

# Shadows Of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #45

Compare 2 Righteous Men: Carnal Believer

Dec. 4, 2024

Rev. 3:1-4 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write;

These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars;

I know thy works, [Eph. 2:8-10] that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die:

for I have not found thy works perfect [complete, mature] before God.

<sup>3</sup>Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.

If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief,

and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

<sup>4</sup>Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments;

and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

Question: Can 2 people both be Christians, born again, but have different outcomes in this life and in the life to come? A carnal Christian versus a committed and faithful Christian

One who defiles his garment; One who doesn't defile his garment

Belief: There are believers who will enter heaven and His kingdom with no rewards.

They are saved but will enter through a wall of flames.

I Cor. 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss:

but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Contrast & Compare: Faithful Christian & Carnal Christian

Question: Are both Abram and Lot called Righteous men? Yes

Gen. 15:6 And he, Abram, believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

II Pet. 2:7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked.

*Abram & Lot Part Ways*

Gen. 13:1-6 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. <sup>2</sup> And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

<sup>3</sup> And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; <sup>4</sup> Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

➤ Lot had a tent but NO altar. He did not call on the Lord for wisdom in making decisions.

➤ Up out of Egypt: came out physically but Egypt was still in his heart

<sup>6</sup> And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

Note: Abraham, foresees a danger of a falling out and proposes they should separate. [13:8-9]

Instead of allowing this conflict to escalate, Abram takes the initiative to defuse the situation and maintain peace between them. He demonstrates his selflessness and willingness to put others' needs before his own, a characteristic that sets him apart as a man of righteousness.

Gen. 13:10-11 And Lot lifted up his eyes, [beginning of a decline which led to a tragic end]

➤ The eye-gate is one of the avenues through which temptations attack our soul. and beheld all the plain of Jordan, [took a long look] that it was well watered everywhere, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah,

even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

So Lot chose for himself ALL the plain of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward.

He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram.

Key: Visible, earthly focus; walking by sight

- Does not use wisdom from above [no altar]; analytical thinking like natural man
- Lot brought with him out of Egypt something besides "herds and flocks."
- Lot contracted the spirit of Egypt and acquired a taste for its "fleshpots."
  - ❖ Spirit that hovers over new or carnal Christians [Girgashite spirit]

Covetousness—an insatiable appetite for more things—leads to all kinds of evil [I Tim. 6:10].

In order to get more money, people will lie [Prov. 21:6], mistreat people [22:16], cheat [28:8], and even trouble their own families [15:27].

Robert South: "Covetousness is both the beginning and the end of the devil's alphabet, the first vice in corrupt nature that moves, and the last which dies."

Clinging To Egypt: You cannot grasp the perishable in one hand and the imperishable in the other. You must let go of one to grasp the other. Which is worth grasping with both hands?

II Cor. 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Truth: Walking by sight is the cause of most of our failures and sorrows.

Gen. 13:12-13 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

<sup>13</sup> But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.

- The verse captures a pivotal moment in their relationship, as they part ways and choose different paths for their future.
- Key theme: The contrast between righteous living and worldly indulgence.

Lot, by choosing to dwell in the cities of the plain and dwell in Sodom, reveals his focus on material gain and worldly success than on spiritual growth and moral uprightness.

He serves as a caution about the dangers of compromising one's faith and morals for the sake of worldly gain. Lot's eventual downfall and loss serve as a sobering reminder of the consequences of choosing the path of temporal pleasure over the path of righteousness.

Gen. 14 Abram faces incredible odds in the rescue of Lot.

- ❖ God gives Abraham an amazing victory.

God, who is faithful, gives Lot a very definite warning.

Sodom & Gomorrah were attacked, defeated and taken captive by a confederation of kings. They took the goods of Sodom & Gomorrah with LOT and other people.

A supernatural victory resulted in him bringing back the goods, the people and Lot.

[Recall: Abram: up out of Egypt, tent, altar, called on name of the Lord, wisdom from above]

YET, this experience FAILED to teach Lot the evil of being associated with the world.

He recovered his freedom and his property Only To Return To Sodom!!

Wow! Even God's providential dealings are insufficient to move Lot's heart.

Note: Abram risked his life for Lot. He knew the choices Lot made and still pursued him.

- Lot was a prisoner of war; held captive by the enemy
- Abram's actions point to Jesus Christ who rescues us.

Lot: In the grasp of *Girgashite*, Turning Back, Spirit: One who turns back from a pilgrimage. Drag you away from God and/or pluck you out of your place of destiny.

