

# Lot

By David Phillips

## Introduction

1. There are many lessons to be learned from people in the Bible.
  - a. We learn how we ought to live by considering the righteous people,
  - b. We learn how we should not live by considering the unrighteous people,
  - c. And sometimes, we learn of the mistakes even righteous people can make.
2. In the Bible account of the life of Lot, we learn the latter of these three lessons.
  - a. We find in the New Testament that Lot was considered a righteous man (2 Pet. 2:7-8).
  - b. Indeed, of all the people in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his family were the only ones to escape God's wrath.
3. But as we look at his life we cannot help but consider some of the mistakes he made, even as a righteous man, which can help us as we consider our own lives.

## Discussion

### I. Who Was Lot?

- A. As we studied through the life of Abraham we were introduced to Lot.
  1. In Gen. 11:27 that Lot was Abraham's Nephew.
  2. In verse 31 it says that Lot went with Terah and the rest of Abraham's family from Ur of the Chaldeans to Haran.
  3. And then in Gen. 12:4 we find that Lot journeyed with Abraham when Abraham was called by God to wonder in the land of Canaan.
- B. After they journeyed down to Egypt and then back up into Canaan, Lot and Abraham Separated.
  1. In Gen. 13:5-13 we read of the strife that went on between the herdsmen of Lot and the herdsmen of Abraham.
  2. Because of this strife as, as the scripture says, "*the land was not able to support them*" (Gen. 13:6) Lot and Abraham Separated.
- C. After that point we only read of Lot in a few more passages.
  1. In Gen. 14:11-12 we read how he was among the people in the land of the Amalekites who were captured by some of the warring kings at that time.
    - a. When Abraham heard about Lot's capture he gathered up his men and went and rescued Lot and the king of Salem from their captures (Gen. 14:16).
    - b. It is here that we begin to sense that Lot's decision to pitch his tent near the area around Sodom may have not been the best.
  2. Then we do not read of Lot again until Gen. 19 where he is met by three angels.
    - a. These three angels had just visited with Abraham before traveling to Sodom where Lot was.
    - b. Lot welcomed them into his house.
    - c. But the people of the city were extremely wicked, as we see in Gen. 19:4-11.
    - d. Because of their wickedness God pronounced judgment upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, but because Lot was righteous God was willing to spare Lot and his family.
  3. Gen. 19:14-29: Lot is spared.
  4. And the final account we have of Lot's life is in Gen. 19:30-37.

- a. Here we find that why they were staying in the mountains after fleeing the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, his daughters decided to get him drunk so that they could have children by him.
- b. Therefore he became the father of Moabites and the Ammonites (Gen. 19:36-38).
- c. It should be noted that these two nations later became enemies of God's people when they inherited the land of Canaan according to God's promise to Abraham.

## II. Lessons to Learn.

- A. Lot had so much in his favor.
  1. Good influence of godly relatives (Gen. 12:4, 5; Heb. 11:8-10)
  2. God had blessed him with wealth (Gen. 13:5, 6; Jas. 1:17).
  3. He was a righteous man (2 Peter. 2:7, 8).
  4. He was hospitable (Gen. 19:1-3; Heb. 13:3).
  
- B. But Lot made one decision which proved to be the cause of much hardship in his life
  1. In Gen. 13:12, when Lot and Abraham went their separate ways it says that Lot *"dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom."*
  2. In Gen. 13:10 we see that Lot was thinking of the richness of the fields of that part of the land.
  3. Physically speaking he may have been blessed because of the fruitful land which his livestock was able to enjoy.
  4. But, as we read earlier, those physical blessings came to him at the cost of his spiritual peace, for it says that he was *"oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)"* (2 Pet. 2:7-8).
  5. His decision was made purely for carnal rather than spiritual reasons (Rom. 8:5-8)
  6. We see then how the decisions we make in order to attain physical prosperity can often come at the cost of our spiritual prosperity.
  7. Let us consider the decisions we make and strive to learn from Lot's decisions.
  
- C. Lot's decision started a series of steps (unforeseen by him) which caused his downfall
  1. "Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan" (Gen. 13:11).
  2. "Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain" (Gen. 13:12).
  3. "Lot pitched his tent as far as Sodom" (Gen. 13:12).
  4. Then later we find that he not only lived around those cities, but eventually began to live within the gates of those cities (Gen. 19:1ff.)
  5. We see then the benefit of the instruction found in Psalm 1:1 which says, *"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful."*
  6. Lot may have kept his righteousness, but he became quite comfortable in the cities of the unrighteous.
  
- D. There are other lessons that we can learn from his life as well.
  1. God always shows care and concern for righteous people, for in Gen. 19:12-24 we read of how the angels hurried to get Lot and any one else close to him out of Sodom before it was destroyed.
  2. Lot stood up against sin, but it was too late for his family (Gen. 19:9).
    - a. What his interaction with the people was before this even we do not know.
    - b. But we find that sometimes, when we eventually try to stand up for what is right it is too late.
    - c. We need to stand up now.

- d. We need to let people know where we stand now, otherwise it may become too late, just as it was for Lot.
3. Sometimes righteous people might think that men in the world respect them.
  - a. But in the case of Lot, we find that people in the world some times merely tolerate the righteous, so long as they do not get in the way of their wicked desires (Gen. 19:7-9).
  - b. We need to consider this.
  - c. If we wait before showing people where we stand on morality eventually the time will come where our words and our actions will be to them like a fly that they merely try to flick out of the air.
  - d. But if we start now they may have time to take notice.
  - e. Granted, it may not change them from their ways, but at least we will be as lights in the world, which is what God expects.
4. Despite his shortcomings, Lot was a hospitable man (Gen. 19:1-3).
  - a. This is the character God expects of all of His people (Heb. 13:2)
  - b. “He knew the city in which he lived! He was looking out for the best interests of his fellowman, even if such were mere stranger.” (Dunagan)
  - c. He was even hospitable to the extent that he tried to protect his guests, even when in danger himself (Gen. 19:4-9).

### **Conclusion**

1. There are some strong lessons to be learned from the life of Lot.
2. Let us consider them so that we may learn from his mistakes and uphold God’s righteousness before it is too late.

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