

The Daughters Of Lot (Gen. 19:30-35)

30 Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave. 31 Now the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth. 32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.” 33 So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

34 It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, “Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.” 35 Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

- A tragic end to a tragic story. Lot left the safety of the very town he had asked for.
- The best interpretation is that the daughters didn't think any man would want to be with them because people would have viewed them as cursed.
- We never see Lot again, and we don't see that he did anything wonderful for God.

Moab And Ammon (Gen. 19:36-38)

36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. 37 The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. 38 And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

- Moab sounds like “from my father” in Hebrew. Ben-Ammi like “son of my kinsman.” From them came the Moabites and Ammonites.
- These nations lived on the other side of the Jordan River. They were typically viewed as enemies but yet God did not allow the Israelites to take their land:
 - *Then the Lord said to me, ‘Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.’*” (Deut. 2:9)
 - *“When you come to the Ammonites, do not harass them or provoke them to war, for I will not give you possession of any land belonging to the Ammonites. I have given it as a possession to the descendants of Lot.”* (Deut. 2:19)
- The Moabites and Ammonites were not allowed to enter into the Temple.
- The people of Lot and the people of Israel did come together again in an important way in the story of Ruth. Ruth was a Moabite woman who became the great-grandmother of King David. She became an ancestor of the Lord Jesus!
- The people of Lot were also woven into the line of Jesus in an important way through Ammon. King Rehoboam was the son of Solomon, and he became king after Solomon. His mother was a woman named Naamah, and she was an Ammonite. This is the legal line of kings.
- On the attached map we can see where these peoples lived, circa 830 B.C.
- At the end, Lot’s children may still be favored: *“He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.”* (Daniel 11:41)

The Archaeology Of Sodom And Gomorrah

In recent years, explorations of the Dead Sea area have revealed a great deal.

- Famous archaeologist and rabbi Nelson Glueck (1900-1971) discovered the existence of a trade route east of the Jordan River, something previously denied.
- In the ancient city of Ebla, tablets spoke of the Cities of the Plain.
- In the 1960's the fortress city of Bab edh-Dhra was excavated, a possible candidate for the biblical Sodom.
- In the late 20's and early 30's fault lines were discovered on both sides of the Dead Sea, and that these cities were built on the eastern fault line.
- In 1973 archaeologists found widespread burning in three of the cities. In Numeira there was a pit dug through a seven-foot layer of dark ash.
- Bab edh-Dhra and Numeira showed signs of being destroyed not once but twice.
- More info and photos here:
<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2008/04/16/The-Discovery-of-the-Sin-Cities-of-Sodom-and-Gomorrah.aspx>
- Archaeologists said of Numeira, "It is suggested here that the tower collapse and extensive burn layers over the site were caused by an earthquake generated by fault movement." The ground shifted in elevation about 50 meters, which is a little over 160 feet. These cities were **literally overthrown**, as Moses said!

Abraham At Gerar (Gen. 20:1-7)

1 And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar. 2 Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

4 But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, “Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also? 5 Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she, even she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this.”

6 And God said to him in a dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. 7 Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”

- Gerar was a city, and also a region in the south of what is now Israel, and it was territory of the Philistines.
- Abimelech may mean “Father-King,” or “My father is king,” and so this is probably a title, just like Pharaoh is a title.
- God intervenes, and warns Abimelech. Abimelech protests, and in verse 4 it’s possible that he is recognizing that this god is the one who destroyed Sodom.
- Here is the first use in the Bible of the word “prophet.” Notice that the idea of a prophet is always connected to intercession.

Abraham And Sarah Rebuked (Gen. 20:8-18)

8 So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid. 9 And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done.” 10 Then Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?”

11 And Abraham said, “Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife. 12 But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. 13 And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, that I said to her, “This is your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, “He is my brother.” ’”

14 Then Abimelech took sheep, oxen, and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham; and he restored Sarah his wife to him. 15 And Abimelech said, “See, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you.” 16 Then to Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; indeed this vindicates you before all who are with you and before everybody.” Thus she was rebuked.

17 So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children; 18 for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

- Abraham is rebuked, and adds insult to injury by telling the man that he thought the people there have no fear of God and will kill him.
- We learn that the wife-sister story is something that they planned between them.
- Abimelech: more honorable than Abraham in this whole matter. The thousand pieces of silver were proof that Sarah was innocent of any wrongdoing.
- This was a particularly risky deception of Abraham, because we remember that God had promised to give them Isaac. We need to trust God to protect us!

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