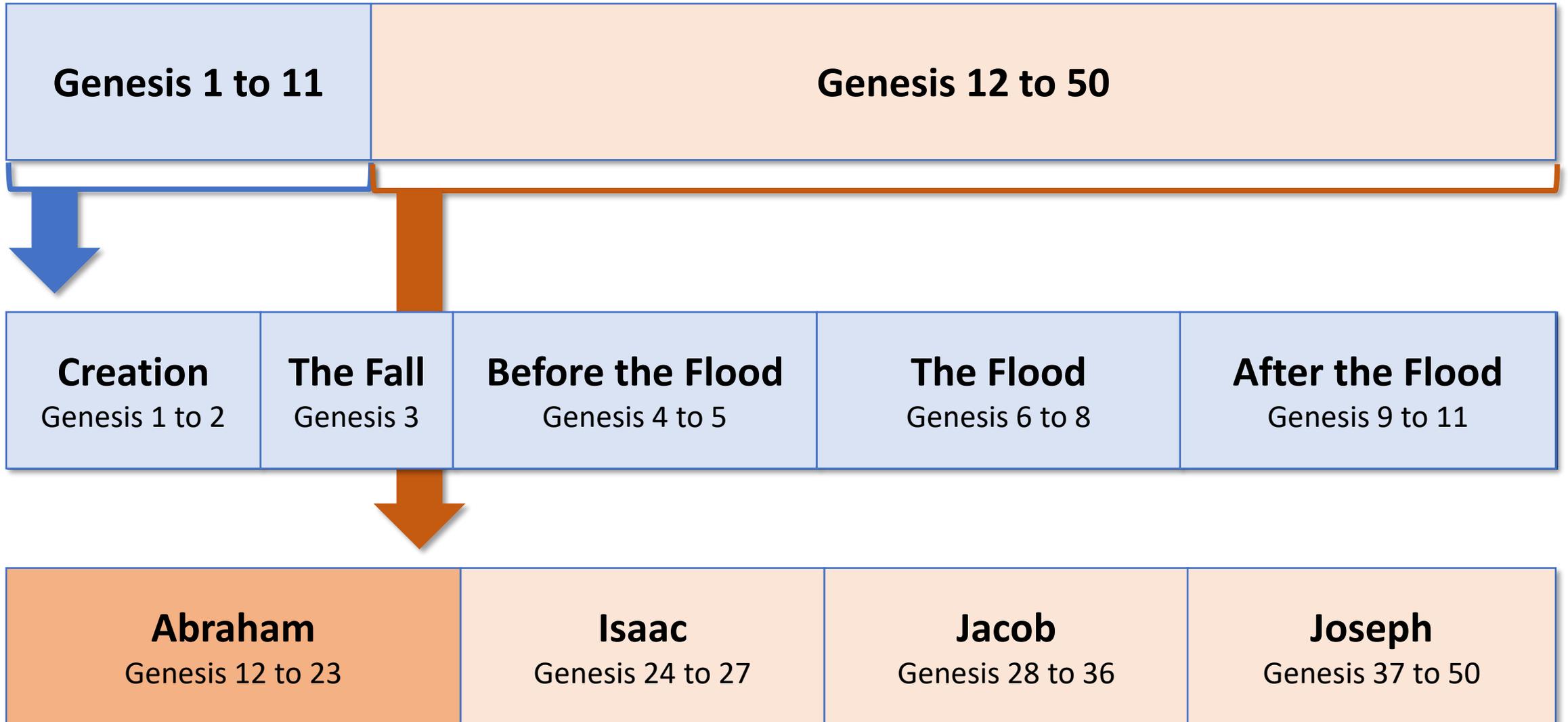


# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

**11. Abraham, Sarah, Lot and Sodom**

# An outline of the Book of Genesis \*



\* Approximate chapter divisions only

## The promise of God – chapter 15

And He brought him outside and said,  
“Look toward heaven, and number the stars,  
if you are able to number them.”

Then He said to him,  
*“So shall your offspring be.”*

**And he believed the LORD,  
and He counted it to him as righteousness.**

(Genesis 15:5-6)

## The promise of God – chapter 17

“As for **Sarai** your wife,  
you shall not call her name **Sarai**,  
but **Sarah** shall be her name.  
I will bless her, and moreover,  
**I will give you a son by her.**”

Then **Abraham** fell on his face  
and **laughed** and said to himself,  
“Shall a child be born to a man  
who is a 100 years old? Shall Sarah,  
who is 90 years old, bear a child?”

"Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

“No...

