

As Good
as a Fifth Leg
On a Cow

Genesis 19:6 – 20:18



~ In our last report from our Spiritual Safari, we were spying on Lot from above and, of course, we caught Lot right in the middle of another crisis – because his entire life was one tragic affair after another; and that’s where we find him again in this report. We are already seeing a Christian life in ruins. It’s called: Christian Tragedy. Lot is an example of what can easily happen to believers today; and it does happen to many, many, well meaning Christian people in many, MANY different ways. So, Beware, friends! This report from our Spiritual Safari will be just about as ugly as they get. When Lot went to the city of Sodom he didn’t fully realize what kind of place it was. I’m sure he thought he was going to have the same type of land and lifestyle his Uncle Abraham had. When he got to Sodom, however, he found out in a hurry that all manner of perversion was the order of the day. Lot chose to stay in that unhealthy environment and, as a result, he brought up his daughters and family in a polluted atmosphere; one that abjectly corrupted them – and from which come Moab and Ammon – which were a problem. What happens next is certainly going to have the worst possible consequences for Lot here in Genesis.

When Lot originally “...pitched his tent towards Sodom,” he saw the convenient life of city living. The streets were well paved and maintained. Restaurants were on every corner. They had the best wines in the world. Good schools and even beautiful churches were everywhere in both cities. There were well landscaped public parks and highly decorative public buildings. It was hard to look around metropolitan Sodom and Gomorrah and spot the exact depth of depravity these people had sunken to – because it was all covered over with a false façade of glitz and glamour. Well, when the cup of iniquity had filled up for Sodom and Gomorrah, God said He was going to destroy them; and that’s exactly the way it worked out.

There is a very sharp line drawn by God regarding sin in our lives, friends. Mankind has tried to make certain areas of disobedience gray, muddy the waters of questionable activity and legitimize anything that is personally appealing; irrespective of how it might affect or offend other people. Ultimately, mankind doesn't want sin to be as black as it really is; at least – not THEIR sin. YOUR sin is cause for the loss of your salvation, of course - according to those people – but not their sins. Most churches have compromised themselves to the point of being pitiful and they are absolutely ineffective at winning people for Christ. Honestly, I NEVER hear the Gospel preached anymore anywhere – ever! Right now, there are churches that accept homosexuality. The pastor of the church openly admits he's gay. They say, "...we're fine, respect us for loving your God, too, brother." Well, they're only kidding themselves.

The Biblical lesson of Sodom and Gomorrah is a lesson for this current religious generation, which has absolutely reached an error code on their devices. God is not accepting the church that teaches that we can get saved and then continue to live any old way we want to. God says, "...that's impossible." God won't let you live in sin if you are born again. Period. Full stop. Your life will become so miserable you'll end up like Lot – and Lot certainly was utterly miserable. This idea that we can be a child of God and go on living in open disobedience, willful sin and chosen rebellion against God, while doing what we want to do and calling it "the will of God" in our lives is a huge absurd mistake, my beloved; especially considering how most people make light of those things and joke and laugh about their filthy perversions. That's what was going on here with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah – including Lot.

Someone says, "...well, even Jesus received sinners..." - yes, but when Jesus got through with the sinner the sinner had been changed. They went from Jesus and sinned no more, my friend. The Harlot that came to Jesus went away with a new business. When she came to God she changed – just like the publican and the sinner did in the parable. Remember, the publican left the seat of custom; giving up that which was dishonest and hurtful to others - and he came to the Lord. Here, in this account of Lot, we pick up

with the men of Sodom demanding Lot to turn the other men out to them so they can, you know, do their thing....

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6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,

7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.

8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

9 And they said, Stand back. And they said again, this one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.

10 But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

11 And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? Son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

~ These men obviously defended themselves with something in verse eleven. If they hadn't then they would have all been killed. The men of Sodom wanted what they wanted - and they were willing to kill whoever got in their way of getting it. Lot is, obviously, in a very bad situation. After years in Sodom, I think he had learned to tolerate this sort of thing - because it happened all the time - just not to him - until now. Lot knew homosexual perversion was wickedness because he called it that. He saw his sons and daughters grow up with the philosophies and theories of a very sensual and seductive Sodom - you may be sure. They probably married amongst the Sodomites and had close ties in the upper echelons of society. When Lot received word from God to leave, to his credit, Lot said to his family, "...let's get out of here" - but they all just laughed at him and called him an idiot. His influence on his family and friends was, obviously, positively worthless.

