

Genesis ch.12-50 – The Way of Salvation / Redemption

As you continue to study the lives of the Patriarchs ie. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, continue looking for the progressive revelation of Jesus Christ being foreshadowed by the major events in their lives.

ch.19 **Sodom & Gomorrah: what kind of judge is God?**

- † Why did God come down to see for Himself?
- † “Shall I hide from Abraham what I’m about to do?” God doesn’t make snap decisions.
- † Do we see how thoughtful God, the Almighty is? How many are His thoughts towards us?

What does God want to save us from?

- † Observe what Lot knew about the city’s people. What kind of “place” was it? What was the dwelling of Lot and his family?
- † Wasn’t the city in the midst of a very fertile valley?
- † What would possess all those men, young and old, to come to Lot’s house to demand what they were demanding?
- † Is this not God’s wrath unleashed? When God removes His mercy, to what extent do people become reprobate to do what ought not to be done?
- † v.12 “...do you have anyone else who belong to you?” Where were Lot’s servants? Where’s his authority? Where’s his influence? Today, where is our influence? Who would listen to us if we said to them, “Let’s go.”
- † God blinded the men of Sodom. Job 42:5, “my ears had heard...but now my eyes...”
- † Wisdom cries aloud from the public squares. Does anyone hear her? (Proverbs 1:)
- † Lot’s wife – what are the cares of this world and what happens when we cling to them? Check out Matthew 6
- † Lot’s daughters having children with their father:
 - **CONTRAST** this way of preserving the family line with God’s way with Abraham.
 - Being God and making decisions based on earthly perspective – led to 2 tribes of people who later became antagonistic to Israel and even persecuted God’s people. Fleshly decisions result in more people against God.
 - Why would his daughters’ even think of doing such a thing?
 - **DISCUSSION:** How could Lot have prevented this?
- † **HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO BE CIRCUMCIZED? NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH!** Couldn’t they have gone to Abraham and asked him to intercede for them with God?
- † **True circumcision is found in Jesus Christ, the only Man who lived with no confidence in the flesh but rather lived by full confidence in the Spirit.**

ch.20 **Abraham and Abimelech:**

Evidence of a faith needing further growth and development / the old self is still alive and kicking!

- What is the deeply rooted problem in Abraham’s life which is also indicative of the times in which he lived? What caused him to lie (half-truth) again about his wife?
- Just how strong and deeply rooted is the old nature’s drive for self-preservation?
- What might Abraham’s confession to Abimelech have caused him to think and contemplate about his faith in God?
- Regarding Abimelech, God knew his intentions and thus kept him from sinning. God’s mercy is restraint. God’s wrath gives the green light to our ungodly deeds and sinful desires.

- Verse 17 and 18 quite interestingly indicate that Abraham's intercessory position did not directly correspond to his outward witness to Abimelech. In spite of this fleshly mistake, God kept His promise that He had made back in chapter 12, "I will bless those who bless you..."
- Recall Jesus' words of discipleship, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, pick up the cross, and follow Me."
- **DISCUSSION:** This incident occurred right before the birth of Isaac. As this awesome fulfillment was near, what theological lessons might Abraham have been learning through contemplating all that God had taken him through?

‡ What can we learn about "...grace through faith, not by works..." from Abraham's life up to this point?