

Remember Lot's Wife: What Was Her Fate? : Part 1

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As many of my friends will know, in addition to running the Endtime Prophecy Net website and its various web services, I am also rather active in a number of social networks. At this present time, these include Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Google+, Blogger, Pinterest, LinkedIn and Klout. One of the witnessing and teaching methods of the Endtime Prophecy Net ministry is my graphics creation. Over the past three plus years, I have created more than 3,300 Bible-based graphics, which I freely share on the Endtime Prophecy Net Blog, as well as on the aforementioned eight social networks, by way of syndication. In order to make it easier for my friends to share my graphic work, I have divided these images into more than three hundred different topical categories.

Insofar as publicly posting these graphics is concerned, I normally cycle through all 3,300+ images, one category at a time, over a period of several months. Once I have shared all of them -- usually one dozen or more each day -- I begin the cycle all over again. At the same time, I am constantly creating new graphics as well, so the total number continues to grow. One of the topical categories is called "Apostasy \* Backsliding \* Falling Away \* Perseverance". Today I shared the images from this category with my online friends again.

After I had shared this particular set of images, one of my Facebook friends posted a comment in which she mentioned that she had recently become involved in a discussion in which it had been stated that a certain radio pastor had offered an explanation regarding why he believed that Lot's wife made it into Heaven. I assumed that she posted her comment because she was hoping that I would offer her some feedback regarding this issue. Thus, I began doing exactly that on my Facebook timeline.

However, as is often the case, whenever I start to answer a

person, what invariably happens is that one Bible verse after another begins to pop into my head; and what I expect to be a short answer begins to grow rather long. Then I reach a point in my comment where I think to myself "Hmmm . . . Other people may be wondering about this very same issue as well. I should turn this into a regular EPN article instead, so that everyone can benefit from my response." Thus, here we are with another new article.

Regarding what that radio pastor said, let me start by saying that personally, I don't believe that anyone should really be espousing or promoting firm doctrines regarding the issue of the fate of Lot's wife. My reason for adopting this position is really quite simple: The Bible does not outright say what her spiritual fate was. Thus, anything we suggest is personal speculation and theory at best; and it is precisely in this manner that so many misguided, false doctrines are created. I don't need to tell you that the Internet is literally filled with such things.

Having said that, based upon the evidence that we do find in the Scriptures, what we know for certain is that it was God's clear intention to save Lot and his family, including Lot's wife. He obviously loved them; and apparently He considered them to be righteous; as per the agreement which He had made with Abraham to save the righteous in Genesis 18, as we see by these verses:

"And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place." Genesis 18:20-33, KJV

So even though Lot and his family lived in that terrible city of sin known as Sodom, God still desired to save them, and He apparently considered them righteous. Thus, He sent the two Angels to escort them by force out of that wicked place prior to its fiery destruction, as we see by the following verses:

"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. 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. 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: 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. And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground."

Genesis 19:15-25, KJV

You know, I don't know about you, but I have long wondered about Lot's questionable character. If we read the Biblical narrative concerning Lot very closely, we come to realize that he was quite a character. Stated more bluntly, it seems to me that Lot was very self-centered with a "What's-in-it-for-me" attitude. You may recall that when the herds of both Abraham and Lot grew to such a great size that the land was no longer able to support both of them, they decided to part ways. At that time, generous Abraham -- who was Lot's uncle by the way -- gave Lot a choice. As we read in the following verses, Lot chose the best of the land for himself and his flocks. In fact, as these verses reveal, that is how Lot and his family ended up so close to Sodom:

"And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. 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. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. And Lot

lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom."  
Genesis 13:5-12, KJV

I have to wonder though if God didn't punish Lot later on due to his selfish attitude. If you read the very next chapter of the Book of Genesis, you will see that there was war between the various kings of Babylon and the eastern regions, and the kings of the cities of the plain where Lot and his family all resided. As a result of that great war, Lot and his family were taken captive. Despite his selfish attitude, guess who freed Lot and his family? Good old Uncle Abe. So Lot was quite indebted to Abraham, who was his father Haran's brother.

