

# **BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

## **“What A Difference A Day Can Make!”**

Genesis 19:1-38

2002

### **Introduction**

The course of human history has often turned on events that occur so rapidly and dramatically that life is forever altered. History is punctuated with examples of “What A Difference A Day Can Make!”

1. The day Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit
2. The day Job lost everything
3. The day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor
4. The day the Berlin wall came down
5. The day the World Trade Towers were brought down by terrorists

These are all examples of how quickly and radically life can change. Genesis 19 is another illustration of how life can take very dramatic turns. Little did Lot know that on this particular day his life would never be the same!

### **I The Visitation Of The Angels**

Sodom and Gomorrah have become a proverbial symbol of wickedness, perversion and moral depravity. The Bible specifically mentions that they were guilty of:

1. Being unconcerned about the poor and needy - Ezekiel 16:49
2. Spiritual pride and arrogance - Ezekiel 17:49-50
3. Rejecting God’s Word - Lk 10:8-12
4. Homosexual perversion - Jude 1:6-7

In fact, the act of homosexual intercourse derives its name from Sodom.

A. Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city [Verse 1]

1. He was a **leader** in this corrupt city

In our study of Genesis so far, we have discovered that Lot could have been a poster boy for spiritual compromise:

He went from looking toward Sodom (Genesis 13:10), to pitching his tent toward Sodom (Genesis 13:12), to living in Sodom (Genesis 14:12), to eventually becoming an important leader in Sodom.

2. He offered the angels hospitality

- a. They had planned to sleep in the town square

The town square was a place that visitors, under normal circumstances, could camp overnight. And in most cities, such visitors would be quickly invited

into the homes of the local residents and treated to a hot meal and a warm bed. But Sodom was clearly not your normal city.

Heb 13:2 “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.”

B. Lot **insisted** that they be his personal guests [Verse 2-3]

**Insist strongly** = Patsar = “To stubbornly urge or press”

Lot knew the wickedness of his city. Undoubtedly, he had witnessed the abusive behavior of his fellow Sodomites toward other unsuspecting visitors. So he insisted that these two angels in disguise spend the night in his home.

Unfortunately, if Lot had hoped his guests had entered his home unnoticed, he was tragically mistaken.

## II The Corruption Of Sodom

A. The men of Sodom **surrounded** the house [Verse 4]

1. All the men, both young and old - Judges 19:1-30

**Young** = Mina’ar = “Boys from the age of infancy to adolescence”

Clearly, they came to sexually abuse and rape these two male visitors.

**Note:** Homosexuality is not only tolerated in our society, but its proponents have an aggressive agenda to normalize homosexuality as an acceptable alternate lifestyle. Those who oppose them are berated as homophobic. And if you doubt their power to influence the culture, just remember that ten years ago, it was unthinkable to have TV characters who were homosexual. Now there are dozens!

**Illustration:** NAMBLA (North American Man-Boy Love Association)

NAMBLA's goal is to end the extreme oppression of men and boys in mutually consensual relationships by:

- building understanding and support for such relationships;
- educating the general public on the benevolent nature of man/boy love;
- cooperating with lesbian, gay, feminist, and other liberation movements;
- supporting the liberation of persons of all ages from sexual prejudice and oppression.

B. The men of Sodom demanded of Lot: [Verse 5]

1. “Where are the men who came to you tonight?”

2. “Bring them out so that we can have **sex** with them!”

The Bible repeatedly forbids homosexual relationships and declares homosexual conduct as detestable (Lev 18:22) and punishable by death (Lev 20:13).

Rom 1:18-27 “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ... For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God

nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened ... Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.”

C. Lot met them outside and spoke with them: [Verse 6-8]

1. He referred to them as “my friends”

James 4:4-5 “You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

2. He pleaded with them to not do this wicked thing

But just as we are about to applaud Lot’s courage, he offers to surrender his two daughters to the sexual appetites of these depraved degenerates!

3. He offered them his virgin daughters

a. To do whatever they pleased with them

It is shocking to me that Lot would willingly give up his daughters to this mob!

