

Date : 15th March 2026
Theme : God's Story of Redemption from Genesis
Topic : Could we Foresee our Next Generation's spiritual outcome?
Passage : Genesis 19
Key Verse : *So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, He remembered Abraham, and He brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived. Genesis 19:29 niv*

Introduction

Abraham and Lot, as a family, set off on a faith journey trusting God, but their final outcomes were different. In times of crisis, their respective commitment to God and life purpose were severely tested.

For Lot, the cultural influence of the city he chose and his personal idols (money, pleasure) distracted him and eventually took him off his faith journey entirely.

Lot's faith journey pretty much resembles a lot of us.

1. Contrast the outcomes of Abram (later Abraham) and Lot.

a) Similarities between Abram and Lot, when they first set out Genesis 12,13

(From Haran to Bethel to Egypt to Bethel) Abram, age 75 and Lot around 45.

- Shared faith
Both worshipped the same God and a shared goal to go to the land God would show Abram. *Genesis 12:1*
- Shared household
Lot's father, Haran, who was Abram's brother died at an early age. Thus Lot, as Abram's nephew, benefitted from Abram as mentor and spiritual cover over him.
- Shared lifestyle and status
Both lived in tents, had large herds of livestock and accumulated great wealth. Lot had prospered from being tutored by his uncle. *Genesis 13:5*

b) Their report cards, 25 years later

Now, 25 years after leaving Haran (Abraham, age 99 and Lot, perhaps age 70), there were stark differences between them. We notice contrasting choices, resulting in Lot's loss of home, wealth, wife and debasement by his daughters — everything that mattered.

Abraham's choices	Lot's choices
a) Spiritual focus <i>Genesis 12:8; 13:4,18</i> Abram built altars to God everywhere he went (except in Egypt).	a) Worldly focus <i>Genesis 19:6-8</i> Lot never built any altar to God; was worldly-minded. Though he was tormented by the filthy lives of the lawless men, he continued to live among the wicked. <i>2 Peter 2:7</i>
b) Location and separated lifestyle <i>Genesis 13:12; 18:1</i> Chose to live in Canaan, as instructed by the Lord.	b) Location and compromised lifestyle <i>Genesis 13:10-11; 19:1</i> Chose the lush plains where people sinned against God greatly. Did not consider the consequences to his family. He did not ask God about living in the city of Sodom.

Abraham's choices	Lot's choices
<p>c) Robust faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abram, by faith, was righteous (=right standing with God) • chose to trust God's promise of the land rather than seek immediate personal gain. 	<p>c) Fragile faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lot, had faith and therefore called <i>righteous</i>, like Abram; but he neither chose righteous living, nor did he continue to strengthen his faith by staying in touch with Abram. • The fact that he chose to return to Sodom (after being rescued by Abram in <i>Genesis 14:16</i>) showed his refusal to separate from worldly life. He learnt nothing. He returned to sin city as if nothing had happened, ignoring disastrous consequences he already tasted when he was captured and had lost everything.
<p>d) Mindset of relational responsibility for Lot.</p> <p>Shared God's heart of caring for well-being of others, "sense of community".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In <i>Genesis 14:11, 12</i>, when Lot, his nephew was taken captive along with others, Abraham, single-handedly, rescued all of them by enlisting 318 of his trained men. <i>Genesis 14:14</i> • In <i>Genesis 18:20-22</i>, God revealed His plans to Abraham to judge Sodom for its wickedness. Abraham, concerned for Lot, interceded for reprieve if there were 10 righteous men there. 	<p>d) Mindset of selfishness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking only of himself and self-centered; neither grateful nor did he value ties with his uncle Abraham. Did not perceive Abraham's influence and God's blessing in that association. • Loss of authority. Lot was distressed by how the Sodomites lived. Yet, he did not initiate action for the common good, as a community leader. • Lot neither appreciated God's nature nor sought to make a difference for God. He could not even convince his sons-in-law to escape the impending judgement. He was the laughing stock of his family.
<p>e) Legacy of descendants and a nation for God.</p> <p>Abraham made a difference on his son and grandson. Isaac, Abraham's covenant son, trusted in God. Through a severe famine he experienced God's provision. It was Abraham's faith in God that resulted in finding a suitable wife for his son.</p>	<p>e) Legacy of disaster</p> <p>His life ended living in a cave, and had descendants who later opposed Israel, God's covenant people.</p>

Questions: We now look back, with the benefit of hindsight, on the tragic and shameful consequences Lot suffered for his bad choices.
 Long-term, he produced a generation of people that rejected God and God's people.

