

Genesis Chapter 19 Summary - John Karmelich

One of the things we Christians ponder at times is when will Jesus' return. Most of us know it states in the Gospels that no one knows the day or hour so it's strictly a "wait and see" issue. Therefore, it is not something we think about too much! Jesus made a cryptic statement in Luke 17:30, that His revelation is going to be a lot like "The day Sodom was destroyed". I realize Jesus also mentioned in that passage for Lot's wife not to look back. It implies not focusing on what will be destroyed after it is gone. Jesus wants us to have "one eye on our future", which is why we're called to watch for His return! Therefore, if Jesus said His return will be like Sodom's destruction, as opposed to say the world's destruction, (like when the rain began in Noah's day), what are we to get from the Sodom story it affects our lives today? Again, no one knows the day or hour of His return, but I keep thinking about the fact Jesus specifically compared His return to the days of Lot. I'm simply pondering the relevance of that fact. Yes, I am also going to deal with the issue of Sodomy and why God reacted the way He did but I wanted to bring that up as it was on my mind this whole week!

To state what I hope is obvious by now, this is the chapter where Sodom and Gomorrah gets destroyed. I realize there is more to the chapter than that! Still my focus of this study is how does it affect our life as believers? When I thought of this chapter, I thought about what Jesus said about Lot and his wife, so it's definitely relevant to this study. Do I believe in a literal destruction of those places? Of course, the location was probably the south end of the Dead Sea, which is to this day covered in sulfur! So, what is it that caused God to destroy that place, versus other wicked places? Why were those places picked for all eternity for us to study? Why doesn't God "zap" wicked people or (beyond help) corrupt people we realize are horrible people? One reason is to show those God called can't lose their salvation. It's why Sodom wasn't destroyed until after Lot left. His wife died was not that she looked at the phenomena of what was happening, but most likely lingered to grasp all that she lost! It's a reminder that we are to let go of the things of this world and keep our focus on Jesus!

Yes, there's a lot more to say here which is my signal to start talking about this chapter start to finish! I always like to begin with where we left off! The last part of Chapter 18 was the famous "haggling" we saw between God and Abraham over how many godly people have to be in a spot for God to spare His destruction of a place? The haggling ended at 10 people, but the implication is if there is just one, God won't do a "Sodom" job on a place for the sake of the one! We'll see that here in Chapter 19. OK then:

Chapter 19 opens with Lot at his job as a guard at Sodom's gate. Think of a guard as someone who can decide who can or cannot come into a place to do business. Lot met the 2 angels who visited Abraham in the last chapter. Lot didn't know they met Abraham, but Lot did know Sodom was place known for depraved Sodomy and talked the two angels out of spending the night in the town square and talked the two into spending the night at his house! Don't know if Lot knew they were angels, just that they didn't be staying outside overnight given the earned reputation of this town! We read the angels ate a meal at Lot's place! (As I stated in the last lesson, I wonder if angels can taste and digest food? I suspect when we get to heaven, we can taste food, but it'll instantly disappear as I suspect stomachs don't exist!)

By the way the sin of Sodom wasn't homosexuality per se, but it was unbridled out of control desire for that as every man in town wanted Lot to bring the two angels out, so they could be "gang raped" by the men of that city! Meanwhile Lot who was a citizen of that town, was begging those men to stop. Then he offered his two daughters to them, probably thinking that all they wanted was homosexual sex! Yes, what he did was wrong to do that, but the point is that God designed Lot as "righteous" and he believed

in God so Lot will get saved despite that! The men of that city tried to force their way into the house! I am fascinated by the fact the angels struck those men with blindness and those men still wanted to rape the angels! That's the last thing we read of the town's folks, as the text switches to the angels talking to Lot about what's next. The angels told Lot to get his wife, his two daughters and the men the daughters were engaged to and leave at once. The future son in laws refused to go, which makes us ponder if they were part of the homosexual crowd as well. All we know is the sons-in-law refused to go!

Early in the morning the angels seized Lot, his wife and two daughters as if to say the destruction can't begin until they're out of there! Lot didn't want to live isolated in the mountains and asked permission to live in a small nearby town and the angels gave Lot that permission. Then it was "showtime". God rained down sulfur around the south end of the Dead Sea. To this day, that area has some of the purest sulfur in the world! As far as the famous line of the wife looking back and being buried in sulfur, what I suspect is she lingered to see the show and that is what killed her! Jesus referenced that as I stated in the first paragraph, our focus should be on Him not the world that will also be destroyed one day!

You'd think that was enough for one chapter. When things get strange, they tend to stay strange! Next, we read of Lot's two daughters each getting their father drunk and having sex with their father! Both of the girls got pregnant. The two babies became the start of the Moabites and the Ammonites. In essence that is the country of Jordan today. Those two countries were enemies of Israel for a long time! We've got to wonder why would they do that? Did they think no man would want them given their being part of Sodom? Their motivation wasn't stated! What is fascinating to me is despite Lot's sin for being part of that city, despite the fact he offered his daughters "free of charge" to the rapists, who said no thanks! Then to top it off, after all that, the daughters "molested dad" to get pregnant. Then we wonder how do we get away with sin and still be saved? God chooses who God does and we are saved strictly because of our faith in Jesus and not based on our lifestyle! So, are you saying it's ok to live like Lot or even do what his daughters did? Of course not! We are still witnesses for Jesus. My point is simply we cannot lose our salvation by sinning "bad enough". If you get nothing else out of that chapter, learn that!

All of that leads me back to Jesus Second Coming: Jesus didn't say it'll happen when rain comes like it did in Noah's day. It's not even like when say, Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon or say, Rome. It'll be like the days of Lot! Does that mean the rampant public acceptance of sodomy is a sign that he will be coming back soon? Don't know but it's, "food for thought"! All I know is God calls us to be a living witness for Him. When the "show gets on the road" is God's business and not ours!

Finally let me discuss Christianity and dealing with sin: We're not to think God will get us out of here, so sin is your problem! We are to be witnesses to people! We do not force our views on them, just like we don't let them force their lifestyle on us! As Peter said in Acts 5:29, "We're to obey God rather than men!" There are times when fighting evil is necessary! Sometimes we just need to live as witnesses to God and let people's consciousness convict who it will convict! I end with all of that as we read here of God raining destruction down on a place and it warns of the world's future. The point of this paragraph is about how we're to react in the meantime, and that means being a good witness for Jesus. At times, it will mean to let sinners be. Other times it means being a witness to them, and there are times when the right thing is to fight evil as we see it. As to "when to do what" that's why we pray, and let God led us to do what is His will for our lives!

On the same page as this study is a more detailed study I wrote many years back. You are welcome to email me if you want or join my list to the get the latest lesson. Thanks for reading. John