4. He appealed to them for the sake of his guests

Culturally, anyone who came under another man’s roof was guaranteed the full protection of his host. That was only right! But personally, I think that Lot should have demonstrated the same valor for his daughters.

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

D. The men of Sodom were indignant with Lot [Verse 9]

1. They told him to get out of their way

Lot may have had a degree of political power, but his spiritual influence was pathetic.

2. They identified him as an alien

The men of Sodom were livid with Lot and resorted to name-calling. The spiritual leaders in Jesus day did the same thing.

John 9:34 “To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.”

**Application:** As believers, we too will be hated

**John 15:18-19** “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”

3. They rebuked him for judging them  
**Judge** = “To pronounce sentence, litigate, or govern”  
 Prov 9:7 “Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.”
4. They **threatened** him and tried to break down his door  
**Insist strongly** = Patsar = “To stubbornly urge or press”

### III The Intervention Of The Angels

- A. The angels **rescued** Lot [Verse 10-11]
  1. They pulled Lot into the house and shut the door
  2. They struck the men with **blindness**  
 The Hebrew is a bit more descriptive. These men and boys were so persistent that despite their physical blindness they persisted to the point of weariness or exhaustion in their effort to satisfy their sexual cravings.  
 Is 57:10 “You were wearied by all your ways, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.' You found renewal of your strength, and so you did not faint.”
- B. The angels inquired about Lot’s family [Verse 12-13]
  1. Do you have other family members here?  
 By most estimates, Lot had at least 10 immediate family members.
  2. Get them out because God is going to **destroy** this place  
 Num 16:21 “Separate yourselves from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once.”
    - a. He has heard the outcry against this place
    - b. He has sent us to destroy this place  
 Ps 34:15 “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry.”  
 Ps 11:5-6 “... but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot.”

### IV The Pathetic Leadership Of Lot

In those twilight hours before sunrise, we can only imagine Lot’s frantic effort to convince his own family of God’s impending judgment. But because of his spiritual compromise, only his wife and two daughters were saved. Compromise had destroyed his testimony.

- A. He was not taken **seriously** by his sons-in-law [Verse 14]
  1. They thought he was joking  
**Joking** = Tsachaq = “To mock or make sport”  
 2 Chron 36:15-17 “The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his

dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.”

B. He **hesitated** to obey the command of the angels [Verse 15-16]

**Hesitated** = Mahahh = “To linger, delay, or to be reluctant”

Lot was so attached to this ‘present world’ of family, friends, power, and material things that he just could not bear the thought of leaving it all behind.

1 John 2:15-17 “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

1. They grasped his family’s hands and led them to safety

**Grasped** = Chazaq = “To fasten upon or to seize”

In the final analysis Lot was literally dragged from the city by the angels.

a. For the Lord was merciful to them

Lam 3:22-23 “Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

2 Peter 2:7-9 “... and if he rescued Lot, a **righteous man**, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that **righteous man**, living among them day after day, was tormented in his **righteous soul** by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) -- if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.”

2. They warned them not to look back or stop [Verse 17]

a. They were to flee to the mountains

Luke 9:62 “Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

C. He failed to **fully** obey the command of the angels [Verse 18-22]

1. I can’t flee to the mountains

2. This disaster will overtake me and I’ll die

Is 41:10 “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

3. Let me flee to the small town of Zoar

a. The angels granted his request

- b. The angels couldn't do anything until Lot reached Zoar  
 God, bound by His own righteousness and honor, would not bring this judgment on Sodom until the righteous were delivered (Gen 18:25).

## V The Lord Judged Sodom and Gomorrah

- A. He rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah [Verse 23-24]  
 Luke 17:28-29 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all."

- B. He overthrew those cities and the entire plain [Verse 25]  
 Today, archeologists believe that these cities are buried under the Dead Sea.

- C. He turned Lot's wife into a pillar of salt [Verse 26]  
 a. For she had looked back  
*Looked back* = Nabat = "To regard with pleasure or affection"

Perhaps she was grieving over the loss of her children and family. Or the loss of her prominent place of influence in the social life of Sodom. Or the loss of a house filled with beautiful collectibles she had spent the last 20 years accumulating.

