

FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 19 & 20

6/17-18/2024

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, Suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
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OPENING PRAYER

Genesis Chapter 19 – Sodom’s Depravity (vs. 1-11); Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed (vs. 12-29); The Descendants of Lot (vs. 30-38)! – Genesis Chapter 20 – Abraham and Abimelech (vs. 1-17)!

REVIEW: (Gen 18:32) *Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there (in Sodom)?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."*

God Rescues Lot

Gen 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.*

- In the thirteenth chapter of Genesis, when Lot separated himself from Abraham, we read that Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom. Sodom was a very wicked city. The fourteenth chapter, we find that Lot was now dwelling in Sodom, and now when we get to the nineteenth chapter, he is sitting in the gate of Sodom, as a prominent man of the city. The sitting in the gate was a symbol of the position of a judge. Lot is now a part of Sodom!
- When there were judgments to be made among the people, the judges were always in the gates of the city. Thus, they would come to the gate of the city for judgment. We see the progression of Lot, really towards the evil. He first of all pitches his tent towards Sodom, then he is dwelling in Sodom, and now he becomes one of the ruling judges in this wicked city.

Gen 19:2 *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."*

Gen 19:3 *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.*

- Lot was vexed by the way the people were living in Sodom. His righteous spirit was vexed by their manner of life. He knew the wickedness of the city and yet he dwelled there. He knew the dangers that would come to them if they tried to spend the night in the open square of the city. So Lot is insisting that they come and spend the night at his house.
- **He insisted strongly!** (2Pe 2:7) *and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked.* Lot now goes downward from here on.
- **He made a feast, and baked unleavened bread.** The fact that he baked it could indicate that his wife was upset for him to bringing them home like this. He may have said, "Fix some bread," and she said, "You fix it. You brought them here."
- **Unleavened bread.** This is the first mention of unleavened bread in the scripture. Later on, it was to be used in the Passover. Leaven in the scripture is always a type of sin because it multiplies by a rottenness or by putrefication, growing and permeating the whole loaf, so similar to that of sin!

Gen 19:4 *Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house.*

- This is not just a small segment of the city. It doesn't represent a minority group. It represents really the general practice of the city of Sodom. Men both old and young, men from every quarter of the city, surrounded the house of Lot!

Gen 19:5 *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."*

- **Men wanting men, unspeakable lust! That is, that they might know them** in a homosexual way. Note this is a capital offense crime, under the Mosaic Law! (**Lev 20:13**) *If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. (1Co 6:9) Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, [10] nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.*
- (**Eze 16:49-50**) *Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. [50] And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.*

- **(1Ti 1:9-10)** knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, [10] for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,
- **Gibeah's Crime- Book of Judges, several hundred years later – (Jdg 19:22-24)** As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, ___ and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!" [23] But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage. [24] Look, here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!"

Gen 19:6 So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him,

Gen 19:7 and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!

Gen 19:8 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."

- **We have an extremely difficult time understanding Lot at this point.** His willingness to offer his two virgin daughters to this lustful crowd that they might abuse them, rape them. I cannot understand Lot doing this, but I do not understand the eastern mind. I do not understand the social customs wherein this eastern area when you bring a man into your house, you are morally obligated to take care of that man as long as he abides in your house. Even to the present day in the Bedouin communities, they have this tremendous respect for guests. He may be an archenemy of yours, but if he comes into your house as a guest, you are duty bound, honor bound to protect him and take care of him while he is there.
- **There are cases even to the present day where in a Bedouin's tent a man has come in as a guest, with whom the host has a vendetta.** They still have vengeance-type killings as the custom was in the olden days. If a person would kill one of the members of your family then you were more or less honor bound to kill him. Even if a person that you are determined to kill, comes into your house, you'll to treat him well, protecting him. You'll shelter him, but oftentimes, when he leaves the house you'll kill him. That is the way they look at the honor of providing for the guest.

Gen 19:9 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.

