

God Rescues Lot

Genesis 18:22-33; 19:1-3, 12-29

After the Lord and the two angels finished their visit with Abraham, they headed toward the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. When Abraham learned that the Lord planned to destroy the cities because they were so wicked, he began to worry for he knew his nephew Lot lived near there. He asked the Lord, “Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it?” (Genesis 18:24). The Lord replied, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake” (Genesis 18:26). Still, Abraham kept questioning the Lord’s plan and asked again, “What about forty-five? What about thirty? What if twenty or only ten righteous are found?” Finally, the Lord promised Abraham that if ten righteous people could be found in Sodom, he would spare the whole city.

Two angels went on to Sodom and Gomorrah. Just outside the city, they met Lot and stayed at his house. Even from Lot’s home, they could see that the city was a very, very wicked place. There weren’t even ten righteous people in the city. The angels warned Lot that the cities would soon be destroyed. They told him to take his family and run away to safety. Lot passed along the angels’ warning to the men who were pledged to marry his daughters, but they just laughed. They thought he was joking. When morning came, there was no time left. The angels urged Lot to take his family and run, but even then, Lot was slow to leave.

Finally, the angels grabbed Lot by the hand and pulled his family out of the city. God had mercy on them. The angels urged them to run from the valley and escape to the hills, but because the hills were far away, Lot asked if they could run to the city of Zoar instead. The angels agreed. But they warned Lot and his family not to look back or stop on their journey. When Lot reached Zoar, God rained sulfur and fire down from heaven to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. When the fiery rains began, Lot’s wife turned back to look. Just like that, she turned into a pillar of salt! But Lot and his daughters were rescued because they obeyed the angels.

Did you know that God has a plan to rescue us too? Like Lot, we are all sinners who live in a sinful land. We all need God’s merciful rescue. Without it, we will all be punished in the fires of hell that never end. But when Jesus died on the cross, he took the punishment we deserved for our sin. God calls us to believe in what Jesus did, run away from sin, and put our faith in God’s plan to save us. But just like Lot, we are stubborn. We want to stay in our world of sin, so God reaches down and gives us the faith we need to believe. Then God draws us away from sin to the safety of his Son Jesus.

Let’s Talk About It

Why are the angels in a hurry?

What will happen if Lot and his family don’t leave town?

What happened to Lot’s wife? Why do you think she looked back?

Praying

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for rescuing us from our sin.