

# Genesis 19:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

## Analysis

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**And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all nig...** 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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse deepen our understanding of God's character and His relationship with creation?
2. How should this truth about Lot's Daughters shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. In what ways does this narrative foreshadow or typify aspects of Christ's redemptive work?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ יַתְּ אֶלְעָזֶר וְיַאֲמַר וְ	וְאַתְּ הַבָּעֵד אֶלְעָזֶר וְ	וְאַתְּ תְּשַׁבַּח כְּ	בְּ גַּלְעִיד מִצְרָיִם וְ
<b>And he said</b> H2009	H4994	<b>Behold now my lords</b> H113	<b>turn in</b> H4994
H559			H413
			<b>house</b> H1004
בְּ גַּלְעִיד מִצְרָיִם וְ	וְאַתְּ תְּשַׁבַּח כְּ	בְּ גַּלְעִיד מִצְרָיִם וְ	וְאַתְּ תְּשַׁבַּח כְּ
<b>I pray you into your servant's</b> H5650	<b>Nay but we will abide</b> H3885	<b>and wash</b> H7364	<b>your feet</b> H7272
וְאַתְּ תְּשַׁבַּח כְּ	לְדַרְכֶּךָ מִתְלַכְּדָתֶךָ מִ	וְאַתְּ תְּשַׁבַּח כְּ	לְאַתְּ וְיַאֲמַר וְ
<b>and ye shall rise up early</b> H7925	<b>and go</b> H1980	<b>on your ways</b> H1870	<b>And he said</b> H559
בְּ גַּלְעִיד מִצְרָיִם וְ	וְאַתְּ תְּשַׁבַּח כְּ	בְּ גַּלְעִיד מִצְרָיִם וְ	וְאַתְּ תְּשַׁבַּח כְּ
<b>in the street</b> H7339	<b>Nay but we will abide</b> H3885		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 18:4** (Prayer): Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:

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

**Acts 16:15** (References Lord): And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

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