The week before all of this happened Lot had probably landed a huge business contract worth lots of money. I'm sure the family was involved. They all said to Lot, "...you can't leave here - these people depend on you and us and all of the good things we do in and for the community." They reminded Lot that Sodom was his home. I think Lot had a beautiful cave; probably with a multi-million-dollar view. They reminded Lot how hard he had worked for all of his things; and how leaving would hurt everyone who had ever known his family. Lot was very far out of the will of God, friends. He was a totally useless and ineffective witness for God in Sodom. Lot's life affected NOBODY there. See, Lot compromised; and, as Christians, when we compromise, and go down to their level, we don't win them for the Lord. That has been more than adequately demonstrated in this day and age in which we live; and in the historical account that we have of this man Lot in the Word of God. If we didn't find Lot written of in the epistle to the Hebrews, I would question Lot's salvation; but, of course, with Hebrews, it's impossible to question his salvation. Peter said of Lot, "...this righteous man vexed his righteous soul" - see, no believer is ever going to enjoy their life in Sodom. Even so, Lot is going to linger because, deep down, he doesn't want to leave this place....

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

~ Lot just does not want to leave Sodom – period; he’s procrastinating and hesitating and making every excuse to himself that he possibly can for staying. When the Bible says the men “...laid hold on his hand” - that means they literally and physically forced Lot into action to move. Now, I don’t know what happened - but what I do know is that whatever happened Lot didn’t like it – not at all. So, it took God Himself to move Lot out. Without His intervention, Lot would have dilly-dallied around until he got himself and his entire family killed. Ultimately, that happened anyway; but at least it wasn’t due to Lot’s negligence. Anyways, in spite of all of this: Lot is still God’s man. It’s hard for me to believe that Bible fact; but, according to Scripture, God extended mercy to Lot because Lot believed God - even if his belief was reluctant....

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said , Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed .

18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:

19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

~ Whatever happened physically to Lot only made him even more spiritually stubborn and rebellious towards God; with a growing coldness and indifference that neither motivated him nor convinced him that this “judgment of God” was ever going to happen. He was entirely wrong. When he did resolve to pack up and leave, I think he really had no choice –

for some reason, but Lot still determined to himself that he wasn't going all the way to the mountains, either. Well, God is commanding this man to leave everything he knew behind from the life he had chosen in Sodom and Gomorrah. Now, let's not be too hard on old man Lot; because, let's be honest with ourselves and ask, "...could I do that?" How many WOULD do that? Has God asked you to leave your life behind and follow Him? Has the Lord told you to sell everything you own, give it to the poor and follow Him? Are you doing it? Are you going to do it? Have you just stubbornly told God "no," lately? Many have; and many are in the same place today that Lot was in at the time in which we are studying....

20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for which thou hast spoken.

22 Haste thee; escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

23 The sun was raised upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

~ So, I think everyone knows this story of how Lot's wife became the pillar of salt. It is a story that is totally misunderstood. Why in the world did she turn and look back? Well, she, like her husband, did not want to leave Sodom. She LOVED her life in Sodom. She loved her husband, too; but the husband she loved was the Lot of Sodom – not the Lot of running away to some mountain. This likely put a huge strain on their marriage. I think Ms.

Lot owned her own business, socially networked with all the right people, held a religious study of the Bible once or twice a week, was involved in the neighborhood watch program, was named outstanding woman of the year in the community, and heavily involved at the local school, Sodom High School. Thursday night was probably the night they gathered the book club; the theme was always some religious dogma publication. I'm sure they were members at the country club and had their own tables always available at the finest restaurants in town. We know Lot was a judge - so Ms. Lot had a lot of power around town. When she left Sodom, she left her heart there. She was looking back for her heart, my beloved.

