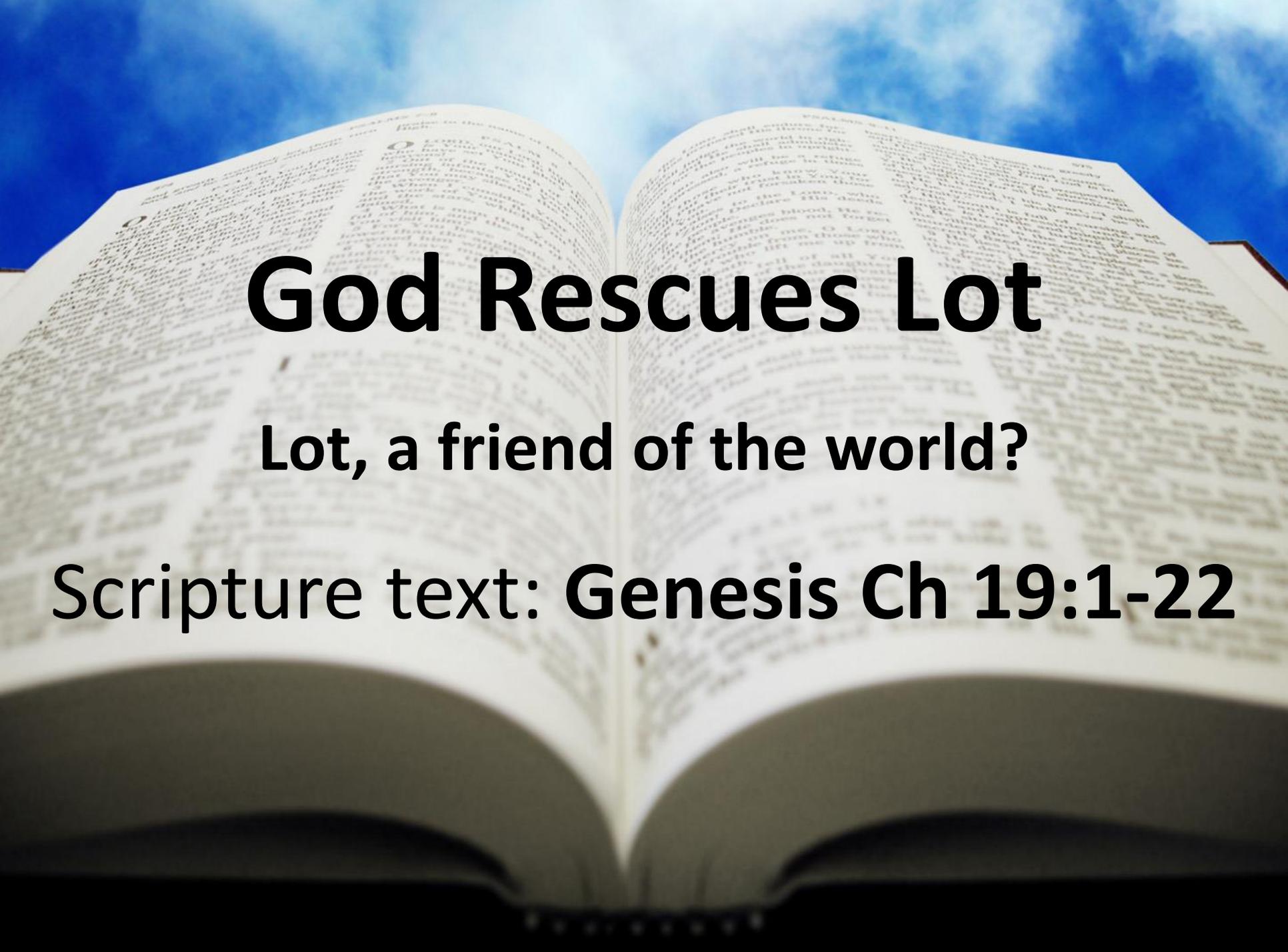


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the center of the Bible.

God Rescues Lot

Lot, a friend of the world?

Scripture text: Genesis Ch 19:1-22

Genesis 18:30-32 Then he said, "**Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak.** Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "**Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord.** Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "**Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once.** Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Never underestimate the importance of even a small number of believers.

As few as **ten people would have saved a whole city from destruction!** If Lot had won only his own family to faith in the Lord, judgment would have been averted.

Your personal witness today is important to God, no matter how insignificant you may feel.

As long as the Lord left Lot alone, he would seek to profess faith while at the same time living in Sodom. **Ultimately he could not have both.** Sodom would have destroyed him if the Lord had not destroyed Sodom.

We will be looking at the contrasts between Abram and Lot in regard to Locations, Times, Visitors, Hospitality, Message, Influence, Attitudes, and Consequences

Genesis 19:1-3 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 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." 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.

Lot, the friend of the world (Gen. 19)

This chapter records the sad consequences of Lot's spiritual decline; then Lot passes off the scene while Abraham's story continues (see 1 John 2:17). Abraham was the friend of God, but Lot was the friend of the world (see James 4:4); and the contrasts between these two men are easy to see.

