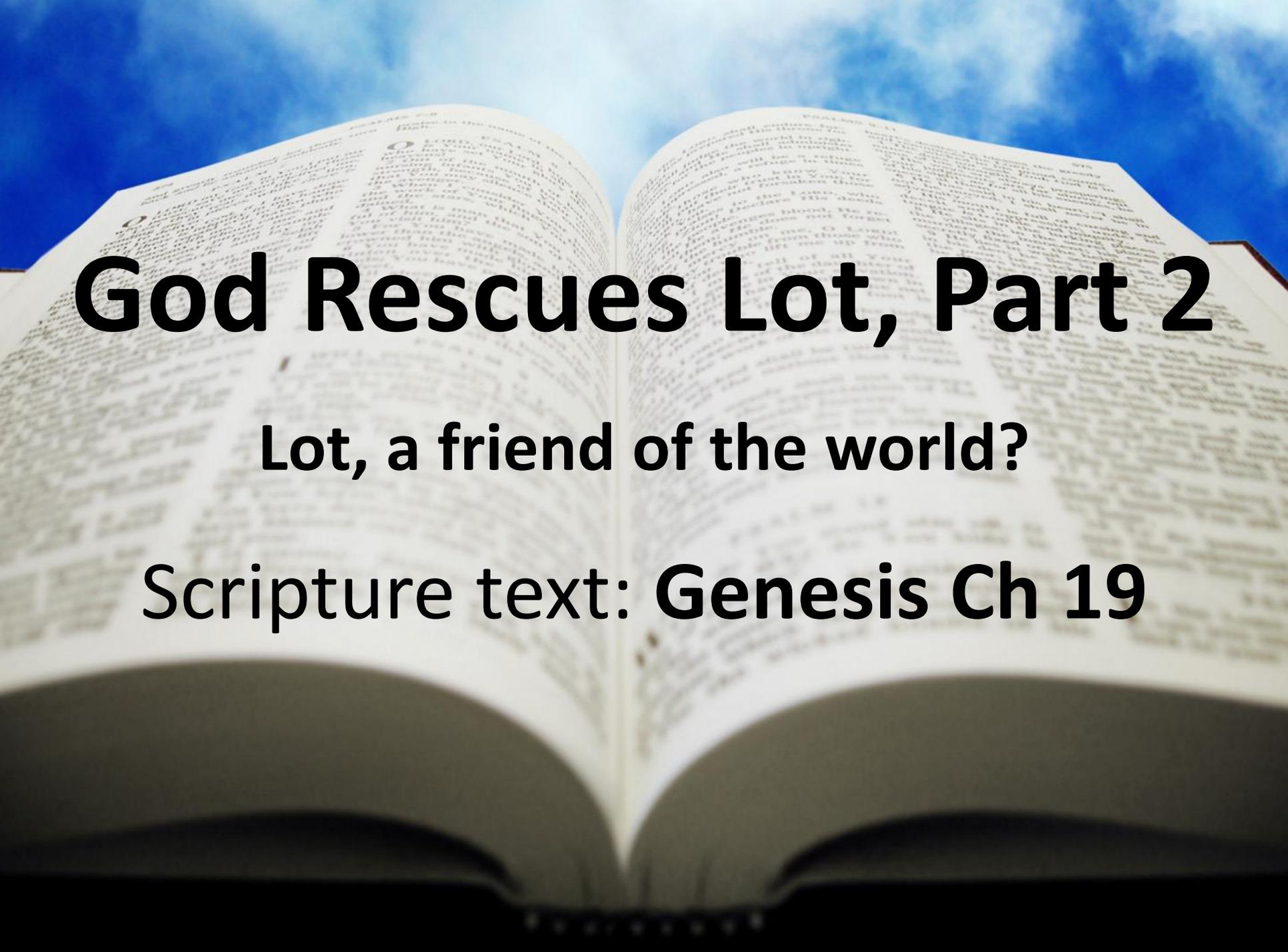


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# **God Rescues Lot, Part 2**

**Lot, a friend of the world?**

**Scripture text: Genesis Ch 19**

**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.

**Remember Lot's wife.**

**But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt:** Lot's wife was turned to a pillar of salt because she **looked back behind**, after the angels had specifically said *Do not look behind you* (Gen\_19:17).

**Genesis 19:17** 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.**"

Some think she lingered behind and was caught up in the cataclysm somehow, but it was probably a unique judgment of God on her for the state of her heart (a love for Sodom and regret for its destruction) shown by her action of looking back.

**Lot was in the worst of all possible places.** He had too much of the world to be happy in the Lord, and too much of the Lord to be happy in the world.

**To his sons-in-law:** Lot's daughter were unmarried and had not known a man (Gen\_19:8). These men were **sons-in-law** by the ancient practice of binding betrothal, not by marriage yet.

**He seemed to be joking:** The **effect of Lot's life of compromise is clearly seen.** When he spoke with utmost seriousness to his sons-in-law about the judgment of God, **they did not believe him.** Not even *they* will be saved from the judgment to come.

"The word *looked back* has the connotation of *looking intently*. It might possibly be rendered *lagged back*, or maybe even *returned back*." (Morris)

In referring to the end times, Jesus uttered some almost cryptic words in Luk\_17:32: ***Remember Lot's wife***. In other words, no Christian should have a heart like **Lot's wife** as we see the end of the age, **a heart that loves the world, and will in some sense, regret the judgment God will bring on it.**

We need to **look *forward* to our deliverance**, not *back* at a world passing away and ripe for judgment.

**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.**

**Genesis 14:12-16** They also **took Lot**, the son of Abram's brother, **who was dwelling in Sodom**, and his possessions, and went their way. Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram. When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. **Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.**

**Consequences** (Gen. 19:27–38). The result of the Lord’s visit to Abraham was new hope and excitement as Abraham and Sarah joyfully anticipated the birth of a son. **Lot, however, lost everything when Sodom was destroyed;** and he himself was saved “yet as by fire” (1 Cor. 3:15). His daughters gave birth to two sons, whose descendants would be enemies to the Jewish nation. Abraham saw the cities of the plain destroyed (Ps. 91:8) and **knew that God had not found ten righteous people.**

**1 Corinthians 3:12-15** Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw-- each one's work will become manifest, **for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.** If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, **he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.**

**Psalm 91:5-10** You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, **but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.** Because you have **made the LORD your dwelling place-- the Most High, who is my refuge--**no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

## **Consequences Continued (Gen. 19:27–38):**

But God delivered Lot because of Abraham (Gen. 19:29). It was wholly a matter of God's grace and mercy.

**Genesis 19:19** 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.

**Genesis 19:18-20** And Lot said to them, "**Oh, no, my lords.** 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. 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!*"

**Please, no, my lords!** Lot seems pathetic and whimpering in his prayer. Notice the sad contrast to the bold intercession of Abraham.

**Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah:** Today, many think these cities are buried under the Dead Sea, and their complete destruction is a testament to God's judgment and grace in delivering His righteous people.

Before this destruction the area of Sodom was unbelievably beautiful and productive, *like the garden of the Lord* (Gen\_13:10). Yet, this great privilege and blessing did not turn their hearts toward God.

**Genesis 13:10** 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.)

As well, the people of Sodom and Gomorrah saw more of the power, grace, and mercy of God than any of the other people of the region. They had been delivered from ruin by God's work through Abraham. They heard the testimony from Melchizedek and saw the example of Melchizedek and Abraham.

**Genesis 19:29** 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.

**He saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace:** When Abraham saw the smoke of the these cities and their destruction, he could know that his request was answered. God delivered Lot before the destruction came.

**Genesis 19:31-32** 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. Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father."

**Let us make our father drink wine:** Lot and his family lost everything in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Even so, they quickly have a stock of **wine**. They either brought this with them or they obtained it quickly. **This shows the priorities of a compromising heart.**

**We will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father:** This is a remarkable - and seemingly desperate sin from Lot's daughters. Some suggest that they believed that the whole world had perished with Sodom and Gomorrah, and it was now their responsibility to "repopulate" the earth.