I hear many people talk about how they want the Lord to return, and they say, "Lord come today" - and all that; but they're not living like it. They sure don't know their Bible properly, correctly and completely. On Sundays they won't study the Bible because they have other things to do. Sunday night they're too tired to remember God. Well, when the Lord returns, friends, we're going to leave the TV and the radio behind, leave the lovely home with our fine furniture - and we're going to go off where He - Jesus - wants to go. Is that where you want to go? - Or do you want to stay in Sodom? Will it break your heart to leave the stuff of the world that you have worked so hard for? What plans for the future have you made that Jesus would interrupt if he stopped by your home right now? What do you look back for as you depart out of Sodom? I have to ask myself these questions over and over again day after day after day. I'm sure that's not your problem - but it sure is mine. There are things I don't want to leave down here. I have loved ones and I want to stay with them. I have a few friends left that I think want me around. I want to finish this so-called safari for the second time now - but a VERY different way this time; and I'll be very honest - because I always am honest with you dear readers: I honestly just want to stay here and live because I'm afraid. When Jesus does call me, I believe He is going to replace anything I may miss down here with something better - and I am not going to look back - but I am still afraid; and I'm afraid because I don't trust myself. Again, I'm sure that's not your problem; but, see, I am just being honest with myself. I have to pray God will remove my earthy desires. Why did Ms. Lot look back for her heart? Because she didn't believe that God had better things for her life outside of that sick, perverted and abjectly debased lifestyle.

Looking forward, I'm not addressing the account of what happened between Lot and his two daughters later in this so-called Spiritual Safari because it's as awful as can be. I told you in the beginning of this report things would end badly for Lot, and I wasn't kidding. We're far from done in this report. Frankly, Lot didn't do well in his life in any capacity. Moving to Sodom was the worst choice he ever made; and it has now brought the lowest point in his life - and it all took a very long time. The family was totally corrupted by decades of everything perverted when they came out of Sodom. These two daughters who made it out alive were adversely affected for the rest of their days. Lot lost everything except his own soul. Ms. Lot even lost that. This is a devastating picture of many people today who refuse to judge the sins in their own lives and leave them behind – and not look back when God says do so. Are they saved? Lot was saved. Paul the apostle says they are saved, but “...so as by fire.” I don't want to be that person. Do you? God says if we won't judge our own sins down here, He will judge them for us. That seems to conclude Lot's immediate calamitous story. The epitaph on the grave marker reads: Christian Tragedy
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27 And Abraham got up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD:

28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

~ Abraham woke up and looked out of the tent again and he saw this thing had finally happened. I am sure it broke his heart. He wasn't surprised - but he did wonder if Lot had made it out. Abraham had nothing invested in Sodom, so this thing didn't disturb him one wit, with the exception of his nephew and the family, of course. Sodom represents homosexuality in the strictest sense of the word; but it also encompasses every aspect of a debauched lifestyle. Let's just be clear and honest here, friends. I think the church needs to get back to the Word of God. The church's acceptance of these things that are an abomination to God has polluted it's witness to almost total and complete ineffectiveness; and yet the church continues to

accept this growing problem in our society today. Why? - Because there is a lot of money to be taken in. No other reason. None whatsoever. It is the love of money that has corrupted the church.

Of course, the church will tell you there is another reason and that their reason is to get them in to get them saved. That would be okay if Lot himself had not told these men they were "...doing wickedly." Have you ever heard that in your "ministry?" Homosexuality is pure wicked evil – an abomination to the Lord – I don't care what you say. Well, they aren't listening to the church, and they stopped reading this safari stuff a LONG time ago. I don't know how many times we go over this in the Bible - but this isn't the last time, that's for sure. God judged Sodom, so, isn't that enough for the child of God to know there is no compromise with this thing? To indulge and say it's hereditary, or you were born that way – friends, maybe it is, maybe you were – but coming to Christ means He changes your filthy heart. As with an alcoholic, is he sick? Sure, he's sick; but what made him take the first drink and continue to drink until he fell down? Sin did it. Nothing else; SIN is the problem –NOT any sickness - and it's what we have over in chapter one of Romans where God says THREE TIMES that "...He gave them up"

Chapter nineteen of Genesis is a pretty important chapter for the generation we're living in today; but they're now compromising it and distorting it and making it meaningless by theorizing and philosophizing it to death, literally. Take heart, though, my beloved, God is Personally allowing this to happen for a very definite reason. That reason is His glory – as we saw in the prophecy of Revelation. The Lord is in control, and He will soon remove the true Word of God completely from the earth. Make a note. This may be our last report, who knows? We need to recognize – it could be....