I will establish **My covenant** with **Isaac**,  
whom **Sarah** shall bear to you  
**at this time next year.**”

NOTE

(See Genesis 17:15-21)

# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

## **Genesis 18 and 19 – Two chapters, three scenes**

### **Scene 1**

At Abraham's encampment – three unexpected visitors

### **Scene 2**

Overlooking the Jordan Valley – Abraham speaks to the Lord

### **Scene 3**

Sodom – Two angels rescue Lot's family from its destruction

# Scene 1 – At Abraham's encampment

Genesis 18:1-15



# The promise of God

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre,  
as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked,  
and behold, three men were standing in front of him.

(Genesis 18:1-2)

## Abraham's hospitality

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.  
(Hebrews 13:2)

When he saw them, **he ran** from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said,

“My lord, if I have found favour in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let **a little water** be brought, and **wash your feet**, and **rest yourselves** under the tree, while I bring **a morsel of bread**, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on....”

So they said, “Do as you have said.”

(Genesis 18:2-5)

# Abraham's hospitality

Show hospitality to one another  
without grumbling.

(1 Peter 4:9)

And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah  
and said,

“Quick! Three seahs of fine flour!  
Knead it, and make cakes.”

About 22 litres!

And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf,  
tender and good, and gave it to a young man,  
who prepared it quickly.

Then he took curds and milk and the calf  
that he had prepared, and set it before them.

And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

(Genesis 18:6-8)



## The promise of God – for Sarah...

They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?”  
And he said, “She is in the tent.”

The LORD said,

*“I will surely return to you about this time next year,  
and **Sarah your wife shall have a son.**”*

And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

(Genesis 18:9-10)

## The promise of God – for Sarah...

So **Sarah laughed to herself**, saying,  
“After I am worn out, and my lord is old,  
shall I have pleasure?”

The LORD said to Abraham,  
“*Why did Sarah laugh and say,  
‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’*

***Is anything too hard for the LORD?***

***At the appointed time*** I will return to you,  
about this time next year, and ***Sarah shall have a son.***”

But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid.  
He said, “*No, but you did laugh.*”

(Genesis 18:12-15)

## The promise of God – for Sarah...

Then the men set out from there,  
and they looked down toward **Sodom**.

And Abraham went with them  
to set them on their way.

(Genesis 18:16)

## The amazing grace of God...

By faith Sarah herself  
received power to conceive,  
even when she was past the age,  
since **she considered Him faithful**  
who had promised.

(Hebrews 11:11)

*Behold, **I stand at the door** and knock.  
If anyone hears My voice  
and opens the door,  
I will come in to him  
and eat with him, and he with Me.*

(Revelation 3:20)

# Scene 2 – Overlooking the Jordan Valley

Genesis 18:17-33



# The fate of Sodom

The LORD said,

**“Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,**  
seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation,  
and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?”

(Genesis 18:17-18)

“I have called you friends,  
for all that I have heard from My Father  
I have made known to you.”

(John 15:15)

# The fate of Sodom

Known him

“For **I have chosen him**,  
that he may command his children and his household after him  
**to keep the way of the LORD** by doing **righteousness** and **justice**,  
**so that** the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has promised him.”

(Genesis 18:19)

You are my friends if you do  
what I command you.

(John 15:14)

# The fate of Sodom

God is just –  
judgement is neither  
hasty nor excessive

Then the LORD said,

“Because the outcry against **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** is great and **their sin is very grave**, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to Me. And if not, I will know.”

The two angels

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, **but Abraham still stood before the LORD.**

(Genesis 18:20-22)

# The fate of Sodom

Then Abraham drew near and said,

“Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

Suppose there are 50 righteous within the city.

Will You then sweep away the place and not spare it  
for the 50 righteous who are in it? ...

**Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”**

And the LORD said,

**“If I find at Sodom 50 righteous in the city,  
I will spare the whole place for their sake.”**

(Genesis 18:23-26)

# The fate of Sodom

Abraham answered and said,

“Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord,  
**I who am but dust and ashes.**

Suppose 5 of the 50 righteous are lacking.

Will you destroy the whole city for lack of 5?”

And He said,

**“I will not destroy it if I find 45 there.”**

(Genesis 18:27-28)

# The fate of Sodom

“For the sake of **40** I will not do it.” ...

“I will not do it, if I find **30** there.” ...

“For the sake of **20** I will not destroy it.” ...

“For the sake of **10** I will not destroy it.”

And the LORD went His way,  
when He had finished speaking to Abraham,  
and Abraham returned to his place.

(See Genesis 18:29-33)

# Understanding and appreciating...

## What was Abraham doing?

- He was wanting to save Lot and his family.
- He was seeking to understand God's justice and mercy.

## What was God doing?

- He was drawing Abraham into a deeper relationship.
- He was preparing Abraham to be head of a nation.

