**Origins (pt.2) - wk 10 – Why So Salty?**

**The LORD called an unlikely wanderer – fast forward, Abe is now growing in his walk with the LORD and settled in Canaan.**

**One of the most debated and confusing chapters in the Bible.**

**Used to attack people – and attack God. Sodom and Gomorrah.**

**Rated R - it covers some very difficult situations.**

**We see in it the primary theme of the entire Bible.**

**\*\* The LORD is the God of Salvation and of judgment.**

**This is the God of scripture – they are both essential.**

**Flashback:**

**Lot and Abe parted ways - Lot picked rich land near a wicked city.**

**Gen 13:12 …Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. 13 Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.**

* **What exactly was the sin of the cities of plains (5 cities)**

**Ezekiel 16:49 “‘Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. 50 They were haughty and did detestable things (abomination of Lev 18/20) before me. Therefore, I did away with them as you have seen.**

**Jude 1:7 Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.**

**S&G sins were many: Pride, arrogance and neglect, selfish, injustice, gluttony, and abomination of unnatural sexual sin.**

**Chap 18 – God comes to Abe and warns him that He is going to judge S&G. Abe pleads to God to spare them if there are 10 righteous. But – none were**

**Chap 19 – Two angels go to rescue Lot before the destruction. Still in the appearance of men – a mob shows up and wants to sexually assault them both.**

**Lot – Horribly offers his daughters to the crowd instead. The crowd presses in to bust down the door – the angels pull lot back and strike the men blind.**

**Their physical blindness matched their spiritual blindness.**

**Gen 19: (Get everyone you care about and leave the city) 13 because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.” (Come with us if you want to live!)**

**His spiritual credibility is gone - his sons-in-law laugh it off.**

**(At dawn, still there messing around - they drag their feet) 15 With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Hurry! (why are you still here!) Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.” 16 When he hesitated, (“he lingered”) the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.**

**The four were literally dragged out of town. They got to the point where they didn’t want to leave this sinful influence.**

**17 As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!” (head to the mountains – ie to the LORD) 18 But Lot said to them, “No, my lords, please! 19 Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can’t flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I’ll die.**

**You're nice and all, thank you for everything but… it’s too far.**

**I know what you said, but it seems too hard. I can’t make it.**

**Really - Give me a break (The city is about to be destroyed! Do you not understand the words coming out of my mouth?)**

**20 Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn’t it? Then my life will be spared.” (small halfway point - I’ll stay out of trouble I promise - I want to keep a little Sodom with me) 21 He said to him, “Very well, I will grant this request too; (that’s OT for - whatever!) I will not overthrow the town you speak of. 22 But flee there quickly because I cannot do anything until you reach it.” (That is why the town was called Zoar.)**

**Zoar = little place. I know what I need to do, but I just want to do a little of it. I don’t want to go all the way with God.**

**23 By the time Lot reached Zoar, (little place) the sun had risen over the land. 24 Then the LORD (with Abraham) rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah - from the LORD out of the heavens. (In Heaven – great OT trinitarian verse) 25 Thus He overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities - and also the vegetation in the land. (the place Lot thought was so beautiful – gone to this day – Admah, Zeboiim – Zoar spared)**

**The location: recent archeological findings suggest the location fits the ancient cities of Tall el-Hammam - just north of the Dead Sea in the fertile plains – fits the time period of Abe.**

**The city was destroyed by a scorching fireball from a meteor blast. When a meteor breaks up in air. Sending pieces and an incredible heat blast of <2800 deg. Fahrenheit.) Rare events.**

**Found at this sight were pulverized bricks, trees, buildings, burnt layers, melted glass & pots, charcoal, layers of ash, vaporized limestone, and sulfur deposits – lots of salt.**

**25 Thus He overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. 26 But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.**

**I remember as a kid… I imagined she peeked – then boom!**

**Jesus said she went back.**

**Why salt? The blast zone blew over the area, coating her in white-hot molten salt. A pillar = a reminder for all to see.**

**(Abe shows up in the story) 27 Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. 28 He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, (into the valley) toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. (contemplating) 29 So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, (Deut lists 5 cities) He remembered Abraham, and He brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived. (He learned - the wages of sin is death)**

**The story seems to be over - but things go from bad to worse.**

**An incredibly tragic and disturbing event.**

 **30 Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave.**

**Lost his wealth & wife now living in a cave - it gets even worse.**

**(Two twisted sisters) 31 One day (time passed) the older daughter said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man around here to lie with us, as is the custom all over the earth. 32 Let's get our father to drink wine and then lie with him and preserve our family line through our father." 33 That night they got their father to drink wine, and the older daughter went in and lay with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up. 34 The next day the older daughter said to the younger, “Last night I slept with my father. Let’s get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and sleep with him so we can preserve our family line through our father.” 35 So they got their father to drink wine that night also, and the younger daughter went in and slept with him. Again he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up. 36 So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father. (terrible sentence) 37 The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today. 38 The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.**

**These two families became two of the most evil – pagan tribes in the Bible and the arch-enemies of Israel.**

**The story is not to just shock us or for us to think Lot’s a loser - but to teach us about our-self and what not to do: challenge for dad everyone**

**The Spiral of Selfishness: Learning from the mistakes of Lot**

**Lot lost it all and ruined his family – it was tragic. God gave him every chance – but he squandered them. His missteps.**

**When Dad blows it - the family often follows.**

**\*\* He was focused on material possessions and success**

**His greed for more and the best – this was a major downfall.**

**Gen 13: (Abe gave lot first pick – he picked the richest area) 11 So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: 12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. 13 Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.**