29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot dwelt.

30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.

31 And the firstborn said unto the younger, our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth:

32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

33 And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

34 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yester night with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

35 And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.

37 And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day.

38 And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.

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~ Someone has called this chapter of Genesis "as necessary as a fifth leg on a cow!" I, personally, would just like to leave it out altogether. I still wonder why this chapter is here. Obviously, God had a very important

reason; and that reason is that Abraham and Sarah have sin in their own lives they are going to have to deal with before they will receive the blessing of Isaac being born. Here, we have a repeat performance by the artist known as sin - and it's "what they did naturally" – this couple. Until you and I are willing to deal with the sins in our life there will be no blessing for us. You can just write that down. God is NOT hearing your prayers with unconfessed sins in your life, friends. You have no fellowship with the Father with unconfessed sins in your life. So, let's go through this awful scene again with these two and get it over with....

1 And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar.

2 And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, she is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah.

~ Sarah is almost ninety at this point; and she is still a most beautiful woman. Abraham is getting pretty far south – down around Kadesh - where the children of Israel that came up there later couldn't even enter the land. He's out! He's not trusting God! Now he goes all the way down to Gera and they tell the same old lie to this king about Sarah, again. Everyone they have ever told this lie to have turned out to have a higher sense of right and wrong than Abraham and Sarah did! The last king threw them out of his land. Abraham doesn't look good in Abimelech's eyes here, either. This lie being revealed also reveals that Sarah really is the sister of Abraham; so, it's, paradoxically, not a lie that is a lie! Think that one through to its final conclusion and see what you come up with. When these two started out Abraham didn't have complete confidence and trust in God. He doesn't have it here, either. He and Sarah concocted this holy huge lie they told for one reason we know of and other reasons we do not know of, be assured. They justified this lie they told by saying to themselves that they didn't want to be killed. That's a pretty strong motivation to lie, don't you think? So, go easy on Abraham because God isn't going to. This recurring lie in their lives had to be dealt with to receive His full blessing. That is the way it worked then - and it's the way it works today.

How many of you refuse to judge the sin in your own life? How many of you are even willing to acknowledge the sin in your life? Well, I already know the answer, because the others are the only ones still reading this report! The others dropped off because this safari is no blessing in their life. If people would deal with the sins in their life – I believe we could have a revival; however, with the way the Bible has been shredded to the point where it cannot likely be put back together again – revival probably isn't going to happen. Why? We are not taught to CONFESS our sins to Christ! Omitting that one tenet of truth means you have no relationship with our Father in Heaven whatsoever. Public confession to some man doesn't get it - because it's unbiblical and unholy, both. There will be no blessing on this earth until sin is dealt with in the lives of believers. That's something else you can just write down.

Paul, speaking in the first epistle to the Corinthians, in chapter eleven says, "....but let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause, many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." We will not be any blessing to other people until sin is completely dealt with on our lives. This is a tremendous spiritual lesson here in the fifth leg of the cow on our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. But, again, let's not be too hard on this couple; because their CONFESSION will acknowledge their sin – and that's going to be refreshing – and it's going to usher in the birth of Isaac that we have waited so long for....

3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold; thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife.

4 But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation?

5 Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this.

6 And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.

7 Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.

8 Therefore Abimelech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants, and told all these things in their ears: and the men were sore afraid.

9 Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him, What hast thou done unto us? And what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? Thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done.

10 And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What sawest thou, that thou hast done this thing?

11 And Abraham said, because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake.

12 And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

13 And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said unto her, This is thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He is my brother.

14 And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and women servants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife.

15 And Abimelech said, Behold, my land is before thee: dwell where it pleaseth thee.

16 And unto Sarah he said, Behold, I have given thy brother a thousand pieces of silver: behold, he is to thee a covering of the eyes, unto all that are with thee, and with all other: thus she was reprov'd.

17 So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children.

18 For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife ~