Gen 19:10 But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.

Gen 19:11 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.

- **Struck with blindness.** Another place in the Old Testament, we find God striking the army of the Syrians with blindness when they came to capture Elisha. (2Ki 6:18a) So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness."
- **But here God smote them with blindness.** Now the amazing thing to me is that they kept trying to find the door! What would you have done had you been there and had been smitten with blindness? I'd try to find my way home. But they kept trying to find the door. Their sexual desire was more important to them than their eyesight! They wearied themselves in trying to find the door. It shows you how determined they were in their sinful practices!

Gen 19:12 Then the men (the two angels) 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!

Gen 19:13 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."

- Get your family out of here because we've got a mission to destroy this place.

Gen 19:14 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.

- It is interesting it doesn't say he went to his sons. It could be that they had become so polluted that he knew that there was no reason to talk to them. He doesn't even try to reach his sons, but he does go to his sons-in-law. They said, "You're crazy. This place isn't going to be destroyed." It was just like he was joking with them. It was like, "Incredible. It can't happen here." They weren't moved.

Gen 19:15 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."

- There seems to be a real reluctance of Lot to leave. He seems to hesitate. The angels are constantly sort of pushing and urging him.

Gen 19:16 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.

- And while he lingered! Why would Lot want to linger? They urged him saying, "Let's hurry." Now he is lingering. Lot chose Sodom. Set his tent toward Sodom. Moved into Sodom. Became a part of the leadership, sitting in the gate of Sodom. We see Lot's reluctance in leaving Sodom!
- The men took hold of his hand. They practically drug him out of the city.
- And took his wife's hand, and the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful to him: and they brought him out, and set him outside the city. They almost had to remove him by force, just taking his hand and pulling him out, pulling his wife and the daughters out.
- ***Is there any part of me that really wants to linger in this fleshly world!***

Gen 19:17 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."

Gen 19:18 Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords!"

Gen 19:19 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.

- What inconsistent logic! God saved me from Sodom so He could kill me in the mountains? It doesn't really make sense. Fear, oftentimes, does not make sense!

Gen 19:20 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."

Gen 19:21 And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also (what mercy!) in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken.

Gen 19:22 Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

- For I cannot do anything until you arrive there. I think that is a very important statement. The angel is declaring, "I cannot do anything until you are safe, until you are out of here."
- In the New Testament, there are several references to Lot, warning of the dangers of turning back. (Luk 9:62; 17:32,26). Perhaps most important of all to us is (2Pe 2:7-9) and 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)— then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment. That is being used in the context of the second coming of Jesus Christ and the Great Tribulation, in which he is declaring, **God knows how to deliver the righteous, but to reserve the ungodly for the day of judgment.** God's day of judgment is fast approaching upon this world in which we live. We cannot escape the judgment of God. It's really long overdue.
- **God has been very patient and very long-suffering, but as God said to Noah, (Gen 6:3a) And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever. There comes a day when it is over.** That

work of God's Spirit, striving with men and judgment follows, but before the judgment will fall, God knows how to deliver the righteous.

- **You remember Abraham's intercession, the whole logic of it is, "Would you destroy the righteous with the wicked?"** It wouldn't be fair to destroy the righteous with the wicked." God accepted that and promised to spare the city if there are ten righteous that are found there. Ten righteous could not be found, only Lot. So God delivered him and the angel said, "Get out of here. We cannot destroy this place until you are safely in that little city of Zoar." And so the judgment of God was stayed until the righteous were removed!
- **I believe that the judgment of God against this Christ-rejecting, humanistic world is being kept back** by the presence of the Christian body; that once God removes His church, that the judgment of God is going to fall just as it fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah! (*Rev chapters 6-18*). The earth will see the judgment of God as God pours out the wrath of His indignation upon a Christ rejecting world!. By the righteous nature of God, He will not judge the righteous with the wicked, but will, as He did with Lot, take them out, before His judgment comes.
- ***How comforting this is, to fully realize that God has not appointed His church to His wrath. His church, all believers, must be taken out and He will take it out, before His judgment comes in the Great Tribulation!***