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--is not from the Father but is from the world. And **the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

James 4:2-4 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. **You do not have, because you do not ask.** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **You adulterous people!** *Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?* Therefore **whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

Locations - When the heavenly contingent came to visit Abraham, he was **at his tent door**; but Lot was sitting in **the gate of a wicked city**. Abraham was a pilgrim and stranger, only passing through this world; but Lot had gradually abandoned his tent and settled down in Sodom. Instead of keeping his eyes on the heavenly city, Lot looked toward Sodom and began to walk by sight. Then he moved his tent near Sodom, and finally he moved into Sodom. Lot's location in the gate indicates that he was a man of some authority, for that was where official business was conducted (Ruth 4:1ff).

Hebrews 11:10 For he was looking forward to **the city** that has foundations, **whose** designer and **builder is God**.

Hebrews 11:14-16 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, **a heavenly one**.

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Genesis 13:10-12 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, **like the land of Egypt**, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So **Lot chose for himself** all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and **moved his tent as far as Sodom.**

Genesis 14:10-12 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country. So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, **who was dwelling in Sodom**, and his possessions, and went their way.

Ruth 4:1-3 Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. Then he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech.

Ruth 4:4-6 So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, **for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you.**" And he said, "I will redeem it." Then Boaz said, **"The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance."** Then the redeemer said, **"I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."**

Had Lot gone to Sodom because God directed him, his being there would have fulfilled divine purposes. After all, God put Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in Babylon, and Esther in Persia; and their presence turned out to be a blessing. Worldliness is not a matter of physical geography **but of heart attitude** (1 John 2:15–17). **Lot's heart was in Sodom long before his body arrived there.** No doubt he got his first love for the world when he went to Egypt with Abraham (Gen. 13:1, 10), and he never overcame it.

Times (Gen. 19:1).

It was early afternoon when the Lord and His angels visited Abraham (18:1), but it was evening when the angels entered Sodom.

Abraham was “walking in the light” while Lot was “walking in darkness” (1 John 1:5–10).

1 John 1:5-9 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, **that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.** If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But **if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,** we have fellowship with one another, and the **blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Visitors - Only the two angels visited Lot, for the Lord could not fellowship with Lot and his family as He did with Abraham and Sarah. Even though Lot was a believer, his life was such that the Lord did not feel “at home” with him. It is the separated believer who enjoys the close walk and communion with the Lord. Greek scholar Kenneth Wuest translated Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 3:17 “that the Christ might finally settle down and feel completely at home in your hearts through your faith”. Unlike Abraham, Lot had no tent or altar; and the Lord could not fellowship with him.

2 Corinthians 6:15-18 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore **go out from their midst, and be separate from them,** says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; **then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."**

John 14:21-24 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And **he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.**" Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "**Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?**" Jesus answered him, "**If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

Ephesians 3:14-19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love,** may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Hospitality (Gen. 19:2–11).

Lot called himself a “servant,” but you do not see him hastening to prepare a meal as Abraham did; nor did he stand by to see what further service he could render. But the arrival of the men of the city at the door for immoral purposes was the climax of the evening.

(“Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them” is the NIV translation of 19:5.)

Hospitality Continued:

Lot was willing to sacrifice his two unmarried daughters to the lust of the crowd (see Jud. 19), but the angels intervened. What had happened to Lot's personal values that he would offer his daughters to satisfy the sensual appetites of a mob? (In contrast, Abraham would offer his son to the Lord.)

Jude 1:18-21 They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." **It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.** But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Messages (Gen. 19:12–13). God's message to Abraham was a joyful one: he and Sarah would have the promised son within a year. But **the message to Lot was frightening**: God was going to destroy Sodom and everything in it! God would have spared the city had the angels found ten believers; but since that was not possible, **God mercifully rescued the believers they did find**. God's message to the lost world is that **judgment is coming**, but **His promise to His own people is that He will rescue them** (1 Thes. 5:1–11; 2 Peter 2:4–10).

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the **day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night**. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and **they will not escape**. **But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief**. For you are all **children of light, children of the day**. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

1 Thessalonians 5:6-11 So then **let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,** who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore **encourage one another and build one another up,** just as you are doing.

2 Peter 2:6-9 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;** and if he rescued **righteous Lot**, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (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); **then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials**, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

Influence (Gen. 19:14).

Because of his faith and obedience, Abraham was a blessing to his home and to the whole world. Because of his worldliness, Lot had no spiritual influence either in the city or in his own home. His married daughters and their husbands laughed at him and refused to leave the city. Even his wife was so in love with Sodom that she had to take one last look, and that look killed her (Gen. 19:26; Luke 17:32).

Influence Continued (Gen. 19:14):

Lot's two unmarried daughters accompanied him out of the city; but they ended up in a cave, getting their father drunk and committing incest with him. **After separating from Abraham, Lot had allowed his character to deteriorate; and his influence declined with it.**

Genesis 19:26 But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Luke 17:28-32 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot--they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all--so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. 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. Remember Lot's wife.

Attitudes (Gen. 19:15–26). The first time God rescued Lot, he was a prisoner of war (14:12, 16); and he went right back into Sodom. That painful experience should have warned him that he was out of the will of God; but if Lot heard the warning, he certainly did not heed it. Now **God has to take Lot by the hand and forcibly drag him out of Sodom!** **First, Lot lingered; then he argued; then he begged to be allowed to go his own way.** Instead of being grateful for God's mercy and obeying his rescuers, **Lot resisted** them and created trouble for them. In contrast, **Abraham obeyed God's will even to the point of offering up his own son.**