

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

וַיֹּאמֶר וְהִנֵּה נָא אֲדֹנָי יִסְרוּ אֶל נְאֻם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה
And he said H2009 H4994 **Behold now my lords** **turn in** H5493 **house** H1004

וְהִנֵּה נָא אֲדֹנָי יִסְרוּ אֶל נְאֻם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה
I pray you into your servant's H5650 **Nay but we will abide** H3885 **and wash** H7364 **your feet** H7272

וְהִנֵּה נָא אֲדֹנָי יִסְרוּ אֶל נְאֻם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה
and ye shall rise up early H7925 **and go** H1980 **on your ways** H1870 **And he said** H559 H3808 H3588

וְהִנֵּה נָא אֲדֹנָי יִסְרוּ אֶל נְאֻם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה
in the street H7339 **Nay but we will abide** H3885

Additional Cross-References

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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