- D. He rescued Lot on behalf of Abraham [Verse 27-29]  
 1. He remembered Abraham and brought Lot out of the catastrophe  
 These verses underscore the real reason Lot was spared. Lot was saved, not for his own sake, but for Abraham's. It was not Lot's faithfulness, but Abraham's intercession for Lot which delivered him from destruction.

### Application:

The same principle holds true for us today. We are saved, not on account of our own righteousness, but because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, who "is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them" (Heb 7:25).

This is the good news of the gospel. We are saved, not from having a righteousness of our own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith." (Phil 3:9).

In the end Lot was saved, but his life's work was bankrupt of spiritual fruit.

1 Cor 3:10-15 "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds ... If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned

up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.”

## VI The Corruption Of Lot's Family

### A. Lot and his daughters left Zoar and lived in a **cave** [Verse 30]

So in the short time span of a day, Lot went from being a wealthy, influential civic leader in the great city of Sodom to being destitute, homeless and living in a cave.

Why didn't Lot return to Abraham? With Abraham there could have been fellowship, encouragement, and even the possibility of finding godly husbands for his two virgin daughters.

#### Possible reasons Lot didn't go back to Abraham:

1. Pride: not wanting to admit he was wrong about Sodom  
Prov 28:13 “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”
2. Unbelief: A hardness of heart toward God.  
Carnal Christians don't want to hang around vibrant, committed Christians.

### B. His two daughters devised a wicked plan [Verse 31-35]

Evidently, trusting in God didn't even occur to them. This is another indictment against Lot's failed spiritual leadership. His daughters simply mirrored the spiritual compromise of their father, Lot.

#### 1. They got Lot **drunk** to preserve their family line

At this point I imagine that Lot was undoubtedly exhausted, emotionally spent and vulnerable to depression. But he was a righteous man and would never knowingly submit to an incestuous relationship with his daughters. They need to weaken his resistance. So they persuaded him to take a little wine to escape his torment.

Hab 2:15 “Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors, pouring it from the wineskin till they are drunk, so that he can gaze on their naked bodies.”

1 Peter 4:7 “The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.”

#### 2. They took turns sleeping with their father

Lev 18:6 “No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am the LORD.”

#### 3. They **conceived** sons: [Verse 36-38]

- a. Moab; the father of the Moabites
- b. Ben-Ammi; the father of the Ammonites

These two nations were born of this incestuous relationship. While God dealt kindly with these nations because of their relationship to Abraham (Deut

2:19), they were a continual source of grief and conflict to Abraham and his descendants.

Eventually, they would suffer the same judgment as Sodom and Gomorrah: Zeph 2:9 "Therefore, as surely as I live," declares the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, "surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah."

## Conclusion

The course of human history has taken some tragic turns that continue to affect us today. But not all historic events are bad. 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ offered up his life as a sacrifice for sin that those who believe in Him would be forgiven on their sin and receive eternal life. And on the third day He rose from the dead! What a difference a day makes!

25 years ago, I made a personal decision to become a follower of Jesus Christ. For me, that was the most significant day in my life! It was life-changing and history altering. If you've never accepted Christ as your Savior and made the decision to become His follower, today may be your life-altering day!

1. If you have never accepted God's gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ:

a. Repent of your sin

**Repent** = Metanoeo = "To think differently and to change course."

Romans 3:23 "... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Acts 3:19 "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord ..."

b. Reconcile with God

**Reconcile** = Apokatalasso = "To put right a broken relationship"

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

c. Realign your heart to God (your loyalties and allegiance)

2 Cor 5:15 "And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."

## Prayer of Commitment:

Dear Lord Jesus, I invite you to come into my life and be my Savior and Lord.

Please forgive my sins, and give me the gift of eternal life.

I believe that Christ died for my sins and was buried and raised from the dead on the third day. And now I surrender my life to you.



Thank you for loving me! Thank you for hearing my prayer. Thank you for reconciling me to the Father! Thank you for your finished work on the cross! Thank you for your friendship! Thank you for giving me eternal life!

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