

# Serving God In An Immoral Society, Part 2

## Genesis 18-19

### I. The Portrait Of A Servant Of God (18:1-33)

- A. Serve Your God By Ministering To Others (18:1-8)
- B. Serve Your Family By Leading Them To Faith (18:9-21)
- C. Serve Your Community By Interceding For Their Salvation (18:22-33; cf. 2 Pet 3:9)

### II. The Portrait Of A Servant Of The Flesh (19:1-38)

Abraham (Genesis 18)	Lot (Genesis 19)
Entertained 3 guests including the Lord	Entertained 2 guests excluding the Lord
Angels visited him in the light	Angels visited him in the darkness
Abraham received a Covenant of Promise	Lot received a warning of judgment
His wife (Sarah) struggled with faith	His wife disobeyed God's call to flee
Victoriously, Sarah became a pillar of faith	Condemningly, Mrs. Lot became a pillar of salt
Abraham prepared his family to receive God's promise	Lot's family perpetuated the sins of the flesh
Abraham pleaded for mercy before God for S&G	Lot pleaded with an ill-conceived pragmatic solution to S&G

- A. A Servant Of The Flesh Would \_\_\_\_\_ A Relationship With God To Advance His Position In The World (19:1-3)
- B. A Servant Of The Flesh Would \_\_\_\_\_ Innocent People To Feed One's Sinful Lust (19:4-7)
- C. A Servant Of The Flesh Would \_\_\_\_\_ His Own Family's Virtue For His Own Selfish Interests (19:8)
- D. A Servant Of The Flesh Reacts In \_\_\_\_\_ To Those Who Counter Them (9-11)
- E. A Servant Of The Flesh \_\_\_\_\_ God's Warning Of Judgment Of Sin (12-14)
- F. A Servant Of The Flesh Has The Opportunity To \_\_\_\_\_ God And Receive His Mercy (15-22)
- G. A Servant Of The Flesh Who Ignores God's Salvation Will Face \_\_\_\_\_ Even If The Rest Of Your Family Is Spared (23-26)
- H. A Servant Of The Flesh Will Suffer The Results Of Sin For Many \_\_\_\_\_ (30-38)

### Conclusion:

1. God Will Destroy Sin  
**Deuteronomy 29:23** the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath—
2. God Will Judge Sin Eternally  
**2 Peter 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  
**Jude 7** just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.  
**Revelation 21:8** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”
3. God Mercifully Offers Salvation, But We Must Not Deviate From His Instructions (Isa 55:6-7)

# Serving God In An Immoral Society, Part 2

## Genesis 18-19

### I. The Portrait Of A Servant Of God (18:1-33)

- A. Serve Your God By Ministering To Others (18:1-8)
- B. Serve Your Family By Leading Them To Faith (18:9-21)
- C. Serve Your Community By Interceding For Their Salvation (18:22-33; cf. 2 Pet 3:9)

### II. The Portrait Of A Servant Of The Flesh (19:1-38)

Abraham (Genesis 18)	Lot (Genesis 19)
Entertained 3 guests including the Lord	Entertained 2 guests excluding the Lord
Angels visited him in the light	Angels visited him in the darkness
Abraham received a Covenant of Promise	Lot received a warning of judgment
His wife (Sarah) struggled with faith	His wife disobeyed God's call to flee
Victoriously, Sarah became a pillar of faith	Condemningly, Mrs. Lot became a pillar of salt
Abraham prepared his family to receive God's promise	Lot's family perpetuated the sins of the flesh
Abraham pleaded for mercy before God for S&G	Lot pleaded with an ill-conceived pragmatic solution to S&G

- A. A Servant Of The Flesh Would Deny A Relationship With God To Advance His Position In The World (19:1-3)
- B. A Servant Of The Flesh Would Devour Innocent People To Feed One's Sinful Lust (19:4-7)
- C. A Servant Of The Flesh Would Sacrifice His Own Family's Virtue For His Own Selfish Interests (19:8)
- D. A Servant Of The Flesh Reacts In Pride To Those Who Counter Them (9-11)
- E. A Servant Of The Flesh Ignores God's Warning Of Judgment Of Sin (12-14)
- F. A Servant Of The Flesh Has The Opportunity To Obey God And Receive His Mercy (15-22)
- G. A Servant Of The Flesh Who Ignores God's Salvation Will Face Judgment Even If The Rest Of Your Family Is Spared (23-26)
- H. A Servant Of The Flesh Will Suffer The Results Of Sin For Many Generations (30-38)