We get another glimpse of Lot's questionable character when the homosexuals in Sodom discover that Lot is hosting the two Angels in his home. Of course, the men of Sodom did not know that they were Angels at that time, but they certainly found out later. However, what I would like for you to consider is the fact that when those gay people came pounding on Lot's door, because they wanted him to turn over his two visitors to them, so that they could "know" them -- meaning to engage in homosexual sex -- Lot offered his own two virgin daughters to those wicked people instead. Personally, that a man would betray his very own daughters, and willingly turn them over, knowing that they are going to be sexually abused, is very hard to digest; yet that is exactly what Lot offered to do. Whether Lot did this to protect his Angelic Visitors -- who even he may not yet have realized were Angels -- or merely to protect himself, I am really not certain. Consider this group of verses:

"But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof."  
Genesis 19:4-8, KJV

As you may know, and as I explain in the series called "Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!", people who support same-sex "marriage" and gay and lesbian rights try to explain away -- and poorly so -- the various verses in God's Word which clearly condemn homosexual acts. They claim that the word "know" -- as it is used in the previous verse -- is not referring to engaging in sex, even though that is exactly what the word means in so many other places in the Bible. Yet if what they are saying is true, and if the gay men of Sodom only wanted to meet Lot's visitors, why in the world does Lot respond to them by saying "I pray you, brethren, do not so

wickedly"? Lot obviously knew exactly what those wicked gays wanted to do with his two Angelic Visitors. If the men of Sodom just wanted to shake their hands and say "Howdy!", do you honestly believe that Lot would have responded in that manner? I don't.

While the previous verses inform us that Lot's two daughters were virgins, a few verses later we also discover that they were nevertheless already married to two local fellows, who were apparently just as heathen and wicked as the rest of the people of Sodom. Consider this set of verses. I have added a few words in brackets for the sake of clarity:

"And the men [the two Angels] said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: 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. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law."

Genesis 19:12-14, KJV

Another point which causes me to question Lot's character is the fact that even though God extended such great mercy to him and his family, despite their choosing to dwell amongst such wicked people, as we saw in previous verses, Lot still had the nerve to whine and complain when the two Angels were forced to physically remove him and his family from Sodom. In those verses we were told that the Angels "laid hold upon his hand" because Lot "lingered". In the original Hebrew, the two words that are used are "chazaq" and "mahahh". Based upon the various definitions that we find in the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, the impression I get is that the two Angels firmly grasped Lot and his family by the hand because Lot delayed. Maybe he had doubts. Perhaps he didn't really want to leave Sodom. After all, even though he was a stranger there, he must have enjoyed some rather brisk business with selling the products of his herds. Whatever the case may be, the Angels had to take drastic action in order to get Lot and his family out of that evil city.

As if that wasn't already enough, Lot even argued with the Angels when they commanded him to take his family and flee to the mountains, lest they be killed when God destroyed the cities of the plains. Here God is being merciful to him and trying to save his ungrateful butt, and Lot whines that it is too dangerous to go to the mountains. In the previous verses he groans "Oh, not so, my Lord" and "I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die." Imagine telling God's Angels that you don't want to do what God has ordered you to do; yet that is exactly what Lot did. Furthermore, he was doubting God's ability to protect him. Is it any wonder that Lot and his family had to basically be dragged out of Sodom by the two Angels?

I find it rather interesting that even though the two Angels conceded by letting Lot and his family go to Zoar instead, in the end, God's Will was still done, and Lot and his daughters still ended up in the mountains. The Angels obviously knew

that they were dealing with a very stubborn man; so perhaps they decided -- or maybe the Lord even told them -- to let Lot do as he pleased. In other words, if Lot wants to be so rebellious, then let him learn his lesson the hard way. But look at what happens next:

"And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters."  
Genesis 19:30, KJV

