

Abraham Had His Prayer Answered; Lot Was Saved and Sodom Destroyed: The Picture of Backsliding Faith Genesis 19:01–38

1. *Picture 1:*

Lot's compromise with the world

- a. He sat in the gateway of Sodom,
a sign that he was a leader
in the wicked city
- b. He was a believer:
Had an inner goodness
- 1) Extended an urgent invitation
of hospitality to the two men:
They rejected
- 2) Showed an anxious concern
for the safety of others:
Insisted they spend the night
with him; they accepted

2. *Picture 2: Lot's depravity*

- a. He had chosen a godless,
depraved environment:
A mob surrounded his house
- 1) All were depraved
- 2) All burned with unnatural
affection: Homosexual lust
- b. He had made his home
with the depraved
and wicked of the earth,
became one with them
- 1) Went out: Knew and lived
among the worldly too long
- 2) Called them brothers,
friends

- 1 The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening,
and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city.
When he saw them,
he got up to meet them
and bowed down with his face to the ground.
- 2 “My lords,” he said,
“please turn aside to your servant’s house.
You can wash your feet and spend the night
and then go on your way early in the morning.”
“No,” they answered,
“we will spend the night in the square.”
- 3 But he insisted so strongly
that they did go with him and entered his house.
He prepared a meal for them,
baking bread without yeast, and they ate.
- 4 Before they had gone to bed,
all the men
from every part of the city of Sodom —
both young and old —
surrounded the house.
- 5 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.”
- 6 Lot went outside to meet them
and shut the door behind him
- 7 and said, “No, my friends.
Don’t do this wicked thing.

<p>c. He had become engulfed by selfishness and compromise: Offered to give his daughters to the mob in exchange for the guests — a sin for a sin</p> <p>d. He had lived a hypocritical life: He had judged and reproved the citizens of Sodom for their injustices while living a compromising and worldly life</p> <p>e. He was saved from the mob by the two angels.</p> <p>1) They pulled Lot back into the house</p> <p>2) They blinded the mob</p> <p>3. <i>Picture 3: Lot's powerless life and testimony</i></p> <p>a. A warning</p> <p>1) To save his family</p> <p>2) To escape the coming judgment: Sodom's wickedness to be destroyed</p> <p>b. A powerless testimony</p> <p>1) Lot warned his family</p> <p>2) His family considered the warning a joke</p> <p>4. <i>Picture 4: Lot's desire to linger in the world</i></p> <p>a. An urgent warning: Hurry, get out, lest you be consumed</p>	<p>8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof."</p> <p>9 "Get out of our way," they replied. "This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.</p> <p>10 But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door.</p> <p>11 Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.</p> <p>12 The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here — sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here,</p> <p>13 because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."</p> <p>14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.</p> <p>15 With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."</p>
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<p>b. A lingering</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lot had difficulty giving up his home and possessions 2) God's mercy: Lot was taken by the hand and forced out <p>c. An incredible spiritual weakness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The LORD's urgent warning to Lot: Escape... lest you be consumed 2) Lot pleaded against God's will 3) Lot pleaded physical weakness 4) Lot pleaded to remain close to Sodom (in the world) <p>d. God accepted Lot's choice: To continue in worldliness (Zoar, vv. 20, 22)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) God argued no more 2) But God continued to save: Because of Abraham's prayer <p>5. <i>Picture 5: Lot's warning of judgement — in answer to prayer</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The compromising believer: Lost everything b. The depraved unbelievers were judged, suffered fire and brimstone 	<p>16 When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.</p> <p>17 As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"</p> <p>18 But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please!</p> <p>19 Your servant has found favour in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die.</p> <p>20 Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it — it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared."</p> <p>21 He said to him, "Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of.</p> <p>22 But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it." (That is why the town was called Zoar.)</p> <p>23 By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land.</p> <p>24 Then the LORD rained down burning sulphur on Sodom and Gomorrah — from the LORD out of the heavens.</p> <p>25 Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities — and also the vegetation in the land.</p>
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<p>c. The spouse of a backsliding believer: Loved the world and was judged</p> <p>6. <i>Picture 6: Lot's deliverance — in answer to prayer</i></p> <p>a. The prayer warrior's urgent anticipation: Abraham arose early and looked to see what had happened</p> <p>b. God's remembrance: Saved Lot — all because of Abraham's persevering prayer</p> <p>7. <i>Picture 7: Lot's tragic end — results of backsliding</i></p> <p>a. Fear</p> <p>b. Humiliation — lost all including respect: Lived in a cave</p> <p>c. A bad influence upon children</p> <p>1) Immoral thoughts and plans</p> <p>2) Drunkenness and sexual impurity</p>	<p>26 But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.</p> <p>27 Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD.</p> <p>28 He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.</p> <p>29 So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.</p> <p>30 Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave.</p> <p>31 One day the older daughter said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man around here to give us children — as is the custom all over the earth.</p> <p>32 Let's get our father to drink wine and then sleep with him and preserve our family line through our father."</p> <p>33 That night they got their father to drink wine, and the older daughter went in and slept with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.</p>
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<p>3) Children misleading children into sin and shame: The older sister led the younger sister into evil</p> <p>d. Trouble for future generations</p> <p>1) Moab was born: To oppose God's people throughout history</p> <p>2) Ben-ammi, the father of the Ammorites, was born: To oppose God's people throughout history</p>	<p>34 The next day the older daughter said to the younger, "Last night I slept with my father. Let's get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and sleep with him so we can preserve our family line through our father."</p> <p>35 So they got their father to drink wine that night also, and the younger daughter went in and slept with him. Again he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.</p> <p>36 So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father.</p> <p>37 The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today.</p> <p>38 The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.</p>
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