

# Lot

Was Lot such a bad lot as it seems at first reading of his life in Genesis?

Before we read the account in Genesis we need to read what Peter was inspired to write about Lot.

**2 Peter 2:7-9** [NIV] *“and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard), if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.”*

Keeping this in mind it may give us a more balanced view of the events in Genesis.

Lot was the son of Haran, Abraham’s youngest brother, and so Abraham’s nephew.

On the death of Haran, Abraham’s father Terah took his grandson Lot into his family, this is where the close relationship of Lot and Abraham began.

Abraham and his family, including Lot, left Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan, but when they came to the land of Haran they settled there.

God told Abraham to leave Ur and go to a land that he would eventually reveal to Abraham [Canaan].

Abraham’s route to Canaan followed the river Euphrates valley rather than risk the more direct route across the vast desert. A wise choice considering all his extended family and large flocks of animals.

Lot followed Abraham down to Egypt because of the famine in the land of Canaan.

Abraham and Lot were turned out of Egypt by the Pharaoh due to encounter between Pharaoh and Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

[**Genesis 12:11-20**] The flocks of Abraham and Lot had grown and caused a disagreement between the two families.

[**Genesis 13:5-12**] The two groups parted, Lot took the open plain near Sodom, Abraham in the hill country of Canaan.

[**Genesis 13:13**] Sodom’s inhabitants were wicked, sinful people, their sins were pride, prosperous complacency, sexual perversion, particularly homosexuality.

Lot and his family were caught up in a dispute between local kings in the land around Sodom and the other towns on the same plain. [**Genesis 14:1-12**]

This capture was reported to Abraham and he set off to release Lot and his family. [**Genesis 14:13-16**]

Lot went back to his homeland near and in Sodom.

God visited Abraham with two angels to give him the good news that Sarah would at long last have a child. [**Genesis 18:1-15**]

The angels then informed Abraham what was about to happen to Sodom, where Lot lived. [**Genesis 18:16-21**]

Abraham then pleaded with the Lord, knowing how wicked the people of Sodom were and that Lot was still dwelling within the city. [**Genesis 18:20-33**]

The two angels then proceeded to visit Sodom to carry out the Lord's will.

**Genesis 19:1-3** [NIV] *“The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. ‘My lords,’ he said, ‘please turn aside to your servant’s house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning.’ ‘No,’ they answered, ‘we will spend the night in the square.’ But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.”*

The gateway of a city was the meeting place for city officials and other men to discuss current events and transact business. It was a place of authority and status, where a person could see and be seen.

Evidently Lot held an important position in government or with those who did because the angels found him at the city gate.

Lot may have been using this status in an attempt to reform the leaders of this corrupt city, remember how Peter described Lot, *“tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard.”*

Lot, like Abraham, offered hospitality to the two angels, as yet he was unaware of their mission.

In Lot's day a person's reputation was largely connected to their hospitality, the sharing of home and food even with strangers.

Meeting another's need for food and shelter is still one of the most immediate and practical ways to show others our Christianity. It is a time-honoured relationship builder, like Abraham and Lot we might actually be entertaining God's messengers. [**Hebrews 13:2**]

In Sodom, Lot's home was the only place that male visitors could stay without risk of abuse.

**Genesis 19:4-5** [NIV] *“Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom, both young and old, surrounded the house. They called to Lot, ‘Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.’”*

Note it says “all” the men! Showing just how widespread active homosexuality was in Sodom.

**Genesis 19:6-9** [NIV] *“Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, ‘No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing. Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don’t do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.’ ‘Get out of our way,’ they replied. And they said, ‘This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge! We’ll treat you worse than them.’ They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.”*

Lot knew his daughters were safe because of the men **not** being interested in women, only other men, and these two new visitors were very attractive to them.

Also note that these men knew that Lot was judging the sinful lifestyle and made a violent attack on Lot.