We aren't told exactly why Lot "feared to dwell in Zoar". Was it because the people there were also wicked? Was it because Lot worried that God might destroy that city as well? Was it because Lot knew that he had disobeyed the Lord by not going to the mountains in the first place? Who knows. Whatever the case may be, if we take a look at this story on the whole, it does not seem to me that Lot was so righteous after all. Not only that, but I wonder if God truly spared Lot because he was righteous, or if He did it simply as a favor to Abraham, because Lot was Abraham's kin, and more importantly, because Abraham was the friend of God due to his faith, and a direct ancestor of Jesus Christ. Consider the following verses:

"Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?"  
2 Chronicles 20:7, KJV

"But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend."  
Isaiah 41:8, KJV

"And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."  
James 2:23, KJV

As I said a minute ago, in looking at the facts of the story, it does not strike me that Lot was such a righteous man. He selfishly chose the best of the land when Abraham gave him a choice. As a result, he and his family eventually were taken as captives when a war occurred. He lived in or very close to the wicked city of Sodom, where he more than likely profited financially by selling the products of his herding business to the sinful people of that place. His two daughters even married two ungodly men from that town who failed to believe Lot when he warned them to leave Sodom. Lot was willing to give up his own two daughters in order to save his own skin, or possibly to protect the two Angels. It is difficult to know what truly motivated him. Even though Lot chose to live in or near that evil town, God eventually kicked him out of there. Lot seemed hesitant to leave Sodom, and he complained about having to go to the mountains. Lot went to Zoar instead of obeying the Lord, and he was eventually forced to leave that place as well. It just seems to me that Lot made one poor choice after another, due to his own selfishness, and he paid the consequences for it.

If there is one lesson which we are supposed to learn from this story -- which even Jesus emphasizes in the Gospels -- it is that when God says to go, it is time to go, and you do

not argue with Him about it. You just do as He says. Look at what happened when the Prophet Jonah decided to run from the Lord and dilly-dallied on his mission to warn the people of that wicked city of Nineveh. He ended up spending three days and nights in the belly of a great whale with seaweed wrapped all around his head. God obviously wanted to give Jonah some time to seriously think about his decision to run away from his prophetic responsibilities.

The greatest and most tragic example of procrastination which is found in God's Word clearly involves the Jews themselves. As I mention in a number of other articles, in the Gospels, Jesus warned His followers to leave Jerusalem immediately, and to flee into the mountains of Judaea when they beheld the Abomination of Desolation standing in the Holy Place -- that is, on the Temple Mount, and even in the Temple itself -- as had been prophesied by the Prophet Daniel. In fact, John the Baptist warned the Pharisees and the Sadducees of this very same thing, as we see by the following verses:

"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"  
Matthew 3:7, KJV

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."  
Matthew 24:15-22, KJV

"But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."  
Mark 13:14-20, KJV

"Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"  
Luke 3:7, KJV

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people."  
Luke 21:20-23, KJV

"Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."  
John 4:20-24, KJV

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."  
Matthew 23:37-24:2, KJV

"And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."  
Mark 13:1-2, KJV

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."  
Luke 13:34-35, KJV

"And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down . . . And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh."  
Luke 21:5-6, 20, KJV

Despite these clear warnings, while the Disciples obeyed the

Lord's command and fled to the hills of Judaea, the majority of the unbelieving Jews in the city of Jerusalem did not. As some of you history buffs will know, in the year 66 AD, the First Jewish-Roman War began. Roman general Vespasian was sent by Emperor Nero to quell rebellion in Judaea. Over the course of the first half of this seven-year war, Vespasian slowly subdued Israel, beginning in Galilee, until all that remained was Judaea and Jerusalem itself. In fact, even King Herod Agrippa II -- who was the seventh and last king of the Herodians, and a puppet-king of Rome -- fled from Jerusalem, and fully supported Vespasian in his campaign against Judaea. Following the war, Herod and his sister Berenice went to Rome where he served as a praetor, and lived in affluence.

