

## Genesis 18-19 – Grace and Judgement

### God Demands Obedience

#### Genesis 18:1-8 – Recap

#### Genesis 18:9-15 – God Confirms...God Sees

*<sup>9</sup>“Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him. “There, in the tent,” he answered. <sup>10</sup>The Lord said, “I will certainly come back to you in about a year’s time, and your wife Sarah will have a son!” Now Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent behind him. <sup>11</sup>Abraham and Sarah were old and getting on in years. Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup>So she laughed to herself: “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I have delight?” <sup>13</sup>But the Lord asked Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Can I really have a baby when I’m old?’ <sup>14</sup>Is anything impossible for the Lord? At the appointed time I will come back to you, and in about a year she will have a son.” <sup>15</sup>Sarah denied it. “I did not laugh,” she said, because she was afraid. But he replied, “No, you did laugh.”*

Two very important statements happen in this section. (1) The Lord confirms His covenant and (2) the Lord hears and knows everything.

First, the Lord confirms His covenant promise to Abraham by announcing that the time for the child of promise has arrived. The time has come. Abraham has been waiting in the land for almost 20 years for the promised child.

Second, the Lord hears and knows everything. How do we know? He points out what Sarah thinks.

#### Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why does God continually remind Abraham of the covenant?
- ❖ How does reminding ourselves of the gospel strengthen our faith?
- ❖ Nothing is hidden from God, so why do we find ourselves living as if God doesn’t see everything?

#### Genesis 18:16-33 - Abraham’s Plea for Sodom - Recap

#### Genesis 19:1-11 – Generational Sin

*<sup>6</sup>Lot went out to them at the entrance and shut the door behind him. <sup>7</sup>He said, “Don’t do this evil, my brothers. <sup>8</sup>Look, I’ve got two daughters who haven’t been intimate with a man. I’ll bring them out to you, and you can do whatever you want to them. However, don’t do anything to these men, because they have come under the protection of my roof.”*

*<sup>9</sup>“Get out of the way!” they said, adding, “This one came here as an alien, but he’s acting like a judge! Now we’ll do more harm to you than to them.” They put pressure on Lot and came up to break down the door. <sup>10</sup>But the angels reached out, brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup>They struck the men who were at the entrance of the house, both young and old, with blindness so that they were unable to find the entrance.*

We must remember. God does not look at sin the way the world looks at sin. God does not excuse sin the way the world excuses sin. God will judge sin. God will allow sin to destroy our lives. We will see that the only hope Lot or any of us has is God reaching down and saving us.

One of the saddest phrases in this whole story is “both young and old”. The older men were teaching and leading the younger men to be men of debauchery. Not only did they celebrate their sin...they passed it on to the next generation willingly and enthusiastically.

What we teach the next generation is vital. While we are to be concerned with teaching our children the skills, they need to survive in this world...those lessons pale in comparison to the gospel they need to know for the next world. The gospel is supreme when it comes to what you pass on to the next generation.

### Discussion Questions

- ❖ How does God view sin? Will God judge all sin? What is our only hope of escaping the judgement of God concerning our sin?
- ❖ Do you live like your life is directly impacting the next generation?
- ❖ What changes to your life would you make if you knew someone was going to mimic every single thing you did?

### Gen 19:12-22 - Recap

### Gen 19:23-29 – Judgement Comes

*<sup>23</sup>The sun had risen over the land when Lot reached Zoar. <sup>24</sup>Then out of the sky the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah burning sulfur from the Lord. <sup>25</sup>He demolished these cities, the entire plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and whatever grew on the ground. <sup>26</sup>But Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt.*

*<sup>27</sup>Early in the morning Abraham went to the place where he had stood before the Lord. <sup>28</sup>He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the plain, and he saw that smoke was going up from the land like the smoke of a furnace. <sup>29</sup>So it was, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham and brought Lot out of the middle of the upheaval when he demolished the cities where Lot had lived.*

Judgement for sin had come to Sodom and Gomorrah. This is a reminder that eternal judgement is coming as well. 2 Peter 2:6 says, “*and if he reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes and condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is coming to the ungodly;*”. The gospel says, “run!” and the world says “stay and enjoy”. The call of the gospel is to turn from sin and the world and run to Jesus. While many seem to like the idea of salvation...the love of sin and the world has too strong of a hold on them.

Lot's wife looked back because she loved the life she had built. Lot's wife reminds me of the parable of the Sower in Matthew 13. Particularly Matthew 13:22: *Now the one sown among the thorns—this is one who hears the word, but the worries of this age and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

The Word of God became unfruitful in her life. Why? Because she ignored it. You can't expect to have a spiritually fruitful life while ignoring God's Word. Lot's wife clearly ignored what was commanded to her in verse 17 (CSB): *As soon as the angels got them outside, one of them said, “Run for your lives! Don't look back and don't stop anywhere on the plain! Run to the mountains, or you will be swept away!”* As far as we can tell, she obeyed all of the command except one part. This shows us that God desires for us to be obedient to ALL of His Word not just the parts we like.

### Discussion Questions

- ❖ Eternal judgement is coming. Do you have a burden to share the gospel? If not...are you praying for that burden?
- ❖ Do you battle with loving and valuing the things of this world more than you should? What are some practical steps we can take to better prioritize our lifestyle and desires?
- ❖ When was the last time you asked yourself if you love the world and the things of the world too much?
- ❖ What are some things (not people) that you don't want to give up? Why? Ultimately, do those things matter more than God's call on your life?

### Gen 19:30-38 - Recap