

012 Angels Visit Lot

MEMORY VERSE: "God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow" Genesis 19:29

SCRIPTURES: Genesis 18:22-19:29

AIM: The wicked deserve God's wrath, but those who live in God's grace are spared

God told Abraham, "The people of Sodom and Gomorrah are evil, and everything they do is wicked. I am not pleased with their wickedness."

Abraham knew God abhorred sin of every kind. Abraham knew sin needed to be destroyed. But he asked if any would be spared, Abraham asked God, "If there are fifty good people in the city will you destroy it? Surely there must be some good people in the city. You wouldn't want to kill them along with the bad people."

"If there are fifty good people, for their sakes, I will not destroy the city," God said.

"Suppose there are only forty-five good people," said Abraham. "Will you spare the city?"

"I will not destroy it if I find forty-five," said God.

Abraham was almost afraid to ask, thinking God would become angry. With trembling voice he asked, "What about forty? What about thirty? Will you spare the city if there are only twenty good people?"

"I will spare the city for twenty," said God.

Abraham said, "Don't be upset at me, God. I'm only going to ask You once more, what if there are only ten good people?"

"I won't destroy the city if there are ten good people," God said.

"Oh Lord," prayed Abraham. "My nephew Lot and his family live in that city. Spare it for their sakes."

The two angels who had visited Abraham went on to Sodom. Lot was sitting at the city gate, and he saw the two men in the distance walking toward the city. When the men arrived, Lot got up to meet them.

"Welcome, welcome," said Lot. "Won't you come to my house and be my guests for the night? You can get up as early in the morning as you like and be on your way again."

"No thank you," said the men. "We will just stretch out our legs and rest on the street awhile."

"No, no," said Lot. "Be my guests and please come home with me. It is not safe on the streets." The men agreed to go with him.

Lot was much like his Uncle Abraham when it came to entertaining his friends. He fed them and when the men were getting ready to go to bed, they heard loud shouting outside of the house. "They are trouble makers," said Lot. "I'll go out and talk to them and see if they will go away."

"Don't hurt my guests," he told the crowd. "They are not from this area."

"Who do you think you are?" they yelled at Lot. And they pushed him aside and started to break down the door.

The two men inside quickly pulled Lot back into the house and bolted the door. And God blinded the eyes of the wicked men outside so they couldn't find the door.

The two men who were angels from God said to Lot, "Get out of this place at once! God has sent us to destroy this terrible, wicked city. Go and don't look back."

Lot didn't know whether to believe the men or not. After all, this was his house. He hesitated but the angels took hold of his hand, his wife's hand and his two daughters' hands and rushed them to safety outside the city.

"Run for your lives!" said the angels. "Run to the mountains. If you stay here you will die. And don't look back!"

"Oh please," Lot begged. "Don't send me to the mountains. If I have to go there I won't know how to stay alive. Let me stay at that little city over there near the mountains."

"All right," said the angels. "But hurry."

Then God sent fire down from heaven and the whole city was destroyed.

But in spite of the warning, Lot's wife had stopped running. She looked longingly back at her home and all the comforts of Sodom. As she stood there gazing, she was turned into a pillar of salt.

The next morning Abraham was up early. He saw the smoke rising from the place where Sodom and Gomorrah had been. It was like smoke rising from a huge furnace.

The Bible tells us that God had remembered Abraham, and for his sake He had saved Lot and his two daughters.

God cannot abide sin. Like the flood, the firestorm was sent to destroy sinners. Though **ALL** the people of Sodom and Gamorah were sinners, God chose to show His grace in saving Lot and his daughters.