

The Angels, Lot, and Sodom

Gn 19 ¹ 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. ² 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." ³ 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.

⁴ 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. ⁵ 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."

⁶ So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, ⁷ and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. ¹¹ 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.

¹² 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! ¹³ 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."

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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." 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. ¹⁷ 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." ¹⁸ Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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." ²¹ 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. ²² Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

²³ The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

²⁴ Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵ So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶ But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

²⁷ And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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.

► Ch10 is part of a single unit with ch18. What ties them together is the overarching theme of God exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth, while building up His _____ as He does so.

Jer 9 ²³ Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, ... [nor] the mighty man ... in his might, nor ... the rich man ... in his riches; ²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight"

► The first thing we should note is how God involves his _____ in His work, so that they grow in their knowledge and imitation of God.

– Abraham

– The angels

Job 1 ⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. ... ³⁸ [God to Job:] "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ... ⁷ ... And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

Hb 2 ¹⁶ For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.

Eph 1 ¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in

the heavenly places, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord

1Pt 1.10-12 ¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, ... ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow ... ¹² ... things which angels desire to look into.

See also Gn3.24 and Dan 10.10-13.

► When the angels arrive in Sodom, it doesn't take them long to determine beyond beyond doubt that the wickedness of Sodom is as alleged in the outcry to God, and further that there are not even _____ righteous in the city (1-3).

► Lot was a _____ and did not _____ the wickedness of the town folk.

2Pet 2.7-8 ⁷ [God] delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)

► But sadly, Lot, like _____, always seemed to take the easiest path at the moment.

► Even Lot's weak protest infuriates the _____ (9).

2Pet 2 ⁹ [T]he Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

► Consider the lovingkindness already shown to Sodom — all the opportunities and incentives to _____.

► God acting to excise the cancer of evil in Sodom was not only a function of his judgment, but also His lovingkindness and his promise-keeping righteousness in order to preserve man and the earth for _____.

Gn13 ¹² Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. ¹³ But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked [Heb., ra] and sinful against the LORD.

Cf. Gn 6⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness [ra] of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil [ra] continually.