

**AVOIDING THE DEVASTATION  
BY THE PATH OF COMPROMISE**  
Texts from Genesis 13 & 19

## INTRODUCTION

In Genesis 19, the LORD brings judgement upon Sodom and Gomorrah, destroying these cities because of their very grievous sin. Given over to sexual immorality and going after strange flesh (homosexuality), the wickedness of Sodom had to be judged. Abraham's nephew Lot was living in Sodom, so he asked **"Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"** The LORD assures Abraham the righteous will not be destroyed. But Lot is not the man he should be. Though he has some faith, his life is filled with compromise – and this leads to terrible consequences.

## DIGGING DEEPER

Lot is a perplexing character. By making ungodly decisions and taking ungodly actions, he is not a good example to follow. But God's grace is seen in the only personal reference to Lot in the New Testament, **2 Peter 2:7-8**. Called a righteous man, Lot's soul was oppressed, vexed (tormented) by the filthy conduct of the wicked in Sodom. Yet Lot could not be an influence for righteousness! Our character study will observe the small steps of attitude and action that caused Lot to drift. Let's consider what led Lot down this path of compromise and ineffectiveness. We don't want to end up like Lot – a believer, but sowing to the flesh and reaping corruption!

*Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.*

I. Genesis 13:10-11. Abraham gave Lot the choice of where he wanted to live. He selected the well watered plain of Jordan, **"like the land of Egypt"**. In Scripture, Egypt is a type of the world – the physical world, the world of humanity, and also the evil system organized under Satan's sphere of influence which opposes God. *1 John 5:19*. Lot was attracted to the world's influence, ease, and comfort. What does the Bible say about this? *1 John 2:15-17, John 17:14-18*.

II. Genesis 13:12-13. Lot did not value his family's influence and heritage, or the blessings that resulted from following God. In exercising his independence, Lot is turning away from these godly influences and relationships in his life. He **"pitched his tent as far as Sodom"**. Surrounded by exceedingly wicked and sinful men, Lot may not participate with their sin but comes to approve of their sinful practices. *Romans 1:32*.

III. Genesis 19:1. Now living in Sodom, Lot is found **"sitting in the gate"**, where the city leaders and judges were found! Lot is now a representative of the city and its culture. In contrast to *Psalms 1:1*, Lot has been pulled away from his godly roots. Some might think they can change the worldly around them, but they end up being changed by the world instead. Lot has lost his saltiness, and is no longer a light to his world. *Matthew 5:13-16*. Entrenched in the culture, the pressure to conform is too strong to overcome.

IV. Genesis 19:8. Conditioned by the world's mindset and mores, Lot's judgement has become so clouded that he offers his virgin daughters to the wicked mob! He doesn't have any idea how far he has drifted away. *Selah*

V. Genesis 19:14. With his life of compromise, Lot cannot speak with any moral or spiritual authority. Not having lived a holy and separated lifestyle, he is too weak to influence his family about the judgement to come.

Lot began well. He knew the truth. But the world's influence led him into compromising decisions that resulted in devastating consequences for both him and his family. Lot's decisions had an impact on other people. Lot is reaping what he has sown. *Galatians 6:7-8*. Let's learn, so we don't end up like Lot.

## CONSIDER ..... our decisions impact other people.

- o At some point, change must be made. Demonstrate true repentance in your own life. *2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1*
- o Take charge of your witness. Your speech, your thoughts, what you watch, your values.... *Romans 12:1-2*
- o Now influence & lead others in a life of holiness. *Jude 1:20-23*

## PRAY

- o Night of Praise and Thanksgiving Wednesday, 11/23. Celebrate the multitude of blessings of our great God.
- o Church fast 11/28-12/2. May the Holy Spirit move upon all our hearts to desire personal holiness.
- o Teens and youth, Pastor Steve. Pray for our youth, that they may follow Jesus with all their heart.
- o Church Bible studies - Pray that every person joins a regular small group Bible study for discipleship & fellowship.
- o Prayer ministry – Pray that folks will be moved to join in the various prayer meetings that gather throughout the week.
- o Local & regional outreaches – St. John in Exile presentations; WZXV in Ithaca; Pastor Mark Sieber in Geneva.
- o International missions (info in foyer) – China missions; Pastor Ted's upcoming trip to China 11/22-12/8