God Destroys Sodom

Gen 19:23 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

- **How interesting it is that Lot didn't take off for his uncle Abraham.** No doubt, he knew that Abraham was living just in the high plains above Sodom and Gomorrah, down toward Hebron, Beersheba. But we see that Lot wanted to stay close to this place!
- **It's amazing the strange fascination that evil can have for a person.** How that seeing such evil can oftentimes have a hold and take hold on a person's life? There is some kind of a strange fascination, some kind of a drawing power, and they are drawn into it. Just like so much sin, it has that way of just getting a hold on a person's life. It begins to overpower you!
- **So, we see Lot just sort of drawn to this area, reluctant to leave it.** Though his righteous spirit is vexed, he is not really in a hurry to leave. He doesn't really want to leave the place.

Gen 19:24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.

Gen 19:25 So He overthrew (devastated) those cities all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

Gen 19:26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

- ***But his wife looked back!*** This is a tremendous lesson for us today. Many Christians talk about how they want to see the Lord come, but they are not living as if they mean it. Will it break your heart to leave all of this down here? I am not anxious to leave. I would love to stay. But I also want to be able to say that when He does call, I will not have a thing down here which will break my heart to leave—not a single thing!
- ***Does my life really demonstrate my being ready, and looking forward to His second coming?***
- **The other reason that Lot's wife looked back is simply that she did not believe God,** when He said, "Leave the city, and don't look back." Lot didn't look back; he believed God. But Mrs. Lot did not believe God. She, in unbelief didn't make it out of the city. She was turned to a pillar of salt. Oh, the cost of unbelief!
- **What is to be the attitude of the Christian toward homosexuality, a sin against God and nature?** Even Lot in his day said, "*You are doing wickedly.*" And God judged it. Isn't it enough for the child of God to know that he cannot compromise with this type of thing? This is a *sin*! The world indulges in it and then calling it a "gay" lifestyle. Sin is the problem, and homosexuality is a sin. It is so labeled in (*Rom 1:18-32*), where God gave them up! Genesis 19 is a very important chapter for this present generation in which we are living today.

- ***We are to hate the sin, but love the sinner! Am I doing both?***

Gen 19:27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD.

Gen 19:28 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.

- Abraham looked down over into the area of the plain there of Sodom, and he just saw this smoke going up like it was coming up out of a furnace.

Gen 19:29 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.

- ***God remembered Abraham!*** Here is God's favorable regard, remembering Abraham. As before when Abraham prayed for Ishmael, God heard him; for Isaac, so now, when he prayed for Sodom, He heard him for Lot. *He remembered Abraham, and, for his sake, sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow.*
 - ✓ ***God will certainly give an answer of peace to the prayer of faith, in His own way and time;*** though, for a while, it seem to be forgotten, yet, sooner or later, it will appear to be remembered.
 - ✓ ***The relations and friends of godly people fare the better for their interest in God and intercessions with Him.*** It was out of respect to Abraham that Lot was rescued; perhaps this word encouraged Moses long afterwards to pray (*Exo 32:13a*), *Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel*; and (*Isa 63:11a*) *Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people*
- ***The Lord rescued Lot for Abraham's sake! He will deliver His church from the wrath to come for Jesus' sake. (1Th 1:10) and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (1Th 5:9) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,***
- ***God remembered Abraham! God hears! How encouraging this is for us to intercede on the behalf of others!***

Gen 19:30 Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave.

- Now, first of all, he was objecting to dwelling in the mountains, "Please let me dwell in this little city. It's just a little one, spare it." And so the angel said, "Okay, go." But Lot then went up into the mountains.
- *His two daughters with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar.* Having seen the destruction that came upon those other cities, fear gripped him and he went up into the mountains.
- *He and his two daughters dwelt in a cave.* Just think how Lot had so invested himself in the luxury and comfort of living not in a tent, as Abraham, but in a house in Sodom! Now he has lost everything and is living in a cave!

