

Saturday March 17th 2018
The Word of the Kingdom Conference
Session Five
As It Was.....So It Shall Be – Part Two

1). Lu 17:20 ¶ Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you [Lit. 'in your midst']." 22 Then He said to the disciples, "The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. 23 "And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them. 24 "For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. 25 "But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. 26 "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. 31 "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. 32 "Remember Lot's wife. 33 "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. 34 "I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. 35 "Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. 36 "Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."

We had seen in our last session that the Lord drew attention to the days of Noah to teach His disciples spiritual truth concerning the coming of His Kingdom. And this truth had to do primarily with the nation of Israel and the Gentile nations, preceding, during and following the Great Tribulation.

a). And we had seen that Noah in a place of protection in the ark, passed safely through the judgment of the earth brought about through the corrupting, perverting work of the fallen angels with respect to the marriage relationship and the Seed of the Woman.

b). And the Lord also drew from 'the days of Lot', a subject that is introduced by the word 'likewise' – and this provides the connection between the destruction of the cities of the plain and the destruction of Noah's flood and the circumstances surrounding both events.

c). What is different about the days of Lot though, is that Lot is removed from Sodom before its destruction, he does not pass through the destruction as Noah did.

d). So then, the flood of Noah and the destruction of the cities of the plain present the same event, but from different vantage points. Both picture the coming Tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble with the accompanying destruction of Gentile world power.

e). One man, Noah, is seen to pass through this time, providing us with a type of Israel who will be saved out of the time of Jacob's trouble. And one man, Lot, is seen to be removed before the time of Jacob's trouble begins, before the Tribulation begins, providing us with a type of the Church.

f). And, again as we saw last time, the order of events given through Lot and Noah is the exact same order laid out for us through the genealogy of Adam in Genesis Chapter 5. In this genealogy, Enoch the 7th generation from Adam is taken alive into heaven before Noah, the 10th generation from Adam goes through the flood.

g). And this we can see again in the Book of the Revelation where the 7 Churches, the complete Church, appear in Christ's presence for Judgment in Chapters 1-3 prior to the beginning of the Tribulation which is marked by the opening of the first seal on the 7-sealed scroll in Revelation Chapter 6.

h). The whole of the matter cannot be any other way than this because that which is the time of Jacob's trouble is also the redemption of the inheritance, and as with the account of Ruth, there must be a bride identified for whom the inheritance is to be redeemed before redemption can take place.

h). Lot therefore provides us with a type of the resurrection/rapture of the Church.

2). Ge 6:1 ¶ *Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the*

daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

We will remember the actions of the fallen angels among humans in the days of Noah corrupting and perverting the marriage relationship upon which rulership is founded.

a). And the fallen angels are seen to continue their corrupting work in the days of Lot as well - Ge 19:4 ¶ *Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."*

Jude 1:7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange ['heteros' – a different kind] flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

That which we see here in the days of Lot differs from the days of Noah in that the fallen angels are now engaged, not only in heterosexual relationships, but in homosexual relationships as well. And there can be no greater corruption and perversion of the marriage relationship, the foundational premise for rulership, than the acceptance, promotion and exaltation of men with men and women with women as we see portrayed in the days of Lot.

b). And given the scripture tells us, *Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot.....Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*

We can know that these are the exact circumstances that must exist on the earth both preceding and following the resurrection/rapture of the Church.

c). And so, having established the correlation between the days of Noah and the days of Lot the Lord then provides further commentary on the days of Noah in - Lu 17:31 *"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back.*

As the flood was about to engulf the earth Noah entered the ark in which he would be protected and that which we see here in v31 presents the antitype of that day when Noah entered the ark, which remains yet future, and takes us to

the mid-point of the Tribulation, just as the Great Tribulation is about to begin- Mt 24:15 *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

It is at the midpoint in the Tribulation that Antichrist will break the covenant he will have made with many in Israel and his true intent will be revealed – 2Th 2:3 ¶ *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, **and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.***

The Antichrist will enter the newly built Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and declare himself to be God. His armies will enter Jerusalem and put Israel to the sword, taking those who remain as slaves out into the nations – Lu 21:20 ¶ *"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 "For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

So just as Noah was to enter the ark, so those Jews in Judea are 'to flee to the mountains' – not literal mountains, but mountains as they are used figuratively, representing kingdoms – they are to flee into the Gentile nations.

d). It is in the Gentile nations where God will deal with His people to bring them to repentance and in the Gentile nations where He will protect His firstborn son. Not on an individual level but on a national level.

