Genesis

## **When Fear Overtakes Us (19:11-20:18)**

*From a study of Luther’s Works: Lectures on Genesis, Paul Kretzmann’s Popular Commentary of the Bible, and the Lutheran Study Bible*

## **It is bad… really bad (19:11-29) [We continue…]**

* The men rush the house.
* The angels intercede.
  + Pull Lot in
  + Confuse the men with blindness…
    - BUT THEY STILL LOOK FOR THE DOOR!
* Judgment is decided.
  + 2 Peter 2:7, 9
  + Revelation 18:4-5
  + Jeremiah 51:6
  + “Who else do you have?”
    - It is time to go!
  + Lot pleads with his future sons-in-law
    - Lot knows who is with him in his house.
    - They laugh it off
      * “The nearer the world is to destruction, the smugger it is.” (Lutheran Study Bible v.14)
  + But there is hesitancy in Lot to leave.
    - When do they go?
      * Safety?
      * A desire for repentance?
    - “Lest you be swept away!”
      * If a father does not censure the sin of his children, it becomes the father’s own sin. To be sure, the sins of adulterers, murderers, and usurers are the sins of the citizens who commit them; but if the government does not punish them, as happens here and there at the present time, those personal sins of the individuals become the sins of the city or public sins, and public disasters are always wont to result from them.[[1]](#footnote-1)
      * Thus we are warned in Revelation (18:4) to depart from Babylon and forsake her; that is, we should completely separate ourselves from the pope’s church, unless we want to perish with it.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* A time to flee
  + Don’t look back (Boston)
    - Why?
  + Run to the hills (Iron Maiden)
    - Matthew 24:16-18
    - But Lot pleads for a closer city
      * Too easy to look back from on high?
      * A plea to spare the people of that city?
* Sulfur and Fire
  + Jeremiah 50:40
  + Even though the statements which follow are brief, they nevertheless include events of such magnitude that human speech is unable to express them.[[3]](#footnote-3)
    - Matthew 10:15
    - No question Whose wrath this is
      * Luke 17:29-32
  + Lot’s wife looks back
    - Luke 9:62
    - From this we readily understand what it means to look back, namely, to depart from God’s command and to be occupied with other matters—matters outside one’s calling—like the man who has been commanded to follow Christ and wants to bury his dead first (Matt. 8:21).[[4]](#footnote-4)
    - Thus this account teaches us to remain steadfast, for he who wants to be a Christian must not change his purpose: he must not look for another way or another Gospel.[[5]](#footnote-5)
    - Perhaps Lot’s wife was terrified by the awful crash of the thunderbolts and the collapsing cities and looked back for that reason. To be drawn away from the Word by new and strange ideas is, therefore, no joke or slight trial.[[6]](#footnote-6)
* Abraham sees this

## **We’ve Got To Get Out Of This Place (18:30-38)**

* Afraid to remain in Zoar
  + Destruction of everything they had
* Hide in a cave
  + Why not run to Abraham?
  + Dread and despair
* The daughters formulate a plan
  + A problem resurfaces
    - Their fiancées were destroyed in Sodom due to their disbelief.
      * Therefore no possibility for heirs through them.
    - “Not if you were the last man on earth!”
      * Did they believe Lot was?
      * Their known world was wiped off the face of the earth.
        + Did that fate hold the same for other cities as well?
    - “Let us preserve offspring from our father.”
      * Just like Hagar, this was viewed as the only viable option.
  + Get dad drunk
    - This is not a lust issue…
      * Yet still a sin
        + Doubting what the Lord can do.
        + they are sinning as a result of great perplexity. But a fall resulting from perplexity should in no wise be compared to one that comes about intentionally,[[7]](#footnote-7)
        + God wants us all to humble ourselves and to glory solely in His mercy, because, so far as we are concerned, no one is better or saintlier than the other, and no one sins so gravely. If God should withdraw His hand, you will pollute yourself with the same sin. Therefore this awful fall teaches two lessons: (1) that you should humble yourself before God and (2) that you should continually pray to God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.[[8]](#footnote-8)
      * Luke 21:34
      * 1 Peter 4:7
      * 1 Corinthians 10:11-12
    - Two sons are born
      * Moab
        + Means out of or from the father
      * Ben-ammi
        + “Ben” is Hebrew for son
        + Ammi means of my people
      * Luther contends that the Lord showed mercy and forgiveness to Lot and his daughters.
      * Deuteronomy 23:2-4
        + Yet from their descendants…

Ruth 4:10

Matthew 1:5-6!!

* The last we hear of Lot.