At any rate, as a result of the suicide of Emperor Nero in 68 AD, and the political rivalries and civil war that ensued -- referred to as the "Year of the Four Emperors" -- and having gained much support in the provinces of the empire, Vespasian returned to Rome where he was crowned the new emperor. Thus, the task which had originally been assigned to Vespasian by Nero, was completed by his son, General Titus, who was his second-in-command during the campaign against Judaea, and who likewise eventually became a Roman emperor for a few years.

Titus had a siege wall built around the outer walls of the city of Jerusalem. A common tactic in its day, a siege wall meant that no one could get in or out; and neither could any other thing, including food, water, military supplies, etc. The end result was that the people who were the victims of a siege slowly starved to death, turned on each other, died from different diseases, etc. As an added bonus to all this misery, in the case of Jerusalem, General Titus added mass crucifixions to the mix as well. According to historians Tacitus and Flavius Josephus, somewhere between 600,000 and 1,000,000 Jews were trapped inside Jerusalem. Why did they not flee from the wrath to come as they had been warned to do?

By the middle of 70 AD -- which was also the middle of this seven-year war -- the three walls which surrounded Jerusalem were breached, resulting in most of the city being burned to the ground, and the Temple compound being utterly destroyed, in precise fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy about four decades earlier. According to Josephus, 1,100,000 Jews were killed during the siege. Furthermore, many thousands more were taken captive, and carried away as slaves to other Roman provinces. This was in fact the beginning of the Third Diaspora. While the fall of Jerusalem marked the end of the major part of the seven-year war, mop-up exercises continued for another three and a half years until 73 AD, because there were still some pockets of Jewish resistance, such as the famed fortress of Masada.

What I find particularly amazing is how accurately the Prophet Daniel describes these historic events which befell Jerusalem during the First Century. Consider the following verses. I have added a lot of words in brackets for the sake of clarity, because many Christians have a difficult time understanding the time-specific prophecies of Daniel:

"And after threescore and two weeks [or 434 years] shall Messiah be cut off, [meaning Jesus is crucified] but not for

himself [because He died for our sins]: and the people of the prince that shall come [meaning General Titus and the Roman legions] shall destroy the city and the sanctuary [meaning Jerusalem and the Temple]; and the end thereof shall be with a flood [not of water, but an army of men], and unto the end of the war [meaning the First Jewish-Roman War] desolations [destruction] are determined. And he [Titus] shall confirm the covenant [may be some kind of military or political deal] with many for one week: and in the midst of the week [in the middle of the seven-year First Jewish-Roman War] he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease [because he destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple compound in 70 AD], and for the overspreading of abominations [possibly refers to Roman standards which bore the image of an eagle, which is unclean and an abomination to the Jews, and the Roman legions and siege wall which surrounded Jerusalem] he shall make it desolate [destroy Jerusalem], even until the consummation [until the war is completed], and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate [the people who were destroyed, meaning the Jews]."  
Daniel 9:26-27, KJV

The tragedy here is that much of this death and destruction could have been avoided, had the Jews simply bowed to their Roman conquerors, and accepted it as God's chastisement, due to their cruel treatment of, and rejection of, His own Son. But the Jews have always been an extremely proud, stubborn, and rebellious people. As I explain in articles such as "The Fruits of Disobedience", time and time again over the past four millennia, God has had to firmly deal with them because of their sins against Him. In the case of Northern Israel, the Prophet Isaiah warned them to repent. They did not, and this resulted in the Assyrian invasions, and the very First Diaspora. About one hundred and fifty years later, Jeremiah warned them for a period of forty years to repent and to bow to the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. However, again they refused to bend the knee. This resulted in three Babylonian invasions, and the eventual destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in the year 586 BC. This marked the beginning of the Second Diaspora.

