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Genesis Chapters 19b and 20

Last week we moved into the 19th chapter of the book of Genesis, and we sufficiently covered who the three men that met with Abraham were. We talked a little bit about the Trinity and what today's modern-day version of Christianity believes, versus what the truth of Scripture says, and we talked about the one sin that our Father in Heaven calls an "abomination", which is of course "homosexuality". We know that to this very day Sodom and Gomorrah is a stark reminder for every modern-day Christian to know and to understand that our Father in heaven does indeed look at homosexuality as an abomination, and those that engage in homosexuality in any form, are guilty of committing an abomination before the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

Now I am fully aware that today's society and culture would highly disagree with the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob... but I must admit, that this is not my concern. My concern is not what today's society and culture would, or would not, agree, or disagree with concerning God's word. My concern, as a true God-fearing, cross bearing, Messiah following Christian, is what the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob says. And I think that all Christians would do well to keep this in mind.

We also spoke a little bit about the covenants of God, and the fact that none of the covenants of our Father in heaven has ever been revoked, or done away with, or forgotten. Each one of our Father's covenants builds upon the other. And so, the promise that our Father in heaven made to Abraham and his descendants has not fallen away, or been scratched off the list, or been replaced, or forgotten by the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. Abraham and his descendants will indeed occupy the land that God gave Abraham and his descendants, and the world is soon going to be a witness to this biblical fact.

We spoke a little bit about the two Angels that came to rescue Lot and his family, and we spoke about the fact that Lot knew that these two men were indeed Angels (not to mention the fact that we're told that these two men were angels in Genesis chapter 19 verse 1). We also spoke about the fact that God did indeed destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of the homosexual activity that was found in that place. Even when Lot offered his two daughters to the men of Sodom in place of the two Angels, these homosexual men wanted nothing to do with two young virgin women. They were clearly after the two men that had entered Lot's house. Little did they know... that these two men were indeed Angels sent by God to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for exactly what these men were trying to do.

Before we leave chapter 19 there are a few things that I want to bring to your attention. One of the first things that I want us to take a look at, is why Lot did not want to seek refuge in the hills. Lot was sure that even the hills were going to be destroyed by what was going on in Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot was also well aware of the wild beasts and deadly things that roamed the hills, and animals that lived in the wild. We have to remember that Lot and his family were leaving Sodom and Gomorrah with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They had no way to defend themselves from the beasts of the earth, they had no shelter, they had no food, all they had was the clothes that they were wearing on their backs. And so, Lot asks the Angels to allow him to go to the closest town which was called Zoar.

It's important to remember in verse 22, that we're told that the Angels were not allowed to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah until Lot arrived in Zoar. Verse 23 tells us that the sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. And in the very next verse in verse 24, we're told, that Yahovah rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire out of heaven, and that he overthrew those cities, and all the Valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and everything that grew on the ground.

In verse 26 we see that Lot's wife decided that she was going to look back, which was a direct violation of what the Angel told her in verse 17. The Angel very clearly tells her "*do not look back or stop anywhere in the Valley*". And because she decided to look back, and disobey the commandment that the Angel had given her, she herself was turned into a pillar of salt.

In the middle of running away from the sin that they had left in Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's wife just couldn't help herself from looking back at the sin that they were being saved out of.

I want us to understand that when we are truly saved out of the sin that we have lived in in the past... there is no point in looking back. As a Christian, it's important that we understand how dangerous it is for us to look back at our old life and reminisce about the good old days.

As a true God-fearing, cross bearing, Messiah following Christian, it is important for us to understand that when we put our hands to the plow, we must continue to move forward and not backward. Because if we do wind up moving backward, we will indeed be swept away in the very sin that we were saved out of. I'd like to read a few Scriptures to you to solidify what it is that I'm trying to explain here. The first one is Hebrews chapter 6 versus four through six:

Heb 6:4 *For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,*

Heb 6:5 *and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,*

Heb 6:6 *and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.*

Once we understand the truth, and we know, and understand who our Messiah is, and what he has done for us, and we have shared in the Ruach Hackodesh of God, we cannot return like a dog to his vomit or a pig to its mire and expect him to be re-crucified over again. If we waive the free gift of salvation off, and we trade what we've been given for the past, there is no more sacrifice for sin. And just so that we can clearly understand this, we must also turn to the book of Hebrews chapter 10 verses 26 through 31:

Heb 10:26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Heb 10:27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Heb 10:28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Heb 10:29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

Heb 10:30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people."

Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

I want us to very clearly understand what is being said here in the book of Hebrews. And I want us to also understand very clearly, what our Messiah tells us in his own red-letter words. Let's see what our Messiah has to say about looking back. We can find that in the book of Luke chapter 9 verses 57 through 62:

Luk 9:57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

Luk 9:58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Luk 9:59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

Luk 9:60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Luk 9:61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."

Luk 9:62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

I know as Christians, most of us have photo albums. Most of us have friends that we used to hang around with. Most of us have acquaintances that we used to do business with. Most of us have had connections to people who were unbelievers. I want us to think about what Lot and his

family were leaving behind in Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom was where Lot and his family lived. It shouldn't be too hard for us to understand that Lot and his family probably had a lot of friends, and connections, and business acquaintances in Sodom. Many of us today have friends, and connections, and business acquaintances who live a homosexual lifestyle just like the people in Sodom did. And I want us to think about that for a moment.

What was it that caused Lot's wife to stop and to look back? What causes any Christian to stop moving forward towards the hope of salvation, and to look back? We're told that the devil is like a prowling lion, always lurking in the background, waiting to see whom it is that he can devour. When a lion is on the hunt, and he's chasing a herd of sheep... he's looking for the first one that stops and looks back. He's hoping that one of the sheep is foolish enough to stop, and to turn and look back. And this is exactly why our Messiah tells us in his own red-letter words and I quote, *"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

I want us to also understand what the apostle Peter taught concerning those who look back. We can find that in second Peter chapter 2 versus 20 through 22:

2Pe 2:20 *For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.*

2Pe 2:21 *For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.*

2Pe 2:22 *What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."*

There's also something else very profound that we see the 19th chapter of the book of Genesis. I'd like us to go back and take a close look at Genesis chapter 19 verse 29:

Gen 19:29 *So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.*

I think it's important that we see that one of the reasons that God saved Lot and his family, was because God remembered Abraham. We must remember that Lot was Abraham's nephew. He was the son of his brother, and Abraham had even risked his life to save Lot and his family from the Kings of the North. One of the reasons that God saved Lot, was because Abraham loved his nephew. And so, I want us to understand how important it is for us as Christians to stand in the gap for others, and to pray fervently, and without ceasing for those we love, no matter how lost they may seem. Our Father in heaven does indeed take these things into consideration.

Consider what the Apostle Paul once said about an unbelieving spouse, we can find that in 1st Corinthians chapter 7 verses 13 through 17:

1Co 7:13 If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.

1Co 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

1Co 7:15 But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace.

1Co 7:16 For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

1Co 7:17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.

And so once again, it's important to understand the power of "love" and "prayer".

Now we know that Lot was not seen as an evil man. And I have heard all kinds of pastors preach about how evil Lot was. And they will use all kinds of analogies and philosophies to try and get us to believe that Lot was indeed an evil man for several different reasons (a few of those reasons we'll soon see as we move forward). But that's not what our God breathed Scriptures tell us about Lot. According to the apostle Peter, Lot was a righteous man. I'd like us to turn to second Peter chapter 2 versus four through 11:

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

2Pe 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

2Pe 2:8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

2Pe 2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

2Pe 2:10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,

2Pe 2:11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.

Now this is probably one of the longest sentences in the Bible, but if we read it, we can clearly see that Lot was seen as righteous according to our God breathed Scriptures. I want us to keep that in mind as we move forward and on into the last couple of verses of Genesis chapter 19.

