

Abraham Before the Judge of all the Earth

Lesson 7: Genesis 18-20

October 15, 2017

Review

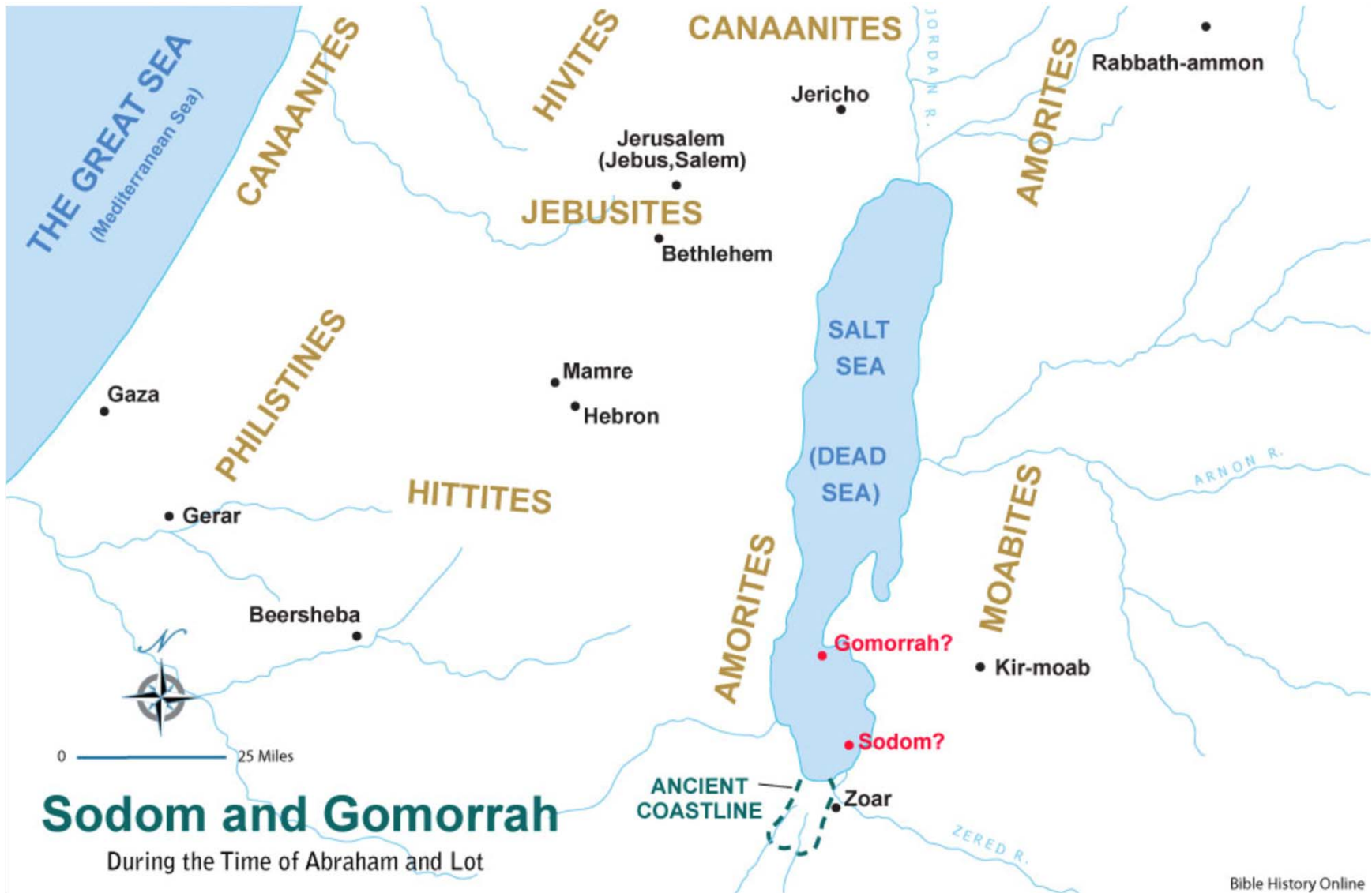
- Creation
- Fall
- Flood
- Tower of Babel, Scattering
- Terah, Abraham, Sarah, Lot
- Ishmael, Isaac
- Jacob, Esau
- Joseph then the Jews go to Egypt

These are the generations of...