This spirit will team up with any other wicked spirit to get you, of your own free will and decision, to give up and turn back to the world, the flesh, and to Satan.

- Leads you from focusing on heavenly, eternal things or things ABOVE.
- Your focus will be on what can be SEEN and VISIBLE.
- Concentrates on material gain and wealth - covets the momentary, not eternal things

Driven by the lust of the eye; what appears good; sensual; walk by sight, not by faith

Scripture warns: It is possible for a believer to be conformed to the world

in such a way that it is hard to distinguish him from a non-believer.

I Cor. 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. <sup>3</sup> For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Truth: Many Christians never completely shed the garment of the world, but instead, become more entrenched in it. Ensnared by a *Girgashite* spirit, one can drown in his own vomit.

- Was Lot saved?

II Pet. 2:7-8 And delivered just Lot, vexed [worn down] with the filthy conversation [lifestyle] of the wicked: <sup>8</sup> (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed [tormented] his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

- Lot lived far below his privileges and was out of fellowship with the Lord.

Gen. 17 Circumcise yourself. [17:10] [cutting away of the flesh]

- ❖ Abraham circumcised himself and every male in his household that day.

Gen. 17:1, 5 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be thou perfect.

Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham;  
for a father of many nations have I made thee.

Abraham's Offering To The LORD: Gen. 18:1-8 The LORD and 2 of His angels visit Abraham. Abraham served the LORD personally. Abraham was 99 years old and a wealthy sheikh. He could have entrusted this task to his chief steward or one of his more than 300 servants [14:14].

- Abraham served the Lord generously and gave Him the best that he had.
- Abraham's service was marked with humility.

Gen. 18:2                Bowed to his guests

Gen. 18:3, 5            Called himself a servant - Stood near to be available if needed

### Abraham's Intimacy With God: [altar to God]

Gen. 18:16-33 The LORD makes known to Abraham His plan regarding Sodom/Gomorrah.

The 2 angels who accompanied the Lord to Abram's tent go on toward Sodom while the Lord remains with Abram who intercedes on behalf of the "righteous" who may be in the doomed city.

Genesis 19: Lot has lived in Sodom about 20 years.

Gen. 19:1-3 Notice how Lot ministers to the 2 angels who find Lot sitting in the gate of Sodom.

He bowed himself with his face to the ground. False Humility Stinks!

Lot bowed himself to 2 angels but would not bow to God's command for sexual holiness. He offers them his hospitality, but they refuse and say they will abide in the street all night. Their reluctance to enter Lot's dwelling is in sharp contrast to their fellowship with Abram. This indicates the condition of Lot's soul. Shows he is not generous in his hospitality.  
<sup>3</sup>And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him and entered into his house; and he made them a meal, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

Note: Lot's Lack of Intimacy with God: Did not reveal His plan to Lot [no altar]

Note: God never goes to Lot's home. He stays with Abraham, as Abraham intercedes for Sodom.

It wasn't so much about Lot's location. Daniel lived and worked in Babylon. Joseph lived and worked in Egypt. Lot's problem was that Sodom was in his heart.

He lived a compromised Christian life. The world affected him, instead of him affecting the world, and because of his worldliness, he lacked intimacy with God.

Gen. 19:4-11 ALL the men of the city come to Lot's house. They desired to have homosexual relations with the angels. They wanted to "know" them = carnal sense; sexually  
Lot condemned them: Do not act so wickedly He offers his 2 daughters to the men for sexual purposes. The men refuse the women. When the pressure came, he compromised and offered his daughters! Trials reveal what is in the heart.

Gen. 19:12-13 Lot Is Warned: whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

<sup>13</sup> For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

Gen. 19:14 Lot relays the warning to his family.

Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!"

Quote: In those twilight hours before sunrise, Sodom saw more missionary activity from Lot than in all the previous years. His efforts were not trained upon the men of the city, however, but were a frantic and futile effort to save his own family, whom he had neglected to win.

- The powerlessness of his testimony is revealed in the response by his sons-in-law when he warned them: The Lord is about to destroy the city!

They said: "he seemed as one who mocked." [Gen. 19:14]

- His words had no weight because of his previous ways.

There seems to be only one possible explanation: Lot had never mentioned his faith before. His words were not a repetition of his life-long warnings of sin and Judgment—they are something totally new and novel. What a rebuke to the witness of Lot. It is one thing to warn men and have them reject our message. It is far worse for them not even to consider our words as spoken seriously. [Bible.org]

Quote: Morning came without one new convert,  
let alone one righteous soul who would flee the wrath of God.