We see in Genesis chapter 19 versus 30 through 38, that Lot is now alone with his two daughters. The two daughters are not married, and Lot has already lost his wife because she looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.

As we have walked through the book of Genesis, we've already talked about how important that it was back in those days for a woman to bear a child. Bearing a child meant that the family line would continue. Women back in those days were well aware of the fact, that without children, the family line died with them. And so, it was always seen as extremely important for the woman of those days to have children.

We have to remember that salvation through the only begotten son of God had not come to fruition as of yet back in the days of Lot. It was always understood back in those days, that for a man to continue on, he needed to have a son. He needed to have a family line. Back then, death was seen much differently than it is seen today. Back then, they didn't have a Savior (at least not that they knew of at that time). The only way that a man could live on... was through his sons and his grandson and his family lineage. Back then, family lineage was much more important than it is to us today.

Lots two daughters are well aware of the fact that their father is not going to willingly impregnate them. Lots two daughters know that they have to come up with a plan in order to keep their father's lineage going. And so, they get their father Lot drunk, and then they go in and seduce him and become pregnant.

Now there are a few things that I want us to notice within the Scriptures. The first thing that I want us to notice is that Lot is never reprimanded anywhere within our God breathed Scriptures for becoming drunk in his own tent. Lot was never called an evil man. And it should also be duly noted that the daughters of Lot are never called evil women anywhere within the Scripture. What Lots two daughters did, was done with good intention. There was nothing lascivious, or sinful, or destructive going on as far as their intentions were concerned.

It's important that we understand why Lots two daughters did what they did. And it should be pretty easy for us to understand why they did what they did if we simply read verse 31:

Gen 19:31 *And the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth."*

We must remember that Sodom and Gomorrah was just destroyed, and along with Sodom and Gomorrah, the men were also destroyed. The only thing left was the small village of Zoar that

they had already been to, and obviously... there were no available men that could be found within that small village, or there were no believing men that could be found there who believed in the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And so, we're told that there was not a man on earth to come into the two daughters of Lot. This left the two daughters of Lot in quite a predicament. Even though Lot was old, he was still a man, and lots two daughters knew that he was the only way that they were going to be able to have children, and to continue the family line of their father.

With that all being said, it's interesting to know and understand who the children of Lots two daughters would end up being. I'd like us to just take a moment and go back and read verses 36 through 38:

Gen 19:36 *Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father.*

Gen 19:37 *The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day.*

Gen 19:38 *The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.*

The Moabites and the Ammonites were bitter enemies of Abraham's descendants. Let's turn to second Chronicles chapter 2 verse one:

2Ch 20:1 *After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.*

Jehoshaphat was the fourth King of the kingdom of Judah, and we can see that the Moabites and the Ammonites which came from the two daughters of Lot, had become enemies of the descendants of Abraham (at least until the time of Ruth, and we'll get to that in a moment). I want us to also turn to first Samuel chapter 14 verse 47:

1Sa 14:47 *When Saul had taken the kingship over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the Ammonites, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned he routed them.*

Once again, we see that even Saul who was the King of Israel was doing battle with the Moabites and the Ammonites. But when we get into the book of Ruth, we find that Ruth was married to Mahlon, the son of Elimelech. Ruth was a Moabite woman whose faith was great, and when her Jewish husband Mahlon died... she insisted on traveling with Naomi who was her mother-in-law. And to make a long story short, Ruth married Boaz, another Israelite, and Ruth is mentioned as one of the five women in the direct genealogy of Yeshua Hamashiach.

Ruth was a gentile woman. Lot was not a physical descendant of Abraham. He was Abraham's Nephew, the son of his brother. The promise that God gave to Abraham and his descendants

started with Abraham, not his brother. And so, once again, this should remind us of the fact, that salvation can indeed come to anyone who was willing to follow after the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, including a gentile woman that is found in the very lineage of our Messiah. And we must remember as modern-day Christians, that if we are following after his only begotten son... we too, are following after the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

And so that's just a little bit of background on Lot and his two daughters and his two grandsons... or his two... sons, however you want to look at it.