# Scene 3 – Sodom

Genesis 19:1-38

# The destruction of Sodom

The two angels came to Sodom in the evening,  
and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.

Among the elders

When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them  
and bowed himself with his face to the earth and said,  
“My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house  
and spend the night and wash your feet.

Then you may rise up early and go on your way.”

They said, “**No**; we will spend the night in the town square.”

But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside  
to him and entered his house. And **he made them a feast**  
and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

(Genesis 19:1-3)

# The destruction of Sodom

But before they lay down, the men of the city,  
**the men of Sodom**, both young and old,  
all the people to the last man, **surrounded the house.**

And they called to Lot,  
“Where are the men who came to you tonight?  
Bring them out to us, that we may know them.”

(Genesis 19:4-5)

...Sodom and Gomorrah...  
indulged in sexual immorality  
and pursued unnatural desire...

(Jude 1:7)

...pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease,  
but did not aid the poor and needy.

(Ezekiel 16:49)

# The destruction of Sodom

“Where are the men who came to you tonight?  
Bring them out to us, that we may know them.”

“I beg you, my brothers, **do not act so wickedly.**

Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man.

Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please.

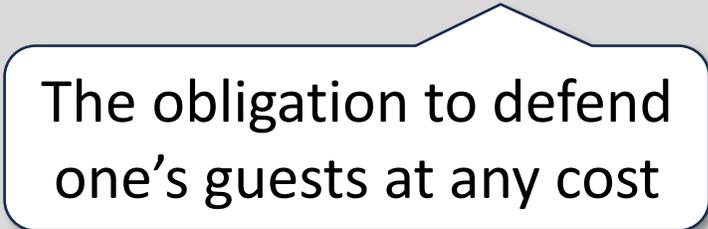
Only do nothing to these men,

for they have come under the shelter of my roof.”

(Genesis 19:7-8)



!!!



The obligation to defend  
one's guests at any cost

# The destruction of Sodom

**“Where are the men who came to you tonight?  
Bring them out to us, that we may know them.”**

But they said,

**“Stand back!... This fellow came to sojourn,  
and he has become the judge!**

**“Now we will deal worse with you than with them.”**

... But the men [*the angels*]... struck with blindness  
the men who were at the entrance of the house....

(Genesis 19:9-11)

...[Lot] was tormenting  
his righteous soul  
over their lawless deeds  
that he saw and heard...

(2 Peter 2:8)

Confusion

# The destruction of Sodom

Have you anyone else here?  
...bring them out of the place.  
For we are about to destroy this place...

**The two  
angels**

Up! Take your wife and your two daughters  
who are here, lest you be swept away  
in the punishment of the city.

**But he lingered.**

**Lot (to his sons-in-law)**

Up! **Get out of this place,**  
for the LORD is about to destroy  
the city.

**But he seemed  
to his sons-in-law  
to be jesting.**

# The destruction of Sodom

**But he lingered.** So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, **the LORD being merciful to him**, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

Escape for your life. **Do not look back**  
or stop anywhere in the valley.  
Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away.

Behold, I grant you this favour also,  
that I will not overthrow the city....  
**Escape there quickly...**

**Oh, no, my lords.**  
...you have shown me great kindness...  
But I cannot escape to the hills...

The sun had risen on the earth  
when Lot came to Zoar.

# The destruction of Sodom

Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.

And He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

(Genesis 19:24-25)

# The destruction of Sodom

**But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back,  
and she became a pillar of salt.**

(Genesis 19:26)