Gen 19:31 Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth.

Gen 19:32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father."

Gen 19:33 So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know (being very drunk) when she lay down or when she arose.

- As far as they knew the whole earth was destroyed. They saw the destruction has destroyed those cities of the plain, and they figured the whole earth was gone, that they were the only inhabitants left upon the earth.

Gen 19:34 It happened on the next day that the firstborn (seemingly the instigator) said to the younger, "Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father."

Gen 19:35 Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

Gen 19:36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child 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 And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

- **The Moabites and the Ammonites (known today as Jordan) are the descendants of Lot.** Basically the Arab races descended from Ishmael, from Moab and Ammon.
- **Now looking back over the chapter and back over the experience of Lot to see what we might learn** from it, again pointing out the fact that he first pitched his tent toward Sodom. He was attracted to the fertility of the area, the abundance that was there.
- **When Ezekiel talks about the sin of Sodom, Ezekiel mentions the fullness of bread and the idleness of time.** They had spare time because the area was so fertile that they could grow more than what they needed. Not spending their whole time in the development of agriculture gave the opportunity for the development of a society. The whole culture began to develop. Lot was attracted by it. He pitched his tent toward Sodom and then he dwelt in Sodom, and finally he became one of the judges in Sodom. But look what it cost him! It cost him his family! The morals of his entire family were corrupted. Though maybe Lot stayed pure, he was strong enough to withstand the temptations and the evil, but it cost him his family, they were not!
- **Many times parents make a foolish mistake as they dabble around,** with X-rated online movies and videos. The parents say, "We're adults, we can look at this. I can handle it. I can watch it and it doesn't really bother me." What you don't realize is that your kids can so easily view this online, not having a natural outlet for the emotions and passions that are being stirred in your own hearts. You do not consider the damage that it is doing and can do to your family. Though you may survive, your children often become the victims, and they don't! They can't handle it. Keep your house pure! (*Gal 6:7-8*) *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. [8] For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.* This goes into every area of our lives. We must surround ourselves and our families with an environment that is conducive toward worship and toward God!
- **Lot failed moving into this environment. Though he himself personally survived, his family, his children did not!** He lost all of his children to the moral conditions of Sodom. We are doing much the same thing today, not naming it as Molech, Ashtoreth, Narcissus, or Aphrodite. We just call it plain sex. But it is the worship of a false god!

Abraham and Abimelech

Gen 20:1 And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar.

- **That is the end of Lot. We don't hear of him anymore.** Ammon and Moab survived and became nations. So now, back to Abraham. He journeyed to the south (the Negev), toward Egypt.
- **He dwelt between Kadesh and Shur,** just south of Beersheba, where you come into the Promised Land. Shur is a little further south toward Egypt.
- **Gerar was a large town.** The archeologists have uncovered the city, which seemed to have been a large merchandising area.

Gen 20:2 Now 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, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

- **Twenty-five years earlier, when Abraham had first come into the land,** there was a drought in the land and he went down to Egypt, telling Sarah to say the same thing! You would think that Abraham would have grown in his walk and relationship in his faith, that God would, indeed, take care of him!
- **But we find him now, twenty-five years later, making the same kind of mistake** or committing the same sin again in the deception concerning Sarah. Behind it all was the fear for his own life. How tragic what fear can do! What an enemy of faith fear becomes!

- ***Is my Christian walk dominated by faith or by fear? Notice that though Abraham has progressed a long way in the increasing of his faith, we still see the evidence of a persisting sin continuing! What a tremendous lesson for us!***

Gen 20:4 But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also?

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

Gen 20:6 And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.