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

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Remember Lot's Wife: What Was Her Fate? : Part 2

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God's Mercy And Desire To Save Us And Not To Destroy Us, Free Will And Personal Choice, God's Divine Chastisements: Let It Rather Be Healed, Lights Shining In A Perverted World, God's

Love For Lot's Wife, Danger Of Procrastination Indecisiveness And Looking Back, Don't Ignore God's Warning Signs And Go On Business As Usual, Noah And The Flood, Family Members Who Reject Jesus, God's Word Never Returns To Him Void, Did Lot's Wife Lose Her Salvation?, Dangerous Practice Of Twisting The Meaning Of The Scriptures, Blasphemy Against The Holy Ghost Is Only Unpardonable Sin, God Is Not Irrational Or Illogical, Destruction Of The Flesh To Save The Spirit, God Is Married To The Backslider And Won't Forsake Us, Demas Loved Present World, Don't Judge Other People's Salvation Or Walk Of Faith, Work Out Your Own Salvation With Fear And Trembling, The Lord Knoweth Them That Are His, Who Shall Stand?, God's Mercy Is The Bottom Line, Not Saved By Our Own Works, Our God Is Not A Respector Of Persons, Closing Remarks, More Reading Resources

Aside from emphasizing the importance of avoiding any kind of procrastination when God says to move, the other main point I wish to stress here regarding the story of Lot and his family is God's great Mercy, and His desire to save all men. This is a topic which I likewise discuss in articles such as "God's Mercy, Judgment and Fallen Angels", "Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement", "All Are Given a Chance, But . . ." and "Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?". Of course, one of my favorite Bible verses which clearly expresses God's desire to save us -- as opposed to destroying us -- is the following one:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."  
2 Peter 3:9, KJV

Of course, by stating "not willing that any should perish" the previous verse leads right to another verse which we all know and love:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him SHOULD NOT PERISH, but have everlasting life."  
John 3:16, KJV

God has made it so simple. All we have to do is believe in and accept the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the only means of Atonement for our sins. Following are a few more Bible verses which discuss God's desire for healing and repentance. These verses make it very clear that God is not a monster as some people erroneously assume. He does not willingly destroy us. He truly wants to save us. But as I have shared many times before -- such as in the articles "Free Will and Personal Choice" and "Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?" -- God will not force Himself upon us. He wants us to choose Him and His ways out of love, and not simply due to robotic obedience:

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"  
Ezekiel 33:11, KJV

"For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men."  
Lamentations 3:31-33, KJV

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."  
Matthew 18:10-14, KJV

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."  
Luke 9:51-56, KJV

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."  
Luke 19:10, KJV

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."  
Acts 3:19-21, KJV

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."  
1 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much

rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but LET IT RATHER BE HEALED."  
Hebrews 12:5-13, KJV

I suppose that the situation with Lot and his family living in the wicked city of Sodom is similar to Noah and his family living amongst the sinful world of their day, or maybe even us living amongst the perverted, sinful world today as well; and boy is it becoming more corrupt and ungodly as each year passes. This is particularly true in the United States of America with its increasingly liberal spirit. I am reminded of this verse:

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"  
Philippians 2:15, KJV

One thing which is clear in my mind is that God loved Lot's wife, and He wanted to save her from destruction. Her awful mistake was that she looked back; either because her human curiosity got the best of her, or perhaps because she really didn't want to forsake Sodom. We really don't know her true motivation for looking back, because the Bible does not say. In the following verses, neither does Jesus say why Lot's wife actually looked back. All He does is use Noah and Lot as examples to reveal what the world would be like upon His return; and then He uses Lot's wife as an example to teach that when God says it is time to go, it is time to go, and there is no time to gather personal belongings, or to look back for any reason, because procrastination, vacillation and indecisiveness may very well mean the death of us:

"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife."  
Luke 17:26-32, KJV

Another important lesson which we can draw from the examples of Noah and his family and Lot and his family, and the wicked world in which they both lived, is that it is not wise to go on business as usual, ignoring God's warning signs. In the case of Noah and his family, God gave the wicked world one hundred and twenty years while Noah and his sons built the

Ark, as we see here:

"And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."  
Genesis 6:3, KJV

Despite the fact that they watched Noah and his family build the Ark for so long a time, evidently, none of those people turned to the Lord and repented of their sins. As a result, they all perished in the Flood waters, as we see by these verses:

"And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die."  
Genesis 6:17, KJV

"And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark."  
Genesis 7:21-23, KJV

