

Genesis 19:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

Analysis

And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them ro... This passage is part of the Abrahamic narratives which shift from universal human history to God's particular covenant people. The Abraham cycle (Genesis 12-25) demonstrates God's sovereign election, covenant faithfulness, and the development of faith through testing and promise fulfillment.

Central themes include God's unconditional covenant promises (land, descendants, blessing to nations), the call to faith and obedience, the testing of faith through delays and impossibilities, the contrast between divine promises and human schemes, and God's gracious persistence despite human failures. Abraham emerges as the father of faith whose trust in God's promises becomes the model for all believers (Romans 4, Galatians 3, Hebrews 11).

Theologically, these narratives establish:

1. salvation by grace through faith rather than works
2. covenant as God's gracious initiative binding Himself to His people
3. the necessity of patient trust when promises seem impossible
4. the consequences of attempting to fulfill God's promises through human effort
5. the pattern of divine testing producing mature faith.

The Abraham cycle foreshadows Christ as the ultimate seed through whom blessing extends to all nations (Galatians 3:16).

Historical Context

The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does understanding this verse shape our doctrine of humanity, sin, or salvation?
2. How should this truth about Lot's Daughters shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. How does understanding Christ as the ultimate fulfillment illuminate this passage's meaning?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹאוּ	שְׁנֵי	הַמַּלְאָכִים	סְדֹם	בַּעַרְבַּיִם	לוֹט	יָשָׁב
And there came	two	angels	of Sodom	at even	and Lot	sat
H935	H8147	H4397	H5467	H6153	H3876	H3427
בִּשְׁעַר	סְדֹם	וַיֵּרָא	לוֹט	וַיָּקָם	לִקְרֹאתָם	
in the gate	of Sodom	seeing	and Lot	them rose up	to meet	
H8179	H5467	H7200	H3876	H6965	H7125	
וַיִּשָּׁתְּחוּ	אֶפְרָסֵם	אֶרְצָה:				
them and he bowed	himself with his face	toward the ground				
H7812	H639	H776				

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 18:22 (Parallel theme): And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

Hebrews 13:2 (Parallel theme): Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Job 31:32 (Parallel theme): The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller.