

The
Christian
Tragedy

Genesis 18:9 – 19:5



~ It is said of woman that God created her from the rib of a man to be taken from his side - to be next to him; not from his head, that she may rule over him; and not from his feet, that he might trample her underfoot or look down on her; but from his side because she is equal to him; from under his arm that he might protect her; and from very near his heart that he might love her. That is a proper picture of the true marriage dynamic as portrayed in the creation account given by God in His Word. Now, in this section of Scripture, we're going to see all of this simplified into the life of Sarah. Chapter eighteen holds the seeds for some spiritual fruit that we'll have to wait to grow until much later in our study. Right now, in the life of Abraham, we're looking at a picture of what the blessed Christian life could look like – but very rarely does.

Remember, Abraham had just gone out to meet the men on the plain in our last report from our Spiritual Safari; and they all washed their feet as Abraham made them a great feast under a tree. Abraham took the calf, killed it, prepared it and served it. I think Abraham's personal chef filleted some roast veal with all the trimmings; and Abraham entertained his three guests. These happen to be royal guests, by the way. We've all heard that some have entertained angels, unaware. Well, we need to know what that means; so, we're going to find out right now. I suppose the sun had gone down and it was sometime after dinner when these men were sitting around the fire talking – but they ran out of small talk. So, one man looks at Abraham....

XVIII

9 And they said unto him, where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

~ This would have been a highly inappropriate question for these men to ask. In the culture and at the time in which we're studying, and in many places today, the wife would only come out if the husband wanted her to entertain the guests. I'm quite sure Abraham was greatly alarmed. What could they possibly want with Sarah? - I mean besides....blank - so, this virtual stranger says....

10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, after I am waxed old shall is it possible to have a son, my lord being old also?

13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

~ How about it friends? – Is anything too hard for the Lord in your life? Are you seeking something too good to be true? Has God made a promise to you? Do you believe Him? How much do you really trust Him? A good time to figure that out is BEFORE we slip on through the doorway of death and into the blackness of darkness forever. Both Abraham and Sarah now know something about angels – and they know all about entertaining them....

15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, nay; but thou didst laugh.

16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

~ So, Abraham shows these men out, if you will. He probably apologized for Sarah being so rude. These men said such nice things and she laughed in their face. Abraham probably told them to come back anytime, and they thought to themselves, "yeah; sure." So, Abraham proceeds to bid them farewell; except Abraham walks them a little farther than the front door - and right past the front gate. From where these men now stand you could look right down and see Sodom and Gomorrah....

17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

~ Well, what is the thing God is going to do? - God is going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah! Should God have hid it from Abraham and just gone ahead and done it? I mean, God has promised that Abraham is going to influence great succeeding nations; and generations after him will be affected by his actions. Right now, as you read this report and I type it, Abraham is still influencing all of us. As a Christian you can't avoid that spiritual principal that goes on around you. Spirits are acting around you right now as they were acting around Abraham here – and this is all absolutely supernatural....

18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

20 And the LORD said, because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

~ Abraham, apparently, had discipline in his home. As a result, God now decides to let Abraham in on His plans. See, God also chose to tell Abraham he was going to destroy these cities because, otherwise, Abraham would

have thought God to be dictatorial, vindictive and merciless God Who showed no consideration of mercy at all for those who were His Own. If that had happened, then Abraham would have come away from this experience psychologically distorted beyond repair - and with a very warped view of God; you can be sure of that! God told Abraham what He was going to do because "...a fool nor a wayfaring man need err therein."
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22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham waited yet before the LORD.

23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

~ When Abraham learned about God's plan, his first thought went to his nephew Lot. Abraham had already rescued him once before. Now, Lot is in grave danger again. I'm sure Abraham wondered about Lot and his relationship with God many times. Obviously, Abraham wants it to be that Lot is saved - and he knew that only God could save him. I think Abraham would have told you there were many people down there in Sodom that he would like to see saved. Abraham must have been very confused as to why God would destroy the righteous with the wicked. So, Abraham now has some questions for God.....

24 Peradventure there are fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, which be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

~ This question is still asked today by many people, "...shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Amazingly, the rest of the Bible will affirm that the Judge of all the earth always judges right! Whatever God does – or doesn't do – and whatever God allows in your life - is right, friends. If you don't think so, then YOU are wrong! The trouble is never with God – the trouble is always with YOU – and me! Our thinking is wrong because we

don't have all the facts – and I don't care who you are! You simply cannot know all of the details because God hasn't told us all of the details....

26 And the LORD said, if I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the entire place for their sakes.

27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes:

28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy the entire city for lack of five? And he said, if I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

29 And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

30 And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.

31 And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

32 And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

33 And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

~ So, the question now is: why didn't Abraham go below ten? Alright, I'll tell you why: because Abraham wasn't sure about Lot and his family. Abraham is afraid that everyone down there in Sodom and Gomorrah were lost; and I think this disturbed Abraham a great deal. In fact, I KNOW it did! Abraham could have come all the way down to asking for God's mercy because of just one person – just - one! God would have said, "....if there is

one I'll get him out." Abraham had been dealt with like this before by God; and, so, he just went home. That's exactly how it worked out because only three others that we know of came out of Sodom alive.

The Great Tribulation period cannot take place as long as the true church is in the world. Lot's account is a picture of that. Christ bore our judgment. The Great Tribulation is part of the judgment coming to those who reject Him on this earth IN THAT DAY. Sodom and Gomorrah is a picture of the world in the Word of God; and I think this present-day world is very much in the same dangerously precarious condition that Sodom and Gomorrah were in at the time in which we are studying. Now, you don't have to run over to your window looking for Christ in the air because no one knows when He will return for His church, but He could come tonight or tomorrow – or it could be another two thousand plus years – and, either way, it would be in keeping with the account we have here....

XIX

1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

~ You may recall that we took off in our safari airplane in our last report - and we have been flying over the plains of Mamre ever since – EVERYTHING we are reading in Scripture right now is just a map; we won't get the terrain logistics until much later. Now we will be swooping down over Sodom where Lot lives; and here comes the "blasted life" in a blessed man, Lot. If all we had of Lot was this record, I wouldn't believe Lot was saved OR a blessed man; but, because Simon Peter said of Lot, "...that righteous man...." – I just have to believe Simon Peter. Lot lived in Sodom, but he was never happy there. It was truly a tragic day when he moved his family to Sodom; and, in the end, Lot lost everything.

A man may say he loves God - but what about his life? Where does he go? Where does he live? What does he do in the spare time? Lot lost his family; his influence, and he lost his testimony! Many people today also lose their testimony because the Lord sets them aside. Why? – Well, it's almost

always because of their lifestyle. A child of a very prominent church leader once said, “....I am just waiting for my dad to die to repudiate everything.” He thought the so-called Christian life was all fake and phony – and to him it was! All he saw was hypocrisy; so, he was really just basing the accusation on what he saw in his parents. What. A. Hurtful. Picture! Most self-professing believers are merely cosmetic and counterfeit Christians. Any man that trusts Christ and says he believes in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus is saved as far as I can tell. However, I’ll admit, I do look at the life of the man who professes that; because, by their lives, I can tell the relationship he has with the Lord - or not! Lot is an abject Christian Tragedy. This is one sordid section of Scripture that we will have to get over....

2 And he said , Behold now, my lords, turn in , I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night , and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early , and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

~ Remember, Abraham and his friends had washed their feet out there on the plains under the tree. Lot says. “....come, let’s wash our feet” – but these men say, “....no, we’re just going to keep moving.” Lot was sitting in the gate which means Lot was judging these people. The judge always sits in the gate in Scripture. Lot, apparently, got into politics; and he was qualified to judge these men – but these men have a warning for Lot. You may remember another incident of feet washing in the Upper Room. Jesus began to wash the feet of His disciples. Peter said, “....You’re not washing MY feet!” - and Jesus replied, “....if I don’t wash your feet, Peter, you have no part with Me.” Do your friends walk clean, friends? Do they, at least, clean themselves up in the Word of God? This gets very personal....

3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

~ So, Lot pigeon-holes these men into coming into his home – and they DID eat – and some great men of God think these were the same two that Abraham met with. Well, it may have been – but, if it is the same men, here they have an altogether different spirit and they wanted nothing to do with Lot. The streets of Sodom weren't safe - and Lot was just a Christian man trying to help. Nonetheless, this all culminates into a sickening scene. We're dealing with human degradation to the inth degree now. The name "sodomy" has stuck with homosexual perversion ever since Lot's day - and always will. It's the name God Himself put on it. The Word of God is specific on this subject, too, make no mistake. If we tone the opposition down it's because we want to drown it out. Homosexuality is an awful, disgusting abomination of a sin! In the next leg of our Spiritual Safari, we will look at what happened with Lot in his home – and, if you didn't already see it, Lot is truly a Christian Tragedy ~