**How many dads have left their family on the altar of their own pursuits? Chasing careers and possessions w/ broken a family.**

**Dads, focus on the eternal matters, pursuits, and purposes of God.**

**\*\* He ignored and overlooked his family's spiritual health**

**Examples of how his family’s spiritual growth was at the bottom of list:**

* **He moved his family away from spiritual covering (Abe) to pursue possessions and position.**
* **He gave his daughters over to be married to men of Sodom.**
* **He offered his daughters to the mob to rape to save his reputation.**

**Dads, you are called to lead the home – that does not mean you just make money and fix stuff – Dad, care for them emotionally and spiritually – with Prayer - scripture – being in church - serving.**

**\*\* He constantly compromised his convictions**

**Lot’s progression of compromise is clear.**

**1 - He lived near Sodom - Gen 13 - Intentionally settled by Sodom.**

**2 - He lived in Sodom - Gen 14:12 – He was living in Sodom.**

**3 - He is leader with Sodom - Gen 19:1 Lot was working with Sodom.**

**Near Sodom – in Sodom – now a leader with Sodom.**

**James 1:15 - When lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully grown, brings forth death. (lust, sin, death - LSD)**

**You don’t just wake up in Sodom one day – you get there by a series of poor choices. A little compromise here and there will lead to demise.**

**This series of compromises put his family in jeopardy.**

**Dad - who you surround yourself with – will have a say in your outcome. He lost his peace, home, wealth, his wife and family.**

**Dads, don’t compromise what you know is right.**

**\*\* He did not lead or protect his wife**

**He was constantly talking about himself and what he wanted.**

**I want this, let me flee, spare my life, I can’t go that far, I’ll die if I try…**

**The lack of communication and care for his wife is throughout – she doesn’t even have a name.**

**Lot was not responsible for his wife’s failure – but he was clearly not leading nor looking out for his wife.**

**Dads, lead and protect the women in your life.**

**\*\* He was lazy and lethargic about obedience to God**

**Lot hesitated the command of God, dragging his feet – and then openly tried to not do what God said.**

**I believe it – but I just don’t want to leave / I believe it – but I just don’t want to do it / I believe it – but I think it’s too hard.**

**Told to “Run to the mountains” The mountains are often a picture of God’s safety and presence. But he did not want the mountains. He loved the lights of Sodom too much. He wanted a foot in both. A little of each.**

**Note - God will often allow you to make foolish decisions so you can see His ways are better.**

**He’ll let us be stupid – so we can see how unfulfilling they are. But you will always have to live with the consequences.**

**Later said of Lot - 2 Peter 2: (describing God’s judgement) 6 …by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, (righteous – how??) greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.**

**Righteous? How? He was justified by God – this is not about his right actions. God chose him for salvation.**

**Peter is saying as God is faithful to judge the wicked, he is also faithful to save his chosen.**

**Lot was tormented and conflicted by what he saw, but still did nothing about it – adding to his torment.**

**A reminder that one can be a Christian and still be foolish.**

**Dads, you know what you need to do. God is convicting you and calling you to the mountain to know God – don’t settle for Zoar.**

**\*\* He was never content or satisfied with what he had**

**He wanted the fertile lands of the plains – ended up moving to Sodom.**

**He wanted Sodom – but was tormented / unhappy living there.**

**He wanted help – but was unhappy about having to leave.**

**He wanted rescued – but was unhappy about the travel.**

**He wanted Zoar – but was ultimately unhappy and afraid there.**

**He got what he wanted – and was still never content.**

**Men seeking affairs and pleasures, desiring a diff life – unsatisfied.**

**Dad – learn to walk in the peace and contentment of God.**

**Hebrews 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Christ is enough!) / 1 Timothy 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.**

**Ultimately, he got what he wanted and lost it all - his wealth & family and ended up with a hard heart, no wife, and destitute.**

**This story is a tragic play and display of selfishness and self-interest.**

**At the end - compromise and disobedience killed his family and future.**

**One of the hardest chapters in the Bible. Why tell this story?**

1. **Tells us - the Bible don’t lie. (I know it bad English)**

**It happened - It speaks of the Bibles authenticity – the good, bad, & ugly are given. Mankind’s sinful depravity on display.**

1. **Warns us - Deviating from God’s design leads to devastation.**

**There is a way that seems right to a man, but… (Pro 14:12)**

1. **Reminds us - of our incredible need for a Savior**

**Constant reminder of our need for the LORD God.**

**\*There is only one true answer to our sinful heart and healing from our past - Jesus Christ. 2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

**FINAL THOUGHT**

**\*\* You must be willing to start over – completely**

**Gen 19:17 “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere…**

**As mentioned, I imagined her sneaking a peak over her shoulder - Bam! Salt lady. But Jesus tells us more about this.**

**Jesus describes her when talking about his return - Luke 17:28 “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. 32 Remember Lot’s wife! (2nd shortest verse) 33 Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.**

**She did not simply sneak a peek - she could not let go – she went back. The desire to return to her old life was too great.**

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

**I can’t help but think of the parable of the Sower**

**Matt 13:32 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.**

**The Story of**

**- Sinful Sodom with their selfishness and sexual deviancy.**

**- Lot with his relentless compromise and greedy desire for more.**

**- Lot’s wife with her longing for her sinful past and ultimate return.**

**- Lot’s daughters’ perversion and self-preservation.**

**Still happens to this day.**

**\*\* Dad – mom – son – daughter – “Flee for your lives to Jesus! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere.**

**Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.**

**25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? 26 Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.**