they had greatly multiplied and lived in a fruitful country.
  - And here we see God's grace in that God still has special regard for them because they were Lot's descendants...
    - In Deuteronomy 2, when Israel is coming out of Egypt and instructed to destroy the Canaanites,
      - God commands them not to destroy Moab or Ammon...

- In Deuteronomy 2:9, He says: **“Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.”**
  - And likewise in Deuteronomy 2:19, He says of Ammon, **“And when you come near the people of Ammon, do not harass them or meddle with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as a possession.”**
  - Four hundred years later, the LORD protects these nations for Lot’s sake!
    - What grace He shows to His own!
2. But perhaps the greatest expression of His grace to Lot’s posterity is seen another 200 years or so after the Exodus—600 years after Lot,
- When Ruth, a Moabite woman, marries the son of a compromising Jew who had gone to Moab to escape a famine the LORD sent to chasten His people.
    - It turns out that the compromising Jew and his son who married Ruth die in Moab and Ruth refuses to leave her mother-in-law,
      - and returns with her to Israel to look after her, even though she has no hope of finding a husband.
  - This godly woman desires to be among God’s people,
    - And the LORD provides a very godly husband for her named Boaz and they bring forth a son named Obed and he brings forth Jesse who brings forth David...
      - So Ruth, the Moabitess becomes the great grandmother of King David from whom Jesus Christ, the Son of David comes almost a thousand years after David.
  - What grace this is to Lot!
    - He must be in heaven rejoicing with Ruth, his godly descendant, and perhaps Lot’s daughters are there too—and surely a few others...
      - But in any case, Lot is among those who brought forth Ruth who brought forth David who brought forth Jesus Christ!
3. How God’s grace shines through!
- If you are in Christ never stop praying for your children...
    - Even if they are ungodly, they may be saved, and if not them, then perhaps their children or their children’s children!
    - Just know that God is very gracious and never forgets His people!

**Conclusion**—Indeed we have seen how God’s grace shines through even in the deepest darkest places like Sodom and even in the most horrendous judgment that has been seen upon the earth...

- Truly, as Peter put it, the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment!
  - If you are interested in being delivered from the wrath to come, then I urge you to come to Jesus Christ to be saved from your sin...
  - And I assure you that He will be gracious to you!
    - He knows how to save from sin and He will not fail.