- ***I also withheld you from sinning against Me!*** God again intervenes with a pagan king! This time with Abimelech, in a dream, declaring, you're a dead man. God had begun to strike the nation with a plague. People began to die for unknown reasons. Also, God had shut up the wombs.
- ***Abimelech could have been wondering, "What is going on here?"*** So the Lord said in a dream, "You're as good as dead, man. You've got another man's wife!" He said, "Well, God, I did it in the integrity of my heart." Well, how much integrity is there just adding another woman into your harem?
- ***I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me.*** That is why I withheld you from sinning against Me." Notice, not sinning against Abraham; sinning against Me!
- ***You remember David's prayer when Nathan the prophet came to him,*** telling him that he was guilty, that he was the guilty one. "David, you are the man! You've taken another man's wife. You had Uriah killed. Therefore, the child that has been born is going to die." David cried, (*Psa 51:4a*) Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight. Now, I would think that the sin was against Bathsheba. I would think that the sin was against especially her husband that he had put to death in battle. But David said, "Against You and You only have I sinned!"
- ***Now God said, "I've kept you from sinning against Me."*** In reality, all sin is against God! It may affect other people, but God is the one whom I always sin against! It can have a very tragic effect on the lives of other people around me, but ultimately God is the One I am going to answer to, because sin is against God, against His holy law!
- ***Do I see my sin, that indeed it is against God, or do I see my sin as being against others, who are affected by it?***

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

- ***This is not a good behavior for a prophet of God, not a good witness to Abimelech!*** Abraham surely failed as a witness at this point.
- ***One of the things that makes this such an evil thing, is now Abraham's career is older, having walked with the Lord for many years.*** He should at this point, be more advanced in his walk with God and his faith! Should I not, too?
- ***Secondly, it's a repeated sin!*** This is not the first time it happened.
- ***Thirdly, he is jeopardizing the whole plan of God, regarding polluting the Messianic line!*** God had declared through Sarah shall your seed be called. Now if Abimelech had gone in and had relations with Sarah, then the whole program of God could have been in jeopardy. Was this indeed the child that God had promised? Was Jesus Christ really of the seed of Abraham?
- ***God moves in a sovereign way now to save the situation*** by coming to this pagan king in a dream, warning that he was going to die if he dared touch that woman. So God is protecting His program!
- ***God will always protect His program!*** I may fail, but if I do, God will raise up someone else. God will protect His program! God will work His work. God will save His people, but you will be the loser. Here God is working sovereignly to save His program, to do His work!

Gen 20:8 So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid.

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

- What have you got against me that you would put me in this kind of a situation?

Gen 20:10 *Then Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?"*

- How tragic it is that, here is a servant of God, the man of faith, a prophet of God, who is now being rebuked by this pagan king. How tragic it is when the servant of God fails, becoming a poor witness to the world around him. How could Abram really talk to this man now about the Almighty God who is able to keep and able to work His works? He has completely destroyed his witness before Abimelech. He receives this tongue lashing from Abimelech.

Gen 20:11 *And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife.*

Gen 20:12 *But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.*

- It's not a complete lie. It's sort of a half of a lie. But notice; Half a truth is always a half-lie! Abraham feared for his life. He should have realized that the word of God is going to be fulfilled. God's word cannot fail! Abraham's faith did develop and grow as we will find out next week in a tremendous way.
- Oftentimes these places of failure are also places of growth! God, in His love and grace towards us, reveals to us those areas of weakness in our lives only for the purpose that He might make us strong, developing trust in Him. They are to take away my confidence in my flesh. They are to cause me to trust in Him completely for His work, knowing that in myself I am going to fail.
- So I must learn to trust God in this area also. Here is an area where I was self-confident. I thought I had it wired, so God lets me go to the test and I fail. And I say, "Sorry, God, I will do better next time. Give me another chance." So He gives me another chance and I fail worse. I think I have the answer here. Let me try it once more." And I really wipe out completely, finally throwing up my hands, saying, "God, I've had it! I can't do it. Lord!
- You're going to have to help me, Lord! He says, "Fine! Now just stay out of the way and let Me work and don't interrupt Me! How often I get in God's way as He is trying to work in my life, because I'm trying to meddle with it and work along with God so I can get some of the glory when I have the victory. So these tests and these failures are to cause me to rely completely upon the Lord!