### Conclusion:

1. God Will Destroy Sin  
**Deuteronomy 29:23** the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath—
2. God Will Judge Sin Eternally  
**2 Peter 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  
**Jude 7** just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.  
**Revelation 21:8** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."
3. God Mercifully Offers Salvation, But We Must Not Deviate From His Instructions (Isa 55:6-7)

# Serving God In An Immoral Society, Part 2

## Genesis 18-19

### Introduction:

1. On Memorial Day, we remember the great sacrifice of soldiers who gave their lives for our freedom to worship, freedom of speech and freedom to disagree.
  - There was one Facebook post that showed 2 video clips side by side (top/bottom). One was our day at the beach – playing in waves, making sand castles. The other was the soldier’s day on the beach at horrific war times such as at Normandy during WW2.
2. Jesus tells us that there is another Memorial we should observe:

**Luke 17:28-32** <sup>28</sup>Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, <sup>29</sup>but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— <sup>30</sup>so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. <sup>31</sup>On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. <sup>32</sup>**Remember Lot’s wife.**

### Review:

#### I. The Portrait Of A Servant Of God (18:1-33)

- A. Serve Your God By Ministering To Others (18:1-8)
- B. Serve Your Family By Leading Them To Faith (18:9-21)
- C. Serve Your Community By Interceding For Their Salvation (18:22-33; cf. 2 Pet 3:9)

#### II. The Portrait Of A Servant Of The Flesh (19:1-38)

- Ch. 18 & 19 both begin with a servants arriving to both Abraham and Lot and receiving hospitality from both
- Abraham is a picture of being committed to God, Lot is a picture of being committed to the world

Abraham (Genesis 18)	Lot (Genesis 19)
Entertained 3 guests including the Lord	Entertained 2 guests excluding the Lord
Angels visited him in the light	Angels visited him in the darkness
Abraham received a Covenant of Promise	Lot received a warning of judgment
His wife (Sarah) struggled with faith	His wife disobeyed God’s call to flee
Victoriously, Sarah became a pillar of faith	Condemningly, Mrs. Lot became a pillar of salt
Abraham prepared his family to receive God’s promise	Lot’s family perpetuated the sins of the flesh
Abraham pleaded for mercy before God for Sodom and Gomorrah	Lot pleaded with an ill-conceived pragmatic solution to Sodom and Gomorrah

**A. A Servant Of The Flesh Would Deny A Relationship With God To Advance His Position In The World (19:1-3)**

<sup>1</sup> 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 bowed himself with his face to the earth <sup>2</sup> and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square."<sup>3</sup> But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

**Genesis 10:19** And the territory of the Canaanites extended from Sidon in the direction of Gerar as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

- God stayed with Abraham and didn't go with the angels to Sodom
- Abraham had an intimate relationship with the Lord

**Genesis 18:19** For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."

**Psalm 25:14** The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

- Lot was fleshly – it is interesting that the Lord did not accompany the angels to Sodom
- God knows Lot's heart is not right
- God will spare him but not reveal an intimate relationship with him because of his disobedience
- In Genesis 13:2, Lot pitched his tent towards Sodom – a small town with a wicked reputation
- He moved to Sodom in Gen 14:2 when Abraham offered his nephew, Lot, his choice of land
- Lot had a position at the gate which was a position of authority (Ruth 4:1)
  
- The angels came to Lot
- Like Abraham, Lot entertained them – providing a place to sleep and giving them a feast
- But the lustful eyes of the town's people followed these attractive angels stirring up a carnal sexual passion the burst pass God's design for sexuality with a selfish lust that led to a passionate riot
  
- Can we continue to ignore God in our personal advancement and still expect to be a friend of God?
- Can we continue in sexual sin and still expect to be a friend of God?