Gen. 19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

Gen. 19:16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth and set him without the city.

- Laid hold = hazaq = strong grip; overpower
- Shows where his heart and affections lay

The reluctance of Lot is incredible. Never before has anyone ever tried so hard to keep from being rescued. There are several reasons why Lot may have been so hesitant and foot-dragging throughout the entire rescue.

- Lot in his carnal state may not have been fully convinced of the certainty and severity of the judgment.
- He may have hoped by his delay, to stall for time, in order to preserve friends and family knowing that judgment could not come until he had departed [cf. verse 22].
- Lot was so attached to this 'present world' of friends, family, and things that he just could not bear the thought of leaving it.

In the final analysis Lot was literally dragged from the city by the angel.

Gen. 19:17-19 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my LORD:

Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

First Mention Principle: Merciful [vs. 16]

Mercy [vs. 19]

Lot neither deserved nor wanted God's mercy at first. God was merciful to Lot in spite of:

A. His Foolish Striving Gen. 13:7-11

He abandoned his spiritual leadership when he did not have enough spirituality and discernment to live outside of Abraham's spiritual leadership.

B. His Failing Safeguards Gen. 14:12

His carelessness, his lack of preparation, and his lack of seriousness caused his vulnerable family to fall into enemy hands.

C. His Filthy Surroundings Gen. 19:1-9

II Peter states that Lot was uncomfortable with the wicked, ungodly and filthy surroundings. But, he stayed and let his family grow up in that. YET - God was merciful.

Thou Hast Magnified Thy Mercy...God has magnified His mercy to me...

A. People that are PRAYING for you Gen. 18:22-33

- Abraham was on his face before God, interceding for him and his family.
- We have no indication that Lot was praying for himself or his family.

Gen. 19:29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when He overthrew the cities in which Lot dwelt.

Consider: Who God might have mercy on because of me? For whom am I praying so fervently that God would show them mercy? To whom am I actively sharing the Gospel, so God would show them mercy. The angels physically pulled Lot and his daughters out of a city that was about to burn because Abraham pleaded with God. Who will be pulled from the fires of hell because I have pleaded with God in prayer? Who will be saved from destruction because I have fought against the powers of darkness by shining the light of the gospel in their lives?

B. People that are PROTECTING you Gen. 19:12-13

Lot and his family did not meet the threshold of 10 righteous people necessary to keep God from destroying Sodom and Gomorrah.

By sending the 2 angels to warn them, God was magnifying His mercy toward Lot and his family. Even after witnessing the deplorable actions of Lot in verse 8, they still tried to protect him.

Lam.3:22-23 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness.

C. People that are PULLING you Gen. 19:15-16

2 angels are literally dragging Lot and his family out of the city of Sodom.

- Note: God pointed out the mercy of God in the middle of v. 16!

After being spared by the two angels, Lot argues and barter with them.

Gen. 19:20-22 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one:

Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

He begged to be allowed to go his own way and keep a bit of his old way of life intact.

Derek Kidner: "Not even brimstone will make a pilgrim of him: he must have his little Sodom again if life is to be supportable."

<sup>21</sup> And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken.

God didn't prevent him. The Lord will let you hang onto your sinful way if you insist on it. God accepted Lot's whining request to disregard His instruction for Lot's infantile desire.

➤ God may let you have your way, but you will cost yourself trouble.

➤ Your ideas, if God allows them for a hard heart, will never work like His wisdom.

<sup>22</sup> Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there."

Key: It was Abraham's faithfulness and not Lot's which resulted in Lot's deliverance.

Humanly speaking, there was little reason for sparing Lot other than the character of God and the concern of Abraham over his fate.

The inhabitants of the cities of the plain had no idea this new day would be the last day of their lives. Life was going on as usual, and then the fire fell.

Gen. 19:23-26 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

<sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. <sup>25</sup> So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. She died within steps of safety.

Gen. 19:30-38 depict the final state of Lot, the carnal, infantile Christian.

He moved from sitting at the gate of the city to sitting in a cave.

Retreating from the world in seclusion is not the solution for our worldly lusts.

➤ Seclusion is no substitute for sanctification.

In a drunken stupor, he became the father of 2 nations, both of which would be a continual plague and enemy to Israel.

