

# Church of God Sunday School

## LOT'S CHOICE—SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Genesis 13:1 — 19:30

When Abram and his family left the land of Ur (*UHR*), his nephew Lot also left Ur to travel with Abram to the land of Canaan. Lot was with Abram as he traveled to Haran (*HAY-ran*) and later to Egypt.

Sometime later Abram and Lot left Egypt and traveled south. Abram was very rich, blessed with cattle, silver, and gold. Lot, too, was a rich man, blessed with "flocks, and herds, and tents."

Both men had so many animals that the "land was not able to bear them." The servants who took care of both men's flocks began to quarrel. Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren."

Unselfishly, Abram told Lot to choose where he wanted to move his flocks and herds. Lot chose the well-watered "plain of Jordan." This might have seemed like the best choice, but in that plain was Sodom, an exceedingly wicked and sinful city. "And Lot . . . pitched his tent toward Sodom." Abram lived in the land of Canaan.

It came to pass that there was a great battle in the land. Four kings came up against five kings. Lot, who by this time was living in the city of Sodom, was taken prisoner along with many other people. (Was this a result of Lot's choice?) When Abram learned of Lot's capture, he and his trained servants rescued Lot and the people and brought them back to Sodom.

One day the Lord, in the form of three men, paid a visit to Abraham (God had changed his name). The Lord told Abraham that He was about to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (*guh-MOR-uh*) because of their vile sins and wickedness.



Abraham knew that Lot lived in Sodom, so he asked the Lord, "Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" The Lord said He would spare Sodom if fifty righteous people were found there.

Abraham continued to plead with the Lord for the people of Sodom. Finally, the Lord said, "I will not destroy it for ten's sake." Then the Lord went His way, and so did Abraham. (Do you think the Lord found ten righteous people in Sodom?)

When it was evening, two angels arrived at the city of Sodom. Lot, who was sitting at the gate of the city, invited them to his house and

gave them food to eat. But, before they could go to bed, evil men of the city tried to break into Lot's house, saying, "Where are the men which came in to thee this night?" They wanted to harm the two angels.

Lot went outside his house and tried to reason with the wicked men, but they would not listen. When they "came near to break the door," the angels "pulled Lot into the house," and then they shut the door.

When Lot was safely inside, the angels "smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door."

The angels warned Lot to get his family out of Sodom, because the Lord had sent the angels to destroy the city. Lot went and pleaded with his sons-in-law to get out of the city, "for the LORD will destroy this city." But the sons-in-law thought Lot was only joking.

In the morning, the angels tried to hurry Lot out of the city, but he lingered. (If Lot really understood what was about to happen, why was he so slow in leaving?) The Lord showed mercy to Lot. The



angels took Lot, his wife, and his daughters by the hand and led them out of the city.

Then the angels gave Lot and his family very clear instructions: "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."

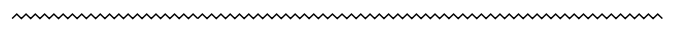
Lot asked if he could flee to a nearby city, and the angels told him to hurry, for they couldn't do anything until Lot was gone. "Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar [ZOH-ahr]."

As fire and brimstone fell "from the LORD out of heaven" upon Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's wife looked back. This was in direct disobedience to the command of the angels: "look not behind thee." Lot's wife "became a pillar of salt." Many years later Jesus told us to "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32).

Lot and his daughters had to continue their journey

without her. They were afraid to live in the city of Zoar, so Lot and his daughters lived in a cave in the mountains.

Lot's story has a sad ending. Many years before, Lot had made a choice. Was it the right one? God would have helped Lot with that choice, just as He will help you with the many choices you must make, if you ask Him. In the end, Lot lost his home, his riches, some of his family, and his wife because he made the wrong choice.



**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan . . . and pitched his tent toward Sodom."*

*—Genesis 13:11-12*