**B. A Servant Of The Flesh Would Devour Innocent People To Feed One's Sinful Lust (19:4-7)**

<sup>4</sup> But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. <sup>5</sup> And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." <sup>6</sup> Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, <sup>7</sup> and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly.

**Genesis 13:12-13** <sup>12</sup>Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup>Now the **men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.**

**Isaiah 3:9-12** <sup>9</sup>The look on their countenance witnesses against them, And they declare their sin as Sodom; They do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves. <sup>10</sup> Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, For they shall eat the fruit of their doings. <sup>11</sup> Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, For the reward of his hands shall be given him. <sup>12</sup> As for My people, children are their oppressors, And women [possible meaning of "women-like men] rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, And destroy the way of your paths."

- Genesis 18:22-23 – Abraham intercedes on behalf of his neighbors in Sodom and Gomorrah, an immoral place (50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10 righteous – spare city)
- We now see Abraham as not only a man of faith, but a man of compassion
- But we also see God being a compassionate God – who must judge but would prefer to give mercy
  - God spared Rahab (Josh 2)
  - God spared Ninevah, Assyria's capital (Jonah 3-4)
  - God spared Israel (Ezek 14:12-20)

**Leviticus 18:22** You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

**Romans 1:26-27** <sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup>Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

- Normally we connect the word "Sodomy" to homosexuality
- But God's judgment was for much more than homosexuality, though homosexuality is a sin
- The Gay Christian culture teaches that the sin God judged was the lack of hospitality – which turns its back to a clear reading of the text
  - **Ezekiel 16:49-50** <sup>49</sup> Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. <sup>50</sup> They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.
  - But here in Genesis 19, the towns people are doing more than denying hospitality to the two guests
  - Ezekiel 16 is pointing to a selfish culture – but you can't isolate an outside text to negate the clear context of the Genesis 19 passage
  - They were trying to sexually assault them
- For those who are struggling with homosexual thoughts, immoral situations, pornography or same sex attraction, please understand our sins, thoughts and attractions are not the basis of our identity
- The world tries to identify people by gender, transgender, straight, gay
- But our identity is not based on how we think, how we sin or how we struggle

- **Our identity is based on our creation and salvation!**
  - Our identity is that we are created in the image and likeness of God
  - Our identity is also defined that we are sinners saved by grace, loved by Christ motivating Him to go to the cross on our behalf
- All sex outside of marriage is sinful

**1 Corinthians 6:15-20** <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! <sup>16</sup>Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. <sup>18</sup>Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- This immorality was abusive, violent, and far beyond God's design for sex
- **"young"** and "old" = the "young" refers to young boys
  - boys are familiar to being violated by older men
- "All" the men – probably referred to a large majority that included every age group including boys (Lot's son-in-laws were not part of this riot)
- There is none righteous, no not one

**Judges 19:24-26** <sup>24</sup>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!" <sup>25</sup>But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they knew her and **abused** her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go. <sup>26</sup>Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, till it was light.

### **Abuse**

- **ABUSE...** (June Hunt, "Wife Abuse," p. 2)

**A**ffects everyone in the family  
**B**ridges all levels in society: racial, religious, geographic and economic  
**U**ndermines the values of others  
**S**eeks to dominate  
**E**scalates in intensity and frequency

**Malachi 2:16** For the Lord God of Israel says "That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.

## Statistics:

- **Nearly 700,000 children are abused in the U.S annually.** An estimated 683,000 children (unique incidents) were victims of abuse and neglect in 2015, the most recent year for which there is national data.
- **Neglect is the most common form of maltreatment.** Of the children who experienced maltreatment or abuse, three-quarters suffered neglect; 17.2% suffered physical abuse; and 8.4% suffered sexual abuse. (Some children are polyvictimized—they have suffered more than one form of maltreatment.)
- <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/media-room/media-kit/national-statistics-child-abuse>
- 60,000 children are sexually abused annually in the U.S. (<http://americanspcc.org/child-abuse-statistics/>)

## Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Fearful behavior (nightmares, depression, unusual fears, attempts to run away)
- Abdominal pain, bedwetting, urinary tract infection, genital pain or bleeding, sexually transmitted disease
- Extreme sexual behavior that seems inappropriate for the child's age
- We are not defined by our past history and victimization – we are new creatures in Christ