- 2:4 the heavens and the earth
- 6:9 Noah
- 10:1 Shem, Ham, and Japheth
- 11:10 Shem
- 11:27 Terah
- 25:12 Ishmael
- 25:19 Isaac
- 36:1 Esau
- 36:9 Esau
- 37:2 Jacob

Outline

- 18:1-15 The visit to Abraham and Sarah
- 18:16-22 The revelation about Sodom
- 18:23-33 The intercession for Sodom
- 19:1-11 The visit to Sodom and Lot
- 19:12-26 The outcome of Sodom
- 19:27-38 After the destruction
- 20:1-7 Abimelech warned
- 20:8-18 Abraham rebuked and blessed



Sodom and Gomorrah

During the Time of Abraham and Lot

The visit to Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 18:1-5

¹Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day.

²When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth, ³and said, "My lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass Your servant by. ⁴Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree; ⁵and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant." And they said, "So do, as you have said."

- The LORD...three men
 - Two are angels 19:1
- Offer of Abraham
 - Water for their feet
 - Rest
 - Food

The visit to Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 18:6-10

⁶So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Quickly, prepare three measures of fine flour, knead it and make bread cakes.” ⁷Abraham also ran to the herd, and took a tender and choice calf and gave it to the servant, and he hurried to prepare it. ⁸He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed it before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.

⁹Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ¹⁰He said, “I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him.

- The hospitality of Abraham
- Sarah is the point of the visit
- Ishmael was not the son of promise
- Sarah would bear a child

The visit to Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 18:11-15

¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. ¹²Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" ¹³And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?' ¹⁴Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."
¹⁵Sarah denied it however, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh."

- The promise does not come by sight
- Take comfort that what God promises He will do
- Sarah sins like Adam

The revelation about Sodom Genesis 18:16-21

¹⁶Then the men rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off. ¹⁷The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? ¹⁹For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him." ²⁰And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. ²¹I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

- Abraham had rescued Sodom about 15 years ago
- Abraham's special relationship with God
- God does not act without knowledge

The intercession for Sodom Genesis 18:22-26

²²Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD. ²³Abraham came near and said, “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?” ²⁶So the LORD said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account.”

- Abraham is concerned for the righteous
- God will do right even in judgment

The intercession for Sodom

Genesis 18:27-31

²⁷And Abraham replied, “Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am but dust and ashes.

²⁸Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?” And He said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹He spoke to Him yet again and said, “Suppose forty are found there?” And He said, “I will not do it on account of the forty.” ³⁰Then he said, “Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; suppose thirty are found there?” And He said, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.” ³¹And he said, “Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord; suppose twenty are found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it on account of the twenty.”

- Abraham continues praying
 - He prays humbly
 - He acknowledges his position
 - He decreases the number
- Distinction between the city and the place

The intercession for Sodom

Genesis 18:32-33

³²Then he said, “Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it on account of the ten.” ³³As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the LORD departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

- The final appeal, 10

The visit to Sodom and Lot Genesis 19:1-4

¹Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

²And he said, "Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant's house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." They said however, "No, but we shall spend the night in the square." ³Yet he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

⁴Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter;

- Lot is now "in" Sodom
- Lot is hospitable like Abraham
- The men of Sodom surround the house

The visit to Sodom and Lot Genesis 19:5-9

⁵and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.” ⁶But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him, ⁷and said, “Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly. ⁸Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof.” ⁹But they said, “Stand aside.” Furthermore, they said, “This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them.” So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door.

- Lot protects the angels
- Lot’s actions are resented
- The men plan to treat Lot worse than the angels
- The wicked always mistreat God’s messengers

The outcome of Sodom Genesis 19:10-13

¹⁰But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. ¹¹They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway.

¹²Then the two men said to Lot, “Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place; ¹³for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it.”

