

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

The Mercies of God and the Resistance of Man – Genesis 19, part 2

God the Judge – and the Merciful Covenant Keeper:

¹⁰ But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. ¹¹ 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.

¹² 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. ¹³ 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."

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ 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.

Note the **saving interventions of God**:

Shut the door ... incapacitated the mob ... secured the house ... _____ the family.

Then, the angels clearly _____ Lot of what was to come ...

Lot _____ them, but consider the reaction of his (future) sons-in-law: "*he seemed to be jesting*".

Lot had lost his spiritual _____ and his _____ influence.

The sons-in-law had effectively been _____ in Sodom's culture (and unsurprisingly, they _____ in Sodom.)

And even though he believes, Lot _____.

Lot knew of the _____ condition of the city.

Lot knew God's _____ was soon going to rain down.

Lot knew his _____ was at risk.

Lot knew exactly what was God was saying as the angels told him to flee.

So, why did he linger?

Yet, God's commitment to His _____ and His character of _____ accomplish Lot's deliverance. They literally _____ them out of Sodom.

“... the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire ...” (Jude 21b-23a)

¹⁷ 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.”

¹⁸ And Lot said to them, “Oh, no, my lords. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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!”

²¹ He said to him, “Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. ²² Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there.”

Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

Some observations from the text:

Believing in and trusting in the sovereign _____ and _____ of God does not _____ our necessary _____ (i.e. “active response to” His commands).

Consider our _____ ...

Instead of running for his life, Lot _____ for what he considers to be a _____ concession: I’ll leave Sodom if you give me Zoar.

Zoar was approx.. 5 miles from Sodom.

Zoar was one of the five “cities of the plain” mentioned in Gen. 14. slated for destruction because of wickedness.

Zoar was a _____.

Do I negotiate with God His righteous demands?

Do I _____ obey God?

Do I substitute “lesser” _____ for “greater” ones and count it as success?

Lot demonstrates again that he is no _____. He lacked his selflessness. He lacked his humility. He lacked his faith.

But God – in great mercy – agrees to spare Zoar for Lot’s sake (for the sake of the covenant God had made with Abraham).

²³ The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴ Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶ But Lot’s wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. 28 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.

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.

Notice the _____ of God's judgment ...

Notice the _____ of God's judgment ...

And notice Lot's wife ...

What does it mean to "look back"?

What can I learn about the power of my _____?

What can I discern about the pervasive power of _____ and the constant tug of the _____?

What application will I make in my own life?

Imagine the image burned forever in Abraham's mind (and the collective mind of God's people) ...