Is Lot's outcome **foreseeable**?

Is it possible to foresee a different spiritual future that awaits our next generation?

Could we consider the impact of our choices?

What "tell-tale" signs should have alerted Lot (and us) to change course?

2. Could we discern the slippery slope to worldliness?

Of course, standing on the ridge with his uncle Abraham, and contemplating which direction to take *Genesis 13:3*, Lot did not consider the outcome of his choice. What did he fail to do that resulted in his daughters' actions.

Looking at Lot's choices, what past information did he possess which could have helped him make better choices?

a) Lot had foundational faith.

- What were Lot's opportunities to learn about God's judgement of the flood? Abraham (and Lot) had 150 years with Shem who even outlived Abraham. *Genesis 11:26-31*

That means Shem could relate things directly to Abraham and Lot from the lessons of the Flood.

- What lessons of his ancestors were known to Lot?
 - **Adam** — The story of his betrayal of his Maker when he chose to disregard God's warning that the consequences would be death.
 - **Enoch** — Enoch walked with God and his prophecies of judgement to show that God would **judge** the ungodly by sending a flood, and he did so by naming his son Methuselah.
 - **Abel** — Lot would have understood why his uncle Abraham erected altars through the story of Cain and Abel. Abel's righteous sacrifice *Hebrews 11:4* contrasted with Cain's attempt to approach God on his own terms, instead of God's.
 - **Abraham** — Beyond ancestral stories, Lot had a living examples of 30 years watching his uncle who built altars and trusted God's promises. Lot experienced the generosity of his uncle when he was captured as P.O.W. was rescued and returned intact to live in Sodom.

The wickedness of Sodom was then openly known to Lot even before he moved into Sodom. But what was visible was the allurements of greater wealth which was too good to pass by. *Genesis 18:23-25*

b) Why is Lot an example of the average modern day believer?

i) What do our **choices** reflect about our **values**?

Lot's choice to live in Sodom was based on what he could see visibly, failing to foresee changes coming his way.

He had forgotten the ancestral story that Eve had chosen to eat the fruit based on what her eyes 'saw'. He did not consider the outcome of sinful living and betrayal of God when he chose to live in sin city.

ii) The consequence consideration.

- We seldom think of the consequences of our choice when we are caught up with the opportunity to gain wealth.
Could Lot's influence have helped Sodom to avoid destruction?
How did Lot's decision result in such a serious catastrophic ending?

Lot chose the lush plains and Sodom.

Abram had given him first choice when they separated.

Lot liked what he saw. He might not like the fact that Sodom sinned.

What preparations are necessary to succeed living in a culture that opposes God?

- iii) Why do we choose worldly success?
 - Many parents today make similar choices without considering giving God the glory. We have good intentions to pass on the faith to the next generation, but fail to intentionally, 'inoculate' our children against the ungodly culture to which they are exposed.
 - Is your family or your business success the most important thing in your life? If it is family, what should be done to ensure that they do not become a part of the Sodom crowd?

c) What are the signs of spiritual decline?

The slippery slope to worldliness is often gradual, characterised by:

- Adopting the culture of our society without discernment.
Ezekiel 16:49-50 identified Sodom's culture.
Behold, this is the guilt of Sodom
... she and her daughters had pride
... excess of food
... prosperous ease
... did not help the poor and needy
... haughty
... an abomination before Me
- *Luke 17:28-30* the Lord Himself forewarned
Likewise, just as it was in the day of Lot
... they were eating and drinking
... buying and selling
... planting and building
... on the day Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all. So will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

3. Application

a) What can we do to make correct choices?

i) Walk with the wise.

We must be relationship conscious.

Whose company I keep is keeping me away from God?

Whose company is helping my walk with God?

ii) Guard intimacy with God.

Strength from God comes from devotion, not busyness.

Guard Word time and prayer altar time.

iii) Do not be dictated by digital algorithms.

The world knows how to customise to our personal tastes.

Listen to your leader's advice to switch off your mobile at church times as it is time to listen to God's Word.

b) What consequences will result from the choice I am making presently?