Moab and Ammon were destined to provide the worst carnal seduction in the history of Israel [Baal-Peor, Num. 25] and the cruelest religious perversion [Molech, Lev. 18:21]

Lot attempted to live his life in a city and then in a cave. We cannot become one with the world, but neither are we to flee from it. The proper balance between the city of Sodom and the cave is the tent of Abraham. We are to live in the world without becoming attached to it or conformed to it. We are to be strangers and pilgrims.

I Pet. 2:11-12 Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God on the day of visitation.

- Some lost people reject the Word because of the inconsistent lives of professed believers. Do you walk the talk?

## Context of II Peter: Compare & Contrast Noah & Lot

- Pursue spiritual maturity through the Word of God as a remedy for false teaching.
- Acquire the true knowledge of God and live out the life of faith with "all diligence," so that they may "be found by [Jesus] in peace, spotless and blameless" [1:5; 3:14].
- Urges believers to remain steadfast in their faith despite these deceptive influences.
- Encourage Christians to live out the purpose of their lives in Christ.
- Peter calls on all Christians to eagerly watch and wait for the return of the Lord.

II Pet. 2:4-5 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to tartarus, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but protected [saved] Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

- Noah was a preacher of righteousness and warned the world of judgment.

Side Note: God's judgment of the flood upon the world came on the ungodly.

Consider: If God's wrath and judgment came only on the ungodly the 1<sup>st</sup> time, it seems the Wrath of the Lamb during the 7-year Tribulation period would only come on the ungodly.

Key Point: God protected Noah. This man of faith experienced a twofold deliverance.

1. God delivered him from the pollutions of the world around him.

For 120 years, Noah faithfully proclaimed the Word of God to people who would not believe it. He and his family were surrounded by moral and spiritual darkness, yet they kept their lights shining. God did not protect Noah and his family by isolating them from the world, but by enabling them to remain pure in the midst of corruption.

II Pet. 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup> According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

<sup>4</sup> Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2. God also delivered Noah and his family from the judgment of the world.

The flood waters that brought condemnation to the world only lifted Noah and his household up above the judgment. They were secure in the ark of safety.

I Pet. 3:20-22 Peter saw in the ark a type of our salvation in Jesus Christ.

The world, as it were, was "buried" in the baptism of the flood, but Noah was lifted up, a picture of resurrection and salvation. Certainly, Peter was assuring his readers that, when the great day of judgment comes, they will be kept safe. Jesus Christ is our "ark of safety."

I Thess. 1:9b-10 how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

<sup>10</sup> And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus,

Who delivers us from the wrath to come. us from the wrath to come.

Wait = #362 > *anamenó earnestly wait (linger, abide); actively wait with rising intensity and clarity about what is hoped for*



Delivering = #4506 = rhuomai = to rescue or deliver from danger or destruction

Draw to oneself; snatch up; removing someone in the *midst* (presence) of danger or oppression, i.e. delivered "right out of" and to (for) the rescuer.

Wrath = #3709 > orgé = it is not a sudden outburst, but rather (referring to God's) *fixed*, controlled, passionate feeling against sin . . . a *settled* indignation;

The day on which the wrath of the Lamb will be made manifest in the punishment of the wicked

God has promised that the earth will never again be judged by water, but there is coming a judgment of fire [II Peter 3:10ff].

II Pet. 2:6 and if he turned to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when he condemned them to destruction having appointed them to serve as an example to future generations of the ungodly, Key: People who live ungodly will face a fiery judgment.

II Pet. 2:7-8 But God also rescued [delivered; #4506] Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of [oppressed; distressed; implies to be worn out; to wear down] the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him.

While Lot lived in Sodom, his soul was "tortured" and "greatly troubled" by the filthy conduct of the people. Perhaps he thought he could change them. If so, he failed miserably

II Pet. 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations,

- So we can live victoriously  
and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:
- Noah continued to preach righteousness hoping more would come to salvation.
- Noah walked with God as did Enoch.
- Noah condemned the world by his righteous living. [Heb. 11:7]

Lot's Tragic End: He was a recipient of God's magnified mercies and he squandered it!

He was singled, stripped of everything and traumatized by the severe discipline of the Lord.

His earthly life was a wretched failure, made up entirely of "wood, hay and stubble."

He was saved by the grace of God but saved so as through fire. [I Cor. 3:15]

He was snatched as "brand from the burning."

Lot, who tried to gain it all, lost it all. By the grace of God and by the skin of his teeth, Lot was saved. But his life was wasted from an eternal point of view.

II Cor. 5:10 Paul said, I make it my aim to please Him. For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

I Cor. 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Ponder: Will my works survive the fire?