"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."  
1 Peter 3:20, KJV

As we also learned in part one, Lot pleaded with both of his sons-in-law to flee from Sodom, but they foolishly failed to take heed to his admonitions. Thus, they perished with all of the rest of the wicked people who dwelt in the cities of the plains. They rejected God's salvation through Lot when it was offered to them. It saddens me to think about how many of our own family members may perish today if they likewise fail to take heed to our Christian witness. However, we should never lose hope, because one never knows how God may be working in the life and heart of that mother, father, sister or brother. For the record, I have witnessed amazing changes in members of my own family; so I know that it happens, and your witness may be having more of an effect than you even realize. I am reminded of the following two verses:

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."  
Isaiah 55:10-11, KJV

Returning to the original comment which motivated me to write this article, does this mean that Lot's wife was condemned to

Hell because she disobeyed by turning around and looking as God destroyed Sodom? Does hesitancy and vacillation make one worthy of such a terrible fate? Personally, I am not so sure that this is true in every case. While Jesus used Lot's wife as an example that we should not procrastinate when He says to leave, this is not sufficient evidence, in my view, to adamantly state that she lost her Salvation as a result of her actions. As I noted earlier in this article, to make such a statement is personal opinion, conjecture, speculation and theory at best, because the Bible does not clarify the issue one way or the other.

Furthermore, to arrive at such a conclusion is really taking the previous verses out of context, in my opinion. Where the Lord talks about the days of Noah and Lot and his family, the subject of the discussion is not Salvation and Eternal Life. As such, to claim that Jesus' words regarding Lot's wife is clear proof that she lost her Salvation is merely seeing what we want to see, and twisting the meaning of the Scriptures. As I noted in part one, the danger of this practice is that it often leads to the propagation of false doctrines. Let me also remind you that the Lord clearly taught that the only unpardonable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, as we see by the following verses:

"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."  
Matthew 12:31-32, KJV

"Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit."  
Mark 3:28-30, KJV

Please stop and ask yourself the following question. Would a merciful God who specifically wanted to save this very family turn around the next minute and damn one of them to Hell? In my mind, it does not make much sense. Furthermore, it paints a picture of a very irrational, illogical God, and this is not the God that I personally know. There is both rhyme and reason to everything that He does. He is not a hothead who changes His mind from one second to the next. I am likewise reminded of something that the Apostle Paul wrote regarding an incident of incest which occurred in the city of Corinth:

"To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."  
1 Corinthians 5:5, KJV

Ever since I discovered the previous verse years ago, I have pondered the possibility that God may in some unique cases destroy a person's flesh, just to prevent them from sinning further against Him. However, just because God chooses to destroy -- or allows Satan to destroy -- a person's flesh,

does not necessarily mean that their soul has been lost; at least that seems to be what the Apostle Paul is saying. Does this apply to Lot's wife? Again, I really don't know, because the Bible does not provide us with a clear answer. While the Bible informs us that God abhors the backslider in heart and takes no pleasure in him, at the same time, it also teaches us that He is married to the backslider as well, and that He will never leave us or forsake us. Consider the following set of verses:

"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."  
Luke 9:62, KJV

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."  
Hebrews 10:38, KJV

"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:"  
Jeremiah 3:14, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."  
John 10:28, KJV

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."  
John 6:37, KJV

". . . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."  
Hebrews 13:5b, KJV

"If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."  
2 Timothy 2:13, KJV

To reiterate an earlier point, we don't know the condition of Lot's wife's heart. We don't know why she turned around. We don't know if she was really backslidden, and didn't want to leave Sodom because she loved it there -- I am reminded of Demas -- or if she just grew curious when she heard Sodom being destroyed behind her. Concerning Demas:

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."  
2 Timothy 4:10, KJV

Upon further reflection, my personal view is that we have a lot more important things to teach and preach today, other than the spiritual fate of Lot's wife, which is an unknowable thing. Why any pastor or minister would even broach such an esoteric subject, or teach it publicly as firm doctrine, is beyond me. As we are admonished in the Scriptures, instead of worrying about the spiritual fate of other people -- or more appropriately stated, trying to determine the status of their Salvation -- and judging and criticizing their personal walk with the Lord, we should all be more concerned with our own Salvation, and our personal standing before God. The Apostle