**Genesis 19:10-12** [NIV] *“But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door. The two men said to Lot, ‘Do you have anyone else here, sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here,’”*

Lot was rescued by his powerful visitors and told what was about to happen to all the inhabitants of Sodom.

**Genesis 19:13-16** [NIV] *“because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.’ So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, ‘Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!’ But his sons-in-law thought he was joking. With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, ‘Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.’ When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.”*

Was Lot’s hesitation because he still hoped in some way to save those who he had been told were about to die a horrific death?

**Genesis 19:17-22** [NIV] *“As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, ‘Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!’ But Lot said to them, ‘No, my lords, please! Your servant has found favour in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can’t flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I’ll die. Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it, it is very small, isn’t it? Then my life will be spared.’ He said to him, ‘Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it.’ (That is why the town was called Zoar.)”*

Zoar was one of the cities that was due to be destroyed but God in his mercy allowed Lot to remain in the area and its culture that he was trying to influence for their good.

The mountains in that area were unsuitable for his flocks, unlike the plain where Zoar was situated. **[Genesis 13:10-11]**

**Genesis 19:23-29** [NIV] *“By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. Then the LORD rained down burning sulphur on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities, and also the vegetation in the land. But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. He looked down towards Sodom and Gomorrah, towards all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.”*

Abraham watched the fulfilment of what the Lord had told him would happen because of the wickedness in those cities.

Lot’s wife turned back to look at the smouldering city of Sodom, she was unwilling to completely turn away from sin.

If we still long for some of the things we gave up to become a Christian and follow the life God has prepared for us, we will **not** mature as Christians.

**Genesis 19:30** [NIV] *“Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave.”*

Eventually out of fear Lot moved from Zoar, maybe because of increased hostility from the men in Zoar, being of the same culture as those in Sodom.

**Genesis 19:31-35** [NIV] *“One day the older daughter said to the younger, ‘Our father is old, and there is no man around here to lie with us, as is the custom all over the earth. Let’s get our father to drink wine and then lie with him and preserve our family line through our father.’ That night they got their father to drink wine, and the older daughter went in and lay with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up. The next day the older daughter said to the younger, ‘Last night I lay with my father. Let’s get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and lie with him so*

*we can preserve our family line through our father.’ So they got their father to drink wine that night also, and the younger daughter went and lay with him. Again he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.”*

In this pitiful sequel to the account of the destruction of Sodom, we see two women stooping to incest to preserve their family line.

Having lost their future husbands in Sodom and not finding any suitable men in Zoar they were desperate.

This does show that they had been strongly influenced by the morals of Sodom, also that we are most likely to sin when we are desperate for what we feel we must have and deserve.

**Genesis 19:36-38** [NIV] *“So both of Lot’s daughters became pregnant by their father. The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today. The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.”*

Why doesn’t the Bible openly condemn these sisters for what they did?

In many cases the Bible does **not** judge people, only report the events.

Scripture does condemn the act of incest. [**Leviticus 18:6-18; Leviticus 20:11-12, 17, 19-21; Deuteronomy 22:30; Deuteronomy 27:20-23; Ezekiel 22:11; 1 Corinthians 5:1**]

Perhaps the fact that Moab and Ammon became enemies of Israel was God’s way of judging the sin of these two daughters of Lot.

Ruth a descendant of Moab, was the physical ancestor of Jesus, even though Moab was born as a result of the incestuous relationship of Lot’s daughter.

The story of Lot gives us hope that even if we make wrong decisions in our lives, God can often bring about positive circumstances from our mistakes.

The key to Lot being called righteous was the way he was tormented by the lives of people who were being blinded by Satan [**Revelation 12:9**] into living sinful lives in ignorance of God’s way of life.

The major sin that Lot sought to warn people about was active homosexuality, which violates sacred marriage, the ultimate relationship Christians have with Jesus Christ. [**Revelation 19:7-9**]

Please download and study our article ‘*Does God Hate Homosexuals?*’ listed under ‘*Homosexuals*’.