

The story of Lot – progression of his life from God’s perspective (Genesis):

- Lot joins Uncle Abram to go to the promised land (12:4) (“cling-on nephew” – adult, probably in his 40s or 50s – Abraham was 75)
- Lot’s men argue with Abram’s men over pasture land (13:7) Sin of omission
- Abram graciously lets Lot choose (13:8)
 - Abraham loves Lot (by both word & deed)
 - Abraham trusts God and believes the Lord’s promises. He doesn’t need to grab and hold to it.
- Lot “looked up and saw” (same word when Eve saw the fruit) and grabbed the best for himself (13:10ff)
- Lot pitched his tent “near Sodom” (13:12) (Men of Sodom sinning greatly-13:13)

Gap in time

- Lot is living “in Sodom” (14:12), conquered and taken captive by 4 kings
- Lot is serving a selfish, self-centered, ungrateful king (14:21). No expression of gratitude. Presumptuously tells Abraham what he should do.
- After being rescued by Abram, where does Lot go? No expression of thanks expressed in the scriptures. Lot chooses to stay in Sodom.
 - Abraham again proves his loyal love for Lot by risking his life to save Lot.

Gap of 20 years

- Lot is now a leader “at the gate” of Sodom
- Lot insisted that the angels stay out of the square (19:3) He knows the wickedness of the men. He still has a sense of decency and hospitality.
- The men of Sodom knock on Lot’s door, they want to have sex with the angels (19:5)
- Lot offers to sacrifice his two “virgin” daughters (not himself) (19:8) It must have taken a concerted effort to keep his daughters “pure” in such a society. They were “virgins” on the outside, but what were they like in the inside?
- Lot is a political leader, but not respected by the men of Sodom (19:9 – considered an “alien”)
- Lot lacks domestic leadership, future son-in-laws don’t listen to him (19:14)
- Lot hesitates when the angels urge him to leave quickly (19:15-16)
- Angels grab his family by their hands. 2 commands:
 - 1) Flee;
 - 2) Don’t look back
- Lot is negotiating to stay close to Sodom(Zoar) – Sodom is in his heart (19:18)
- Lot’s wife can’t resist a look and is turned into a pillar of salt (her heart is w/ Sodom) (19:26)

God remembered Abraham and saved Lot & his family for his sake (19:29)

- Final recorded act of Lot in the scriptures – seduced by his own daughters. His daughters were saved on the outside “virgins” but not on the inside. Lot is a clueless fool. Ironically, Lot has diligently saved his daughter’s “virginity” – so that they could be defiled by him?
- Lot’s legacy: Two wicked nations form from his un-holy union with his two daughters: Moabites & Ammonites. Both will become a thorn in the side of Abraham’s future decedents.

Moabites- via eldest daughter.

- After the Exodus, the Israelites requested permission of Moabites to travel along the King’s highway and were rejected
- Moses was forbidden to attack, they must have had some commercial contract?
- Balak, king of Moab, distressed at the Israelites success, called for the prophet Balaam to curse Israel, but he could only pronounce blessings.
- As Israel prepared to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land while they were “in the plains of Moab” (Num 22:1, Jos. 3:1), they were seduced by the Moabite and Midianite women to participate in idolatrous practices.
- Nevertheless, God’s mercy and grace: In a dark time in Israel’s history, in the time of the Judges (every one did what was right in their own eyes), it was a Moabite woman, Ruth, who showed Israel about “hesed”/covenant loyal love. Ruth was faithful to the destitute widow Naomi. She eventually married Boaz and became the great grandmother to King David, and in the line of Jesus. What an amazing God we serve!

New Testament perspective

Watch out for sin, it is like yeast that can spread. We must deal with it right away:

1 Corinthians 5:6-13 ⁶ Your boasting (man had his father’s wife) is not good. Don’t you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? ⁷ Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast-- as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth. ⁹ I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- ¹⁰ not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹ But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. ¹² What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³ God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

The progression of sin:

James 1:13-15 ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Lot loved Sodom (“the world”) more than he loved Abraham or his God, even though he was twice saved by them from certain destruction:

1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world-- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

People want miracles, but God has given us his Word:

Luke 16:19-31 ¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' ²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' ²⁷ "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' ³⁰ "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Application:

Who seed are you? Are you the seed of Lot (Satan)? Or are you of the seed of Abraham (Christ)? Transformation must happen on the inside, through the work of Christ, rather than external appearances.