

Parashah 16

B'reshheet 19

Summary by Claudio Ramos

Gen 19:1-3 Lot Shows Kindness and is Compelled to Protect

Beit Hallel Congregation – Gen 19 cr notes

- Lot bowed his face to the ground before the 2 Angels

וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ אַפַּיִם אֶרְצָה

- Similarly in Gen 18:2 Abraham also prostrates himself (וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ אֶרְצָה)
- Also in “Ma Tovu” Psa 5:7 (here in the imperfect) and in Aleinu prayer p94
- Lot calls them ‘my lords’ and Strongly Urges them to his home
- Lot prepares a feast for them (here uses מִשְׁתֶּה not תַּג)
 - With Unleavened bread. Why מִצּוֹת ? – 1) was this during the week of 15th of Nissan, or 2) its already evening so no time to fully bake?

Lot exhibits characteristics reflective of a Godly man

Gen 19:4-9 The Blatant Sin of Sodom

Beit Hallel Congregation – Gen 19 cr notes

- v4 is emphatic that ALL the men of Sodom are involved
 - men of the city/men of Sodom/young and old/all the people/from end
 - This underlines that their sin was prevalent throughout Sodom
- v5 men's intentions revealed: "that we may have relations with them"
 - v5 and v7 use the same word "knew or to know" (יָדַעַ)
- v6 Lot's request: "please, my brothers, do not act wickedly"
- v7 Lot's offer of his daughters is contrary to his request in v6 "do not act wickedly"

Men of Sodom are depraved and Lot is compromised

Gen 19:10-14 The Angel's Warning & Lot's Heart

Beit Hallel Congregation – Gen 19 cr notes

- v10 & v11 the 2 Angels are Lot's rescuers, protectors & they inflict punishment on the evil men of Sodom
- v12 & 13 they also offer mercy to those who heed Lot's plea
- The Angels and Lot use the tetragrammaton in v13/14 (יְהוָה)
 - This supports that Lot knows Who is in control and Who is showing him mercy
- v14 Lot extends mercy to his sons-in-law
 - Lot scores another point!? But is salvation a game of points?

Lot is back to making good decisions

Gen 19:15-22 God's Mercy is His to Share

Beit Hallel Congregation – Gen 19 cr notes

- Without the Angel's persistence, Lot and family would perish
 - v15 the Angel's urged Lot
 - v16 they seized their hands
 - v16 "the compassion of the LORD was upon him"
- Yet the Angel's protection was conditional – "do not look back"
- Why did Lot hesitate to leave Sodom (v16)?
 - Was it because of his concern about where to escape to?
 - Did he want to stay in Sodom?
 - Maybe the loss of his wealth caused hesitation?

Heed God's Messenger's Warning and Live

Gen 19:23-26 Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah

Beit Hallel Congregation – Gen 19 cr notes

- v24 “The LORD rained on S* & G* brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven,”
 - Our God is Holy, but the flesh of mankind resists His Holiness

Lev 10:3 ‘By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy,
And before all the people I will be honored.’”

- There are expectations for us all, along with warnings documented in the Scriptures

Deut 28:1-2 “Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² “All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God:

Deut 28:15 “But it shall come about, if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

- v17 The Angel’s gave a warning – “do not look back”
- v26 “But his wife, from behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.”
 - Book of Wisdom 10:7 “a standing pillar of salt is a monument of an unbelieving soul.”

God Shows Mercy to His People

Gen 19:27-29 God Remembered Abraham

Beit Hallel Congregation – Gen 19 cr notes

- v27 & v28 Abraham looks over the valley toward S* & G*
 - “...the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace.”
 - Just the day before God spoke to Abraham of His plans to destroy S* & G*
 - Just the day before Abraham was negotiating with God on Lot’s behalf
- And God remembered Abraham וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־אַבְרָהָם
 - God is faithful to His Covenant
- And God allowed for Lot’s escape even though 10 were not found
 - When did Abraham say Lot’s name when negotiating with HaShem?
 - But yet HaShem took Lot to safety

God is Always Faithful to His Word and He Knows our Hearts

Gen 19:30-38 Free from Destruction but ...

Beit Hallel Congregation – Gen 19 cr notes

- v30 states that Lot was afraid to stay in Zoar
 - Did Lot learn his lesson about city life?
 - Lot even chose an isolated cave to stay in
- Again we see a repeat of taking matters into one's own hands
 - Interesting that they had wine available during a “bug out” event
 - Why would Lot's daughters think that was acceptable?
- Two Nations are born who become enemies of Israel
 - Interesting that Ishmael's descendants also became enemies of Israel

Our Children Often Mimic Surrounding Influences

A few thoughts from Gen 19

Beit Hallel Congregation – Gen 19 cr notes

- God's inspired word doesn't "sugarcoat" man's depravity
- God is faithful to His Word
 - He visits His people and provides them an escape
 - **1Cor. 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
- Who are our Influencers???
 - We are to be a Sanctified People – Set apart
- Is Lot a Righteous Man?
 - Does the End Justify the Means? Only through Righteous means!

How Important is Association and Influence?

Beit Hallel Congregation – Gen 19 cr notes

- Lot was in Abraham's circle of influence until the flocks grew
- Lot pitched his tent as far as S*, then later into a home in S*
- Lot displays both righteous & non-righteous behaviors
- Very likely Lot was influenced by the “culture of Sodom”
- Who are our influencers? Do our influencers ...
 - Recognize that HaShem is Holy, Righteous and Just?
 - Desire to obey God in heart & in action even the least of His mitzvot?
 - Teach complete harmony across the teachings of The Father and Yeshua and Paul's epistles?
 - Use discernment to identify and root out syncretism?
 - Teach that the Ruach HaKodesh will not ask us to violate God's Word

Judging Lot Through God's Eyes vs Man's Eyes

Beit Hallel Congregation – Gen 19 cr notes

- Is Lot a Righteous Man?
 - Some of Lot's actions are ?able, similar to Samson's actions
 - Moves into house in the city after first living near by in a tent
 - Offers his daughters
 - "He hesitated, so the men seized his hand"
- It's easy to judge others, but its harder to look at a mirror!
- Fortunately for us **HASHEM IS OUR JUDGE!!!**
 - Heb 11:32-33 "...Samson ... by faith conquered kingdoms..."
 - 2Pet 2:7 " and He rescued righteous Lot, ..."
- Therefore, share the Gospel with everyone who will listen