Paul writes the following:

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."  
Philippians 2:12, KJV

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:"  
Colossians 2:16, KJV

Please notice how the previous verse comes right before the one that I shared with you earlier regarding how we should be "blameless and harmless" and "without rebuke". So as I said, we should be more concerned with our own walk of faith, and make sure that we are pleasing the Lord, instead of being such busybodies who pry into and criticize the lives of other Christians we know. Similarly, whether or not Lot's wife is in Heaven is really not our business to know. It's only God's business. To reiterate, Salvation is a very personal issue, and it is not for us to judge or to try to determine whether or not another person is truly saved.

I have heard certain proud Christians say "That person can't possibly be saved!" Really now? How do you know? Are you God? Do you have the mind of God? Do you know all of His plans and intentions? Have you read the Lamb's Book of Life? I realize that there are many Christians in the world who do not really act like Christians. We have all failed in that regard at one time or another, and probably more than once. We've all been selfish, and we have all made some serious mistakes in our lives. I know that I have. If you personally deny this, then in my opinion, you're simply being proud, self-righteous and dishonest with yourself. The Lord knows each of our hearts. He also knows who belongs to Him, and who doesn't, as we see by the following verse:

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."  
2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

Before concluding this article, let me leave you with a final thought, and some final verses, for your consideration. If Lot's wife lost her Salvation simply because she disobeyed the Angels by turning around and looking behind her, what does that say about the rest of us? What does that say about Adam and Eve who are responsible for bringing sin and death into the world? What does that tell us regarding King David who committed both adultery and murder? What about Job's wife who told her afflicted husband to curse God and die? If Lot's wife lost her Salvation merely for turning around, then how do we justify Peter's Salvation in light of the fact that he denied the Lord three times? Or how do we explain the Apostle Paul who persecuted, incarcerated and killed Christians? And on and on the list of great sinners goes. As we read in the Scriptures:

"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"  
Psalms 130:3, KJV

"But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:"

Malachi 3:2, KJV

The bottom line is that it is all about God's Mercy, because our own works -- no matter how good we may think they are -- will never be enough to save us, and much less to keep us saved. This is a topic which I discuss in quite a few of my articles, but allow me to share a few more key verses with you:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."  
Isaiah 64:6, KJV

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"  
Romans 3:10, 21-23, KJV

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."  
Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"  
Titus 3:5, KJV

While I obviously cannot prove this point one way or the other, logic seems to dictate that if all of the previously named people were saved despite their personal flaws and sins, then in order to be righteous and fair, God would also have to admit Lot's wife into Heaven as well. After all, the Bible clearly teach us that He is no respecter of persons, as we clearly see by the following verses:

"Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts."  
2 Chronicles 19:7, KJV

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:"  
Acts 10:34, KJV

"For there is no respect of persons with God."  
Romans 2:11, KJV

"And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him."  
Ephesians 6:9, KJV

"But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."  
Colossians 3:25, KJV

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:"  
1 Peter 1:17, KJV

With these thoughts I will bring this article to a close. If you have enjoyed reading it, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you happen to have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thank you so much! May God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this article, or which are related to the topics which were discussed in this article. All of them are also found on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

All Are Given a Chance, But . . .  
Chariots of Fire: A Voluntary Voyage to Heaven?  
Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?  
Five Foolish Virgins: Don't Procrastinate!  
Free Will and Personal Choice  
God's Mercy, Judgment and Fallen Angels  
Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?  
Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement  
Noah's Ark and the Genesis Flood  
Noah's Flood: The Urantia Book Exposed Again!  
Not Everyone is a Child of God  
Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?  
OSAS: Are We Once Saved, Always Saved?  
OSAS: The Hebrews 10:26-27 Controversy  
Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?  
The Fruits of Disobedience  
The Great Tribulation and the Rapture

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