

REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE (PART 1)

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Genesis 13:13 is the first Bible reference concerning the spiritual condition of the city of Sodom: *“But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.”* In Genesis chapter 18, the Lord appeared to Abraham in the plains of Mamre to reveal to him His plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. “And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 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” (Gen 18:20-21). Abraham then pled with the Lord to spare the city for the sake of any righteous souls that might be there. He first got the Lord to agree to spare those cities if 50 righteous could be found in them, then he worked his way down to 45, 40, 30, and then 20 (Gen 18:23-31). Finally, Abraham 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*” (Gen 18:32). Of course, Abraham was especially concerned about the welfare of his nephew Lot. Lot and his family had moved to Sodom when the land could not support both his flocks and Abraham’s (Gen 13:5-12). But, would Lot and his family, and all the other inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah add up to ten righteous souls, so the cities would be spared?

Lot and his family

The question at the heart of Abraham’s plea, was the one he expressed in Genesis 18:23: “Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?” In agreeing to spare the cities for the sake of only ten righteous people, God’s answer to that question was an unmistakable “no.” But we also learn that God would not destroy *any* righteous with the wicked. It turns out there was only *one* really righteous person in all of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot himself. And God delivered Lot out of those cities before destroying them. God *“delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.”*

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(continued)

Lot was vexed with the wickedness around him, but what about the rest of his family? Two angels came to Lot's house, and ended up blinding men of the city who were intent on committing a homosexual rape (Gen 19:1-11). Those angels said to 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: 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. *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*" (Gen 19:12-14). We do not know how many married daughters Lot had, but they all perished. Lot had two unmarried daughters, and God's angels took them along with Lot and his wife and led them outside the city (Gen 19:15-16). "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" (Gen 19:17). After Lot escaped, "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground" (Gen 19:24-25). Genesis 19:26 then reveals another tragedy: Lot's wife "*looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*" After this, Lot's two remaining daughters made their father drunk and became pregnant by him, without him realizing anything (Gen 19:30-36). "And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day. 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" (Gen 19:37-38). Those two nations became exceedingly wicked, and were ultimately destroyed for it. Thus, all of Lot's family died, and all he had left was two immoral daughters. There are many vital lessons to learn from these tragic events.