- The angels protect Lot
- Blindness doesn't help them see
- The city and place will still be destroyed
- Provision is made for Lot

The outcome of Sodom Genesis 19:14-16

¹⁴Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, “Up, get out of this place, for the LORD will destroy the city.” But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

¹⁵When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.” ¹⁶But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the LORD was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.

- Lot obeys warning his sons-in-law
- God’s judgment is not comprehended by sinners
- Lot sins by hesitating
- God’s compassion doesn’t cease

The outcome of Sodom Genesis 19:17-21

¹⁷When they had brought them outside, one said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away." ¹⁸But Lot said to them, "Oh no, my lords! ¹⁹Now behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your lovingkindness, which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, for the disaster will overtake me and I will die; ²⁰now behold, this town is near enough to flee to, and it is small. Please, let me escape there (is it not small?) that my life may be saved." ²¹He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this request also, not to overthrow the town of which you have spoken.

- **Commands**
 - Escape for you life
 - Don't look behind
 - Don't stay in the valley
 - Escape to the mountains
- **This was too hard for Lot**
- **God continues His kindness to Lot**

The outcome of Sodom Genesis 19:22-26

²²Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.”
Therefore the name of the town was called Zoar.

²³The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven, ²⁵and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶But his wife, from behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

- Lot protected as he escapes
- Fire used to destroy Sodom
- Overthrew
 - Cities
 - Inhabitants
 - What grew on the ground
- Lot’s wife’s disobedience is punished

**After the destruction
Genesis 19:27-29**

²⁷Now Abraham arose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the LORD; ²⁸and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the valley, and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace.

²⁹Thus it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot lived.

- The just will live by faith
- God answered Abraham's prayer in a different way

After the destruction Genesis 19:30-33

³⁰Lot went up from Zoar, and stayed in the mountains, and his two daughters with him; for he was afraid to stay in Zoar; and he stayed in a cave, he and his two daughters. ³¹Then the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of the earth. ³²Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him that we may preserve our family through our father." ³³So they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn went in and lay with her father; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

- Lot goes to the mountains anyway
- Lot's daughters' lack of faith
- They had been influenced by Sodom

After the destruction Genesis 19:34-38

³⁴On the following day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father; let us make him drink wine tonight also; then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve our family through our father." ³⁵So they made their father drink wine that night also, and the younger arose and lay with him; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. ³⁶Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. ³⁷The firstborn bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. ³⁸As for the younger, she also bore a son, and called his name Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day.

- Only one heir would have been needed
- The children
 - From-father
 - Son-of-my-people

Abimelech warned Genesis 20:1-5

¹Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar. ²Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ³But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married." ⁴Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a nation, even though blameless? ⁵Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this."

- Abraham moves SW
- Same sin as previously
- Abimelech responds correctly to God
- Sarah lied as well as Abraham

**Abimelech warned
Genesis 20:6-8**

⁶Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.

⁷Now therefore, restore the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”

⁸So Abimelech arose early in the morning and called all his servants and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were greatly frightened.

- God keeps Abimelech from sinning
- God doesn’t rebuke Abraham directly

Abraham rebuked and blessed

Genesis 20:9-13

⁹Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.” ¹⁰And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What have you encountered, that you have done this thing?” ¹¹Abraham said, “Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. ¹²Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife; ¹³and it came about, when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, that I said to her, ‘This is the kindness which you will show to me: everywhere we go, say of me, “He is my brother.”’”

- Abraham rebuked
- We should not change just because we are among the ungodly
- Abraham tries to justify himself

Abraham rebuked and blessed

Genesis 20:14-18

¹⁴Abimelech then took sheep and oxen and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and restored his wife Sarah to him. ¹⁵Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; settle wherever you please." ¹⁶To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; behold, it is your vindication before all who are with you, and before all men you are cleared."

¹⁷Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his maids, so that they bore children.

¹⁸For the LORD had closed fast all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

- **Abimelech's response**
 - Gave gifts
 - Restored Sarah
 - Opened the land to them
 - Vindicated Sarah

Summary

- Show hospitality
- God will accomplish what He promises
- God saves in ways we would never think of
- We should not hesitate to obey
- Worldly influence is too real
- Faith trusts God everywhere with everything