**However, their brief time in Zoar was enough to show there were other people.**

Evidently they decided it was the only thing to do under the circumstances, ***except to trust God***, which did not seem to occur to them at all. Obviously living in Sodom affected more than Lot. **The effects were also clearly seen in his daughters.**

**The firstborn went in and lay with her father:**

We may be uncomfortable with the idea that the Bible includes the record of such disgraceful sins. Yet, Donald Barnhouse observes: "It is far better for children to learn the facts of life from the **Word of God** where sin is condemned than from dirty words on alley walls, or from lewd stories. **No one can escape knowledge of sin . . . these things are never mentioned without being accompanied by the stern warnings that God hates sin and punishes it.**"

"Ironically, in his own drunkenness Lot carried out the shameful act that he himself had suggested to the men of Sodom: he lay with his own daughters." (Sailhamer)

**Moab; he is the father of the Moabites . . .**

**Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of**

**Ammon:** Their descendants will be enemies and obstacles for Israel, just like the descendants of Ishmael. Lot's life ended in ruin (past, present, and future), **all because of his love for the world.**

**Lot was conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2).**  
All that he lived for went up in smoke and was buried under ruins somewhere in the area around the Dead Sea.

**Lot is a warning to all believers** not to love the world, become friendly with the world, or be stained by the world (James 1:27), **because the day of reckoning finally comes.**

**James 1:25-27** But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets **but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.** If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and **to keep oneself unstained from the world.**

While it is true that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah **is an example of God's righteous judgment** (Jude 7), it is also true that God's love for lost sinners is clearly seen in this story. Jesus certainly did not approve of the lifestyle of the men of Sodom, but He came to save sinners just like those in Sodom and Gomorrah (Matt. 9:9–17). When He ministered on earth, **He was known as “a Friend of tax collectors and sinners”**—*and He was!*

**Matthew 9:10-13** And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "**Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?**" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, '**I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.**' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Consider our Lord's love for the people of the wicked cities of the plain. To begin with, He was long-suffering toward them as He beheld their sin (Gen. 18:20; 19:13). Just as Abel's blood cried out to God from the ground (4:10), so the sins of the people cried out from the wicked cities. God is long-suffering and holds back His judgment so that sinners will have time to repent (2 Peter 3:1–9).

**Genesis 18:20** Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave,

**Genesis 19:13** 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."

**Genesis 4:10** And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.

**2 Peter 3:7-9** But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, **being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.** But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise** as some count slowness, **but is patient toward you,** not wishing that any should perish, **but that all should reach repentance.**

Not only was our Lord long-suffering, but **He was willing to listen to Abraham's intercession and consider sparing Sodom for ten righteous people.** When the time came for the cities to be burned up, **He sent His angels to rescue Lot and his family even though the ten righteous people could not be found!** *"But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more" (Rom. 5:20, NKJV). Did Lot deserve to be delivered? Of course not! But do any of us deserve to be saved from the wrath to come? Of course not!*

“For Christ also has suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18, NKJV).

Christ did not die for good people, because there are none. **He died for the ungodly** (Rom. 5:6) and **for sinners** (5:8). We may not have committed the same sins as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, but we are sinners just the same; and **apart from faith in Jesus Christ, we cannot be saved from the judgment to come.**

The situation is no different today. Jesus is still the Friend of sinners and will save all who come to Him in true repentance and faith. **He needs intercessors and witnesses who will pray and tell lost sinners that Jesus died for them** and they can make a new beginning if they will trust Him.

The inhabitants of the cities of the plain had no idea that they were awakening that morning to the last day of their lives (Gen. 19:23). Life was going on as usual, and then the fire fell (Luke 17:26–30).

When the judgment comes, will you be like Abraham and not have to worry about the wrath of God? Or, like Lot, will you be saved “as by fire”? Or, like the people of Sodom, will you be lost forever?

**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.**

**Isaiah 59:1-2** Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but **your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.**

**Remember Lot's comprised life.** He had too much of the world to be happy in the Lord, and too much of the Lord to be happy in the world.