## **What are we to do with all this?**

* Law and Gospel must be properly applied
* 1st Commandment issue
  + Even the most wicked human beings must be borne with compassion; but when they want to snatch us with them to destruction, compassion must cease. Neither the authority of parents nor the love for our children must mean so much to us that we are willing to perish with them. Then all compassion must be forgotten, in accordance with the example of Lot, who abandons his wife when, contrary to the Lord’s command, she looks back while she is on the way. Because such people have become hardened and accept no admonition, they must be abandoned.[[9]](#footnote-9)
* The fear of the Lord
  + This is why I read awful accounts of this kind. Yet I read them reluctantly, because I am frightened by the greatness of God’s wrath. Still I see that this doctrine is useful not only to frighten the proud but also to keep the godly in the fear of God, lest they sin and perish in accordance with the example of the ungodly.[[10]](#footnote-10)
* The need of the Gospel for those who rightly fear the Lord
  + Isaiah 61:1-3
* Do NOT take such accounts lightly.
  + A careful consideration of these events will induce you to think of your own peril, to cease sinning, and to implore pardon for your sins.[[11]](#footnote-11)

## **Again? (20:1-18)**

* After the destruction, Abraham is on the move again.
* When they come to Gerar…
  + “She’s my sister.”
    - AGAIN???
      * Genesis 12:13-20
    - Why would Abraham do this?
      * Afraid again.
      * Evidently because God wants to teach us that even the saintliest fathers had human feelings and emotions, in order that we may not, as we are nevertheless commonly wont to do, think that they were stones or rocks—whom fears, suspicions, scruples, anger, and joys did not affect at all—and that they were like angels[[12]](#footnote-12)
      * Remember, this is also within “the year”
  + God intercedes
    - Warns Abimelech in a dream
      * Ezekiel 33:14
    - Now the ball is in Abimelech’s court
      * What will he do?
      * Responds to the Lord
        + 18:23
      * Pleads innocence
      * Thus Abraham falls into a sin here, but it becomes an opportunity for converting the king and the kingdom. This is indeed a marvelous work of God, who leads and guides His saints in a wonderful manner to keep them in the saintliness of fear and in the confidence of faith. This faith would utterly collapse if that weakness did not remain in the saints, for the abundance of the gifts of grace would make them arrogant[[13]](#footnote-13)
    - Yet it is the Lord who kept Abimelech from sinning
  + Abimelech responds
    - These words should be carefully noted, for they present a very fine example of repentance. Abimelech does not put off from day to day making amends for his deed, as we procrastinators are in the habit of doing. When we are moved by some pious emotion, we promise to make amends at a future time. In his dreams Abimelech hears the sermon about bewaring of sin. Therefore as soon as day breaks, he at once assembles his entire court and explains what has occurred. Next he calls Abraham also and returns his wife to him. Thus he who was a king now becomes a bishop of his kingdom and spreads the fear and knowledge of God among his own people also, in order that they, too, may fear God and have respect for the Word[[14]](#footnote-14)
    - because he hears from God Himself that Abraham is a prophet of God, he deplores his misfortune: “Come, saintly prophet, tell me what my sin is. What have I done or perpetrated that I fell into that mistake and thought about marrying your Sarah?” For contrite hearts are in the habit of acting this way; they cannot rest until they hear what their sin is, in order that they may be able to find a remedy.[[15]](#footnote-15)
  + Abraham answers
    - He thought
      * The Lord shows otherwise
        + The disaster of the people of Sodom which the patriarch Abraham was compelled to witness was great. Therefore God comforts him with another example, which is not sad but is most gladsome and delightful, namely, that the heathen king Abimelech becomes a bishop and teaches the Word of God at his court. The text says: “He called all his servants.” And this preaching was not in vain. For Moses adds: “And they were very much afraid.”[[16]](#footnote-16)
    - Only a little off
      * 11:29
      * Step-daughter of Haran
  + Abimelech blesses Abraham
  + Abraham prays
    - James 5:16
    - The Lord heals the land
      * Genesis 12:17

1. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.15&off=4800), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 279. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.15&off=8116&ctx=+the+sin+of+others.+~Thus+we+are+warned+i), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 280. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.23-25&off=819&ctx=+ideas+to+allegory.%0a~Even+though+the+stat), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 293. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.26&off=2537&ctx=member+Lot%E2%80%99s+wife.%E2%80%9D+~From+this+we+readily), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 299. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.26&off=2688), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 299. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.26&off=7335&ctx=adhere+to+the+Word.%0a~Perhaps+Lot%E2%80%99s+wife+w), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 301. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.31-33&off=9220&ctx=mugness%2c+and+malice%3b~+they+are+sinning+as), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 311. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.31-33&off=10249&ctx=he+reason+is+clear.+~God+wants+us+all+to+), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 311–312. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.1&off=3194&ctx=ns+of+your+people.%E2%80%9D+~Even+the+most+wicked), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 240. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.1&off=6368&ctx=pt+from+despairing.%0a~This+is+why+I+read+a), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 241. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge19.1&off=10858&ctx=perished+eternally!%0a~A+careful+considerat), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 243. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge20.2&off=2323&ctx=y+does+this+happen%3f+~Evidently+because+Go), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 319–320. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge20.4-5&off=13266&ctx=Thyself+blameless.%E2%80%9D%0a~Thus+Abraham+falls+i), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 336. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge20.8&off=138&ctx=e+very+much+afraid.%0a~These+words+should+b), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 340. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge20.9&off=3303&ctx=r+the+reason.+Then%2c+~because+he+hears+fro), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 349. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw03?ref=Bible.Ge20.8&off=9883&ctx=urn+to+the+account.+~The+disaster+of+the+), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 3 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 344. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)