## C. **A Servant Of The Flesh Would Sacrifice His Own Family's Virtue For His Own Selfish Interests (19:8)**

*<sup>8</sup> Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof."*

- What kind of father would give up his innocent daughters to a sexually violent act
- Some commentators suggest Lot was being facetious using his daughters as an alternative to demonstrate how ridiculous these men were being
- Or Lot was more concerned about his position at the gate than his daughter's righteous position before God
- But we don't know – this is what Lot said.
- For it to even enter his mind then his mouth is abominable

## D. **A Servant Of The Flesh Reacts In Pride To Those Who Counter Them (9-11)**

*<sup>9</sup> But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. <sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door.*

- The people of Sodom didn't want to take orders from a stranger – Lot.
- "You're not the boss of me!"
- Kids show this defiance towards their parents!
- Adults show this attitude towards their bosses.
- It's because the flesh and pride is streaming out.

## E. **A Servant Of The Flesh Ignores God's Warning Of Judgment Of Sin (12-14)**

<sup>12</sup> Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. <sup>13</sup> For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it." <sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

- The angels warned of judgment
- The sons-in-law laughed it off as a joke
- Every time we sin, we are ignoring the judgment of God

**Galatians 6:7-8** <sup>7</sup> Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. <sup>8</sup> Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit (NLT)

- The Law of Sowing & Reaping: whatever we plant, we harvest
- We plant sinfulness, we will reap sinfulness
- If we feed the flesh, we grow our fleshly appetite
- We seek to please God, we will reap life in the Spirit

## F. **A Servant Of The Flesh Has The Opportunity To Obey God And Receive His Mercy (15-22)**

<sup>15</sup> As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." <sup>16</sup> But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. <sup>17</sup> And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away." <sup>18</sup> And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords. <sup>19</sup> Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. <sup>20</sup> Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!" <sup>21</sup> He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. <sup>22</sup> Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

- God is offering to rescue Lot and his family
- God used Abraham to rescue Lot in Genesis 14:12,16 when he was captured by wicked kings

## G. **A Servant Of The Flesh Who Ignores God's Salvation Will Face Judgment Even If The Rest Of Your Family Is Spared (23-26)**

<sup>23</sup> The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. <sup>24</sup> Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. <sup>25</sup> And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. <sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. <sup>27</sup> And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. <sup>28</sup> And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace. <sup>29</sup> 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.

- Lot's wife did more than just glance back to the city
- The Hebrew word means "to regard, to consider, to pay attention to"
- She stared back longingly
- We don't know if the longing for the fleshly city was the reason why she was judged or if it merely delayed her when the intensity of judgment hit
- But her refusal to obey "escape there quickly" (v. 22) caused her to die
- We don't know if her body was covered with salt or if her ashes were covered with salt
- But she serves as a reminder off judgment

## H. **A Servant Of The Flesh Will Suffer The Results Of Sin For Many Generations (30-38)**

<sup>30</sup> Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father." <sup>33</sup> So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father. He did not know when she lay down or when she arose. <sup>34</sup> The next day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also. Then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father." <sup>35</sup> So 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. <sup>36</sup> Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. <sup>37</sup> The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day. <sup>38</sup> The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.

- The daughters continued in the fleshly pattern of their family
- They thought it was pragmatic or practical to get impregnated by their father to carry their line
- Desire: have children (good)
- Problem: no father (not too late to look – impatient)
- Solution: their father (pragmatism: just because it works, it becomes right)
  - Forget the morality factor

## Conclusion:

### 1. **God Will Destroy Sin**

**Deuteronomy 29:23** the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath—

Flavius Josephus: "There are still the remainders of that divine fire; and the traces of the five cities are still to be seen ..." (*Wars of the Jews*, Book IV, Ch. VIII)

- once in plain of Jordan, lush & fertile

### 2. **God Will Judge Sin Eternally**

**2 Peter 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

**Jude 7** just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

**Revelation 21:8** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

**Micah 4:6** In that day, declares the LORD, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted;

### **3. God Mercifully Offers Salvation, But We Must Not Deviate From His Instructions**

**Isaiah 55:6-7** “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.