

Genesis 19-21

An Overview of Chapter 19

As the Lord and Abraham finished up their conversation the two angels who came with the Lord traveled to Sodom. When they arrive they run into Lot and he begs them to come to dinner and stay the night.

Shortly after eating the perverted men of the town surround the house and begin shouting for Lot to send the two visitors out so they could rape them. Lot does the unthinkable - he offers his daughters to the men. The men refuse the deal and move in to overtake Lot when the angels pull him back in the house and struck the men of the city with blindness.

The two angels tell Lot that they will destroy the town and that he and his family need to live. Lot tells his daughters fiances,' but they thought he was joking. The next morning Lot, his wife, and his two daughters are reminded to leave town. The angels tell Lot that they cannot destroy the towns until Lot leaves and instructs Lot and his family to not look back.

Lot's wife looks back and is turned into a pillar of salt. Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed.

While Lot and his daughters are hiding in a cave, the two girls believe that the whole world has been destroyed. They hatch a plan to repopulate the world - they get their dad drunk and have sex with him. Both daughters have children from this event, and they will lead to the nations of Moab and Ammon.

An Overview of Chapter 20

Abraham travels to Gerar and then returns to his old reliable lie, that Sarah is not his wife. As happened before the king sees how beautiful she is and brings her to his home as his wife.

Before they can consummate the marriage the Lord visits Abimelech and tells him the truth about Sarah, and warns him send her back to her husband. We also find out that Abimelech's household has been made barren by God. The king agrees and as happened before Abraham benefits financially from this lie when the king gives him sheep, oxen, servants and money. In return Abraham prays for Abimelech and the wombs of his people are healed.

An Overview of Chapter 21

As promised God opens Sarah's womb and she has a child. Abraham follows the previously given instructions; he names the boy Isaac and has him circumcised on the eighth day.

Sarah does not want Isaac to share his inheritance with Ishmael, so she complains to her husband. Abraham is not too happy with chasing off the only son he has known for the last 14 years. The Lord tells Abraham to send Ishmael and Hagar away and promises to keep them safe and bless Ishmael. Abraham does as the Lord and Sarah tell him and send Hagar and Ishmael away.

Hagar and Ishmael run out of water, so Hagar is afraid her child will die. God hears Ishmael crying and speaks with Hagar from heaven. God promises to make a great nation out of Ishmael and shows Hagar where a well is for them to drink from.

Abraham's neighbor Abimelech decides it would be a good idea to make a covenant with Abraham since God has blessed Abraham so much. Abraham agrees, but adds that Abimelech's servants borrowed his well and never returned it. Abraham gives Abimelech seven lambs and Abimelech makes acknowledgment that the well belongs to Abraham.

Reflection

Are you hospitable to strangers? How far are you willing to go to protect those who are under your care? Do you look back to your pre-Christian life instead of looking forward to where God is leading you? Would you lie, or endanger your spouse to protect yourself? Do you call out to God when your outlook on life is bleak? Are you willing to pay for something that is already yours if it brings peace?

For Further Study

Hospitality: Hebrews 13:2, 1Peter 4:9

Peacemakers: Psalm 34:13, Proverbs 16:7, Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:18, 1Thessalonians 5:13, Hebrews 12:14