

Lot's Progressive Destructive Spiral

A study of why Lot made a series of choices and how these choices negatively affected him, his family and others

Introduction

- How did this happen – someone moves from somewhere else to New York City and they become unfaithful and so does their family
- When we look closely, we will find a series of spiritually damaging decisions that were made that, when all are linked together, lead to tragedy – falling away from God

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Introduction

- Again, these decisions are destructive because they ignore and disobey God
- Decisions based on flawed character – seeing only a need for material and fleshly things rather than serving God
- Lot is such a tragic case from whom we can learn
- Wherever we live – let us not repeat the tragic steps of Lot's destruction

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His Decisions Based On Selfish, Worldly Character

- Lot was not all bad, but flawed
- Lot, Abram's nephew, was selfish – putting things ahead of spiritual matters and family
- Lot had a weak, second-hand faith – followed Abram and worshipped with him
- After separating from Abram, no mention of building altars and worshipping
- Flawed character guided his decisions

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Lot Was Not All Bad But Flawed

2Pe 2:7 and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men

2Pe 2:8 (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds),

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Lot Was Selfish – Placing Material Things Ahead of God

Gen 13:6 And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together.

Gen 13:7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land.

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Lot Was Selfish – Placing Material Things Ahead of God

Gen 13:10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere--*this was* before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah--like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.

Gen 13:11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.

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Lot's Weak Second-hand Faith

Gen 12:4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Gen 12:5 Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.

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Lot's Weak Second-hand Faith

Gen 12:7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

Gen 12:8 Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.

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Selfishly Chooses Best Grazing Land Near Sodom

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Gen 13:11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.

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Lot Eventually Loses It All

Gen 19:24 Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven,

Gen 19:25 and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

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Abraham's Better Choice

Heb 11:9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

Heb 11:10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

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We Should Follow Abraham's Choice

Mat 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2Co 5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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Moves Near Sodom, A Wicked City

Gen 13:12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom.

Gen 13:13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.

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Moves Into Sodom

Gen 14:12 They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom.

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Blends In With And Influenced By Sodom

Gen 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he rose to meet them and bowed down *with his* face to the ground.

Gen 19:5 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 have relations with them."

16

Blends In With And Influenced By Sodom

Gen 19:7 and said, "Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly.

Gen 19:8 "Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof."

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Blends In With And Influenced By Sodom

Gen 19:9 But they said, "Stand aside." Furthermore, they said, "This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them." So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door.

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Blends In With And Influenced By Sodom

Gen 18:23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

Gen 18:24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep *it* away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it?"

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Blends In With And Influenced By Sodom

Gen 18:25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"

Gen 18:32 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy *it* on account of the ten."

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Loses Spiritual Influence On His Family

Gen 19:14 Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, "Up, get out of this place, for the LORD will destroy the city." But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

Gen 19:26 But his wife, from behind him, looked *back*, and she became a pillar of salt.

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Loses Spiritual Influence On His Family

Gen 19:31 Then the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of the earth.

Gen 19:32 "Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him that we may preserve our family through our father."

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We Must Avoid Blending In With The World

1Co 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Eph 5:11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

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We Must Be Salt and Light To The World

Mat 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

Mat 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

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We Must Be Salt and Light To The World

Mat 5:15 nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Mat 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

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Lot's Progressive Destructive Spiral

1. His decisions based on selfish, worldly character
2. Selfishly chooses best grazing land near Sodom
3. Moves near Sodom, a wicked city
4. Moves into Sodom
5. Blends in with and influenced by Sodom
6. Loses spiritual influence on his family

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How Do I Make My Decisions?

1. Do I believe in the Lord based on my own study of and love for His Word?
2. Do I choose material things over serving God?
3. Do I seek to blend in with and be influenced by the world rather than being salt and light to them?
4. How do my decisions affect the spiritual lives of my family and others?

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How Do I Make My Decisions?

Luk 17:32 "Remember Lot's wife.

Luk 17:33 "Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses *his life* will preserve it.

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