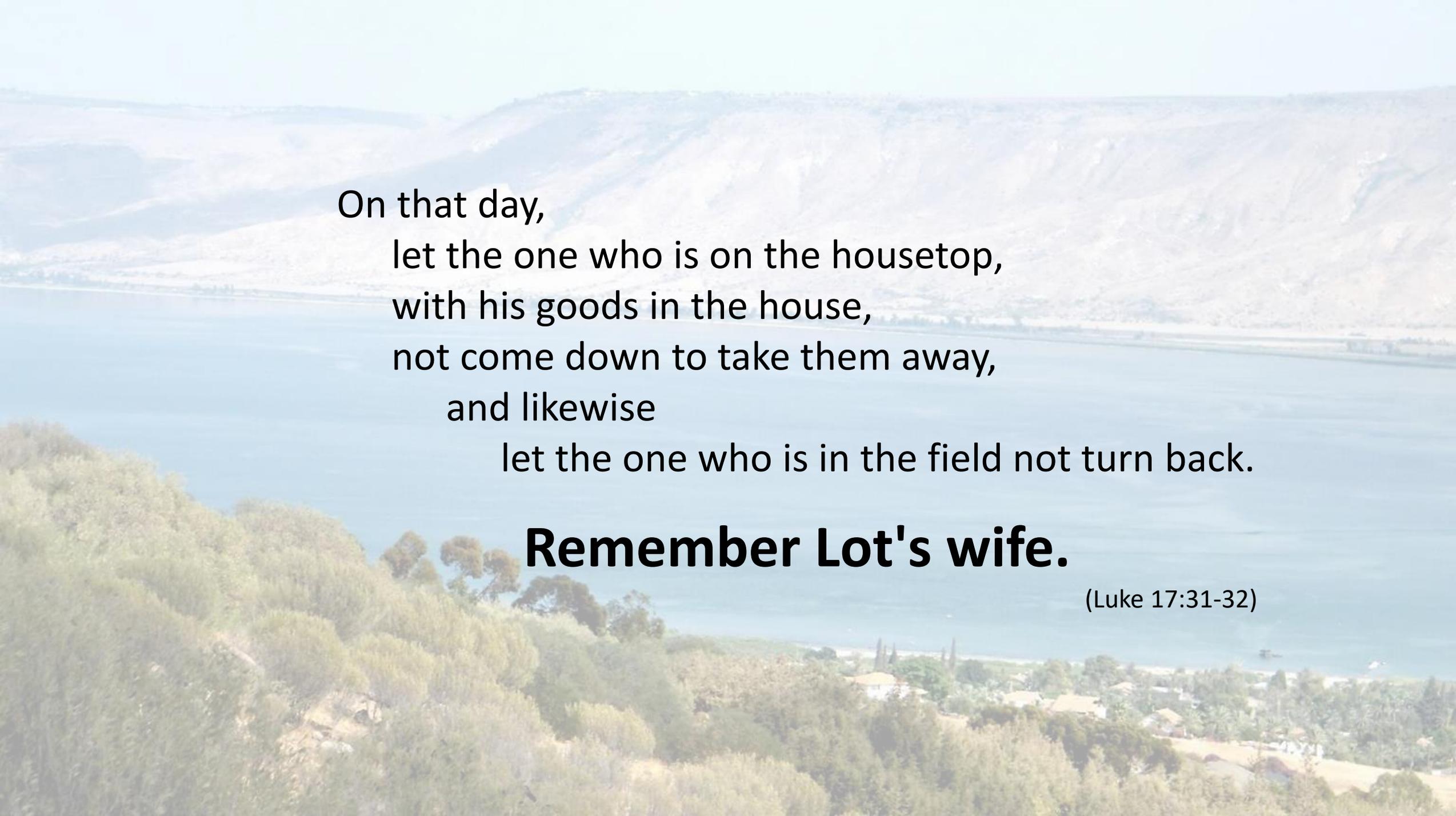
# Hear the Lord Jesus speaking about His return...

**Just as it was in the days of Lot—**

they were eating and drinking,  
buying and selling,  
planting and building,

but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom,  
fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—  
**so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.**

(Luke 17:28-30)



On that day,  
let the one who is on the housetop,  
with his goods in the house,  
not come down to take them away,  
and likewise  
let the one who is in the field not turn back.

**Remember Lot's wife.**

(Luke 17:31-32)

# The destruction of Sodom

So it was that,  
when God destroyed the cities of the valley,  
**God remembered Abraham**  
**and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow**  
when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.  
(Genesis 19:29)

If anyone's work is burned up,  
he will suffer loss, though he himself  
will be saved, but only as through fire.

(1 Corinthians 3:15)

# The last we hear of Lot...

Then Lot went up out of Zoar  
and dwelt in the mountains,  
and his two daughters were with him;  
for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar.

And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave.

(Genesis 19:30)

# The last we hear of Lot...

And 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 all the earth.

“Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father.”

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Future enemies  
of God’s people

The firstborn bore a son and called his name **Moab**.

He is the father of the **Moabites** to this day.

The younger also bore a son and called his name **Ben-ammi**.

He is the father of the **Ammonites** to this day.

See Genesis 19:31-38

# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

**Genesis 18 and 19 – Two chapters, three scenes**

	<b>Abraham and Sarah</b>	<b>Lot and his family</b>
<b>Scene 1</b> Abraham's encampment	<b>Hospitality and fellowship</b>	<b>Lot sits by the gate in Sodom</b>
<b>Scene 2</b> Overlooking the Jordan Valley	<b>Intercession in God's presence</b>	<b>Lot sits by the gate in Sodom</b>
<b>Scene 3</b> Sodom	<b>God remembers Abraham and has mercy on Lot</b>	<b>Lot loses everything</b>

# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

**“Just as it was in the days of Lot... so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”**

**“Remember Lot’s wife”**

**Abraham believed God,  
and it was counted to him as righteousness—  
and he was called the friend of God.**

(James 2:23)