Gen 20:13 *And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This is your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, _ "He is my brother."*

- Abraham is telling Sarah, now do this favor to me. Whenever we go anyplace, say that you are my sister, and that I am your brother." Abraham had planted the seed of failure when he was back in Babylon before he ever knew God or walked with God in a path of faith. He had already figured, "This is the area where I'm going to stumble. This is the area where I can't really trust God to preserve me. She is so beautiful, surely they'll kill me for her." He had programmed the failure before he ever left Babylon. And no wonder he then failed in that point.
- It's possible for us to program failure into our lives. I can say, well, I can never do that and I would never be able to do that." And you won't be able to! You've already preprogrammed your failure.
- But, now in the same way that you can pre-programmed failure, you can also pre-programmed victory! (Php 4:13) *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* If you will just learn to trust in the Lord, you can be victorious over every circumstance of life! God will take care of me. I can stand upon certain foundational truths! God loves me! He watches over me! Neither slumbering nor sleeping, he keeps and preserves me, causing me to come forth triumphantly! I know my God! (2Ti 1:12b) *For know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*

- **Look what Paul the apostle went through.** Why? Because he knew in whom he believed. So he was able to go through being stoned; the beatings; the shipwrecks; all the experiences that he had, coming forth as more than a conqueror, because his trust was in the living God. **Here Abraham, has done the opposite, preprogrammed the place of defeat.** It happened to him and caught him up.
- ***Do I have areas where I am preplanning failure? LORD help me to replace them, preplanning victory.***

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

- We remember earlier when the king of Sodom tried to give Abraham the spoil, but he wouldn't take it. But here is a case where the king would be insulted and it would be a worse disgrace if he said no, no, no. It would be a cultural disgrace, and so Abraham received these things from the king.

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

Gen 20:16 Then to Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; indeed this vindicates you before all who are with you and before everybody." Thus she was rebuked.

- ***This vindicated you before all.*** *Vindicates* literally says, "this is a covering of the eyes for you." Basically what he is saying, "Why don't you go buy a veil? *Given a thousand pieces of silver*, use it and go buy a veil. If it is problem, your husband gets stumbled by this, go buy a veil, covering your eyes." So she was reproved. They were both rebuked!

Gen 20:17 So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children;

- **Interesting! Here is a man of failure but God said, (Gen 20:7) Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.** He's a prophet; ask him to pray for you that you might be healed.

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

- **God's sovereign providential care to keep His program, to keep His plan,** though Abraham had this moment of weakness. But we find Abraham growing in faith. Next week we'll deal with chapters 21-22, and chapter 22 becomes one of the most beautiful and interesting chapters in the Word of God as we see Isaac, the beautiful type of Christ!

CLOSING SONG

- He is able to deliver Lot out of Sodom!
- He is able to deliver (Rapture) the church (you and I) out, before the Great Tribulation!
- He is able to deliver Sarah out of Abimelech's harem!

HE IS ABLE – Ferguson , Noland; Sung - Maranatha Singers - (3:12/3:16)

He is able more than able to accomplish what concerns me today. He is able more than able To handle anything that comes my way. He is able more than able to do much more than I could ever dream He is able more than able to make me what He wants me to be.

He is able more than able to accomplish what concerns me today. He is able more than able To handle anything that comes my way. He is able more than able to do much more than I could ever dream

He is able more than able to make me what He wants me to be. He is able more than able to do much more than I could ever dream. He is able more than able to make me what He wants me to be.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study Genesis Chapters 21 & 22!

*Pro 6:16 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:
Pro 6:17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood,
Pro 6:18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil,
Pro 6:19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.*

*Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
Mat 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

*2Co 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,
2Co 3:6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*