And that brings us to Genesis chapter 20. Genesis chapter 20 is a fairly short chapter, so let's go ahead and read through Genesis chapter 20:

Gen 20:1 *From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar.*

Gen 20:2 *And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.*

Gen 20:3 *But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."*

Gen 20:4 *Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, "Lord, will you kill an innocent people?"*

Gen 20:5 *Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this."*

Gen 20:6 *Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her."*

Gen 20:7 *Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."*

Gen 20:8 *So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid.*

Gen 20:9 *Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done."*

Gen 20:10 *And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you see, that you did this thing?"*

Gen 20:11 *Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, 'There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.'*

Gen 20:12 *Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.*

Gen 20:13 And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, "This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, "He is my brother.""

Gen 20:14 Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him.

Gen 20:15 And Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you."

Gen 20:16 To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated."

Gen 20:17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children.

Gen 20:18 For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Now, I want us to be careful with this particular chapter because I have heard all kinds of commentaries, and all kinds of different theologies, and ideas about whether or not Abraham sinned in Genesis chapter 20. Once again, it's important to understand that Sarah was indeed Abraham's sister. And so, Abraham did not lie when he told Abimelech that Sarah was his sister. No sin has been committed here. And I want us to understand that this is often times what happened to men who were married to beautiful women when they came into these different kingdoms.

The Kings would often times murder the husbands, and take the wives for themselves. This was common practice back in those days, and so Abraham expected this to happen to him as well. Now, how do we know that this was a common practice back in those days? Well... I'd like us to jump ahead to Genesis chapter 26 versus six through 13:

Gen 26:6 So Isaac settled in Gerar.

Gen 26:7 When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he feared to say, "My wife," thinking, "lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah," because she was attractive in appearance.

Gen 26:8 When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife.

Gen 26:9 So Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, 'She is my sister?'" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, 'Lest I die because of her.'"

Gen 26:10 Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us."

Gen 26:11 So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, "Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

Gen 26:12 And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him,

Gen 26:13 and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.

Do we see anything striking in these verses? Once again... it was commonplace for many of these Kings to kill the husbands, and to take the wives for themselves. And so back in those days you did what you had to do in order to stay alive. And we must also understand that our Father in heaven was well aware of these evil practices. But we must also remember that our Father in heaven is a master of turning lemons into lemonade.

Once again, we find that Abraham is given 1000 pieces of silver, and he once again comes away from this ordeal richer and more prosperous than he was going in. And so, we've seen this same story three different times. Once with Abraham and Pharaoh, then with Abraham and Abimelech, and then again with Isaac and another Abimelech, (who was probably the son of the first Abimelech).

Gerar, was later known as Philistine, and we're told in Genesis chapter 26 verse one, that this second King Abimelech, was the King of the Philistines. Something else to make note of, is that Goliath of Gath was a Philistine. And the Philistines were historically known for being warriors that were Giant in size. The Dead Sea Scrolls and the first century historian Josephus and the fourth century Septuagint manuscripts all say that Goliath stood about 6'9" tall. The Masoretic text tells us that he was 9'9" feet tall. The Geneva Bible tells us that he was 9'4" feet tall, the good news translation tells us that he was 10 feet tall, but no matter what his exact size was, it should be clear to us that he was much taller than most men of his time.

Just the body armor that Goliath wore was about 120 pounds, and just the spearhead alone that was mounted on his Weavers beam, was said to be 15 pounds. I'd like us to see a reproduction of Goliath's spear that resides at the Creation Museum:

<https://www.goliathsspear.com/>

Keeping this in mind, it makes more sense that Goliath most likely did stand between nine and 10 feet tall. It would be awful difficult for a man even six-foot two to wear 120-pound body armor during battle and carry a weaver's beam with a 15-pound spearhead on it. And so personally I personally, tend to lean towards what the Masoretic text has to say.

But with all that being said, we've come to the close of Genesis chapters 19 and 20, and we'll pick up Genesis chapter 21 next Wednesday evening at 7 PM Eastern standard time.