e). Israel as seen through Noah in the ark, will survive even though some 9 million individual Jews will be killed.

f). And this picture given in Luke Chapter 21 is presented again in the Revelation, using figurative language once more - Re 12:6 *Then the woman [Israel] fled into the wilderness [that which isn't the land of Israel – the Gentile nations], where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3 ½ years].*

g). And, of course within the command to flee 'to the mountains', taking nothing with them, is God's promise of protection pictured through the days of Noah – with the promise of the new beginning in the Millennial Kingdom and all that comes with that, which we saw in our previous study – Es 5:1 ¶ *Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house.*

3). As well as giving commentary on the days of Noah, as we have just seen, the Lord also provides commentary on the days of Lot in our verses from Luke Chapter 17 - Lu 17:32 *"Remember Lot's wife. 33 "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. 34 "I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. 35 "Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. 36 "Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."*

This section has exclusively to do with Christians and draws from the experience of Lot, to teach spiritual truth about the day the Son of Man is revealed, the day of the resurrection/rapture of the Church.

a). And the very first thing the Lord tells His disciples with respect to this is, 'Remember Lot's wife' – which would provoke the question, 'What about Lot's wife?' Well there is a very simple answer to the question, but to learn all we can from it, it is necessary to go back and set the context.

b). Ge 13:8 *So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. 9 "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." 10 ¶ And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden*

of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. 12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

Within the account of the life of Abraham the Lord had engineered the strife between Abraham and Lot to bring about the separation between them so that the Lord would have Abraham exactly where he needed to be – out of his father’s house and his family.

c). But, what we are looking at here has an even more profound significance – on one level Abraham and Lot form a type the duality that we all live with, the man of the spirit and the man of the flesh.

d). And if we follow the account of Abraham and Lot through to its conclusion it is Abraham alone, the man of the spirit, who stands on the high ground before the Lord untouched by the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah- Ge 19:27 ¶ *And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. 28 Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.*

It is the man of the spirit alone to whom the promises are given, the man of the spirit alone who will receive an inheritance; the man of the flesh profits nothing and is continually drawn away after the things of the world – Eph 4:22 *that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,*

e). And then on another level still Abraham and Lot form a type for the faithful and the unfaithful Christian. And given the context in which the Lord draws from the days of Lot, it is the type of the faithful and unfaithful Christian that is in view.

f). And then, given the Lord’s focus on Lot and Lot’s wife, it is the warning for the consequences of unfaithfulness that are His concern.

g). So, if we return to Genesis Chapter 13 for a moment – Lot picturing the unfaithful Christian makes his descent from the high ground down to the cities of the plain and in his actions we can see the Church of Ephesus as it appears in the Revelation - Re 2:4 *"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 "Remember therefore from where you have*

fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

That which then follows with the destruction of the cities of the plain, with respect to the experience of Abraham and Lot, gives a clear picture of that which awaits the faithful Christian and the unfaithful Christian at the end of this dispensation – Ge 18:33 *So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.....19:1 ¶ Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.*

Notice where we find our 2 protagonists – Abraham ‘returned to his place’, on the high ground, by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron and Lot ‘was sitting in the gate of Sodom’ and we might note that it is evening, towards the end of the day.

h). Now these are 2 diametrically opposed positions. One is seen focused on that which lies ahead, on an inheritance and the promise of God – Heb 11:9 *By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

While the other is actively engaged in the affairs of the cities of the plain, the things of this world, sitting in the gate where all the governance of the city would take place – Ro 8:5 *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

4). Ge 19:12 ¶ *Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city-take them out of this place! 13 "For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." 14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. 15 ¶ When the morning*

dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." 16 And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountain, lest you be destroyed."

The total destruction of Gentile world power ushering in the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, seen in the destruction of the cities of the plain, has also been foreshadowed in the flood of Noah as we have seen, in the destruction of Nimrod's kingdom and in the Exodus from Egypt. And given the certainty of this impending outcome the message to the eternally saved is the same as that given to Lot, 'Escape to the mountain lest you be destroyed.'

a). This is the same message as the cry concerning 'midnight' [judgment] in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins - Mt 25:6 *"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"*

Escaping to the mountain and going out to meet the Bridegroom are synonymous and speak of a continuously active pursuit of that which Christ has promised His co-heirs – Php 3:12 *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.*

b). In the account of Lot that we have just read we see that Lot's sons-in-law and his married daughters heard his warning, but thought he was joking.

c). Not only does this point to the natural man who cannot receive spiritual truth as it is foolishness to him, but also the total disregard among so many Christians of the warnings scripture gives – and then, to look at this another way – Lot's time in the plain, and his time in Sodom, marrying some of his daughters to the men of Sodom, did not suggest that he thought there was anything else beyond that experience. If Lot's focus was on the world and the things of the world, why would his sons-in-law and daughters be any different?

d). And then the continuing account of Lot adds more to this picture of the Christian who has become dull of hearing – we see that when the 'morning dawned' that *the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and*

your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.

e). Even though Lot, the type of the unfaithful Christian, is confronted by angels and receives a direct command from God Himself through the angels, his spiritual senses are so dull that he had to be dragged from the city, the Lord being merciful to him, he did not leave willingly - Ge 19:18 *Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! 19 "Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. 20 "See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."*

For Lot then fleeing to the mountain, leaving behind that on which he had depended, had been actively engaged with and comfortable with, could only be perceived by him in the negative, 'lest some evil overtake me and I die' – whereas that pictured through the mountain, the coming Kingdom, is the one place where 'life' is to be found.

f). Instead of fleeing to the mountain, he asks to stay in the environment with which he is familiar, 'See now, this city is near enough to flee to', believing that if he escapes there his 'soul shall live'.

g). His thinking of course is completely backward – it is staying in the city where he would be overtaken by evil and his soul would die and, on the mountain, where his soul would live.

h). Ultimately Lot cannot be allowed to stay in the city of Zoar – Ge 19:29 *And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt. 30 ¶ Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountain, 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.*

And as Lot 'went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountain' we find the picture of the resurrection/rapture of the church, presenting a type for the experience of the unfaithful Christian when this event takes place.

i). That said, we will come to realize that the preceding events, the warning from the angels, the command to flee to the mountain, the escape to Zoar, all typify the experience of Christians during this dispensation.

j). The cry concerning 'midnight' has been proclaimed, the warnings contained in the scriptures have been heard, the command to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness has been given –Heb 2:1 ¶ *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.*

k). The account of Lot provides the detail of the experience of the non-Kingdom focused, unfaithful Christian in the present and that which awaits that Christian following the Judgment Seat of Christ if nothing changes.

l). The days of Lot though must also encompass the account of Abraham which provides the experience of the faithful, Kingdom focused Christian and that Christian's practice in the present and that which awaits them following the Judgment Seat of Christ. And this is the focus of the Lord's commentary on the days of Lot - Lu 17:34 *"I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. 35 "Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. 36 "Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."*

It is not that one is taken from the earth and one is not – the original language gives us that one is taken alongside another as a companion and one is rejected as being a companion. In other words, one becomes a 'companion', a joint heir with Christ, and one is rejected from that position, although all are Christians.

m). And again, the contrast between Abraham and Lot brings this into focus - Ge 19:27 ¶ *And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. 28 Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.*

Here is Abraham, 'early in the morning', in the 'place where he stood before the Lord' – on the top of the mountain, completely removed from the events in the plain as he has had no association with that which had previously taken place there.

n). But, for Lot, he has embraced that which has taken place in the plain, and he finds himself, at the very same time that Abraham is standing on top of the mountain, on the same mountain, but, *he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave*. Rather than standing before the Lord in the light of the new day, he is in a cave, hidden from the light, in a place of darkness and shame.

o). The picture could not be any more obvious – The faithful Christian will stand in the presence of his Lord, will be enswathed in the glory that had been lost in the Garden as the 7th Day dawns, ready to reign as a coheir with Christ. But not so, the unfaithful Christian – he will not stand in the presence of his Lord, there will be no covering of glory and although the 7th Day dawns, there will be no position of rulership, only a place associated with darkness and shame.

p). So, had we better remember Lot's wife? - Ge 19:26 ¶ *But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*

Absolutely, because she was consumed by that which she would not leave behind, attempting to save her life, she lost it. And Lot's wife presents one facet of Lot's experience with Lot in the place of darkness and shame presenting another.

q). As it was also in the days of Lot..... Even so it will be in the day the Son of man is revealed.

Let us look to Abraham as our example as we recall the days of Lot and not vacate the high ground. The mountain of the Lord's house remains and beckons to us to come to it and all the while we have breath, until the trumpet sounds, we have the opportunity. Don't miss this - 1Th 2:19 *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?*