

Let's Worship God

19th-24th December 2022
Genesis



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YOUR
JOURNEY
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Monday - Genesis 19:12-23 - Run For Your Lives

Lot is now warned that the angels are going to destroy Sodom. These angels of God's wrath are also angels of God's mercy to Lot. Lot is told to warn his friends and relations to flee. This is all he can do - warn people to run from the destruction that is coming. We are saved from Hell's destruction, and we must warn others of the destruction coming to them, if they do not turn to God. Lot tells his sons-in-law that they must leave immediately - they have no time to sit and think about it, their doom is coming, and the time to run is now. But his sons-in-law don't take him or his warning seriously.

Lot himself hesitates about leaving, but God, in His mercy, forces Lot and his family out of the city before his hesitation can lead to his destruction. We'd hesitate our whole lives about turning to God, if God in His mercy didn't change our hearts and bring us out of our sin.

Lot must still run for his life without looking back. We must still run from our sin, without looking back. He must not rest in the plain, as we must not rest in ourselves or the world. But he must run to the mountains, as we run to Christ. Lot, in his weakness, thinks a city of his choosing will be safer than the mountains God has appointed, so he begs to run to a small city. God mercifully grants his request and waits till he is there to destroy Sodom.

Questions

1. What do Lot's sons-in-law think about what he says?
2. Where is Lot supposed to run to?
3. Where does he ask permission to run to?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for unbelieving family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. Genesis 21:1

Praise: Psalm 112 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Tuesday - Genesis 19:24-26 - Looking Back

When Lot is safely in Zoar, the destruction comes. God is the one who rains down fire on Sodom and the surrounding cities. It is a strange punishment - hell coming down from heaven. Everything is destroyed and that fruitful valley is turned into the Salt Sea. It is a memorial of God's wrath against sin and a warning about Hell.

The example of Lot's wife warns the righteous not to turn back to wickedness. She seems to do just a small thing, but she is disobeying an express command of God. She doesn't believe that Sodom is really being destroyed, and she wants to return to her neighbours, her house, and her things. When we have set our face to heaven, we must not look back to hell.

Abraham gets up to see what the result of his prayers are, and how God has dealt with Sodom. We should always have our eyes open for how God is answering our prayers. For Abraham's sake, God has saved Lot, even though, looking down at the smouldering countryside, Abraham doesn't know that. He just trusts that God does what is right.

After all his begging, Lot is too afraid to live in Zoar, and goes up to a cave in the mountains. His choice to live in a wicked but prosperous city so many years before has led to this - hiding out in a cave. While there Lot and his daughters, even with the warning of Sodom fresh in their minds, commit a great evil. And after this, we hear no more of Lot.

Questions

1. Why does Lot's wife look back?
2. What happens to her?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would not look back to our old way of life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. Genesis 21:1

Praise: Psalm 113 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Genesis 20:1-7 - God's Restraining Hand

Abraham now leaves Mamre, where he has lived almost 20 years, and travels South. Again, he lies and denies that Sarah is his wife, putting her in danger of adultery, and with God's promise of a child by her, he should have been especially careful. Abraham has done this before and been reprov'd, but now he does it again. Even great Christians can fall repeatedly into the same sin.

God warns Abimelech of the great danger he is in. Even one sin can make you a dead man in God's sight; our only hope of life is in Jesus Christ. Abimelech pleads ignorance, and God, who knows when we are honest, tells him that the only reason he didn't sin was because God was keeping him from sin. As bad as things are in the world, they would be much worse if God removed His restraining hand. God prevents men from sin. We must give Him the glory when we don't sin and pray that He will restrain us more.

Abimelech must return Sarah to Abraham. Once we discover our sin, we can't continue in it, but we must take steps to set things right. Abimelech must be just and kind to Abraham because Abraham is a prophet, close to God, who can pray for him, and if he doesn't restore Sarah, Abimelech will die.

Questions

1. How does Abraham lie?
2. Why didn't Abimelech sin with Sarah?
3. Who can keep us from sin?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's restraining hand.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. Genesis 21:1

Praise: Psalm 114 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Genesis 20:8-18 - Poor Excuses

Abimelech has been warned, and as one truly afraid of sin and its consequences, quickly moves to obey. When we see how terrible sin is, we want to be obedient. Abimelech warns his household, as we should warn others, that they are in danger from their disobedience to God.

Abimelech rebukes Abraham. He calls adultery a great sin or guilt, realizes that he could have unknowingly brought God's anger down on him, and tells Abraham that he should not have done what he did. He wants to know what he ever did to Abraham that would make Abraham expose him to such a great sin, or what danger Abraham thought he was in that he would do such a thing.

Abraham makes some pretty poor excuses. He has assumed, without good reason, that Abimelech does not fear God, but then instead of trying to set a good example, he has tried to blend in. He says Sarah is his half-sister, ignoring the fact that he still has deceived others by not saying that she is his wife. Finally, he falls back on the excuse of tradition, that they have always done things this way.

Abimelech shows great kindness to Abraham proving Abraham's fears to be groundless. Abraham can live wherever he wants, and he is given many royal gifts. Finally, Sarah is told to return to her 'brother', who should be her protection.

Questions

1. What excuses does Abraham make to Abimelech?
2. How does Abimelech treat Abraham?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be honest in all we do.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. Genesis 21:1

Praise: Psalm 115 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Friday - Genesis 21:1-8 - A Promise Kept

The long-awaited coming of Isaac reminds us of the long-awaited coming of Jesus Christ. God gives Sarah the ability to have a child in old age, and Isaac is born, just as God said, at the exact time God said.

Abraham names the boy Isaac, meaning laughter, and circumcises him just as God commanded. Isaac's name will remind them of so many things: Abraham's laughter of joy at hearing God's promise of a son through Sarah; Sarah's laughter of doubt and disbelief; and the name looks ahead to Ishmael laughing at Isaac, God's people being a laughing-stock to the world, and the joy of the promised Messiah who will come through Isaac.

Sarah is filled with joy sent from God. She has waited a long time for this blessing of a child, and she wants all around her to rejoice with her. She is also filled with amazement that in her old age she is able to have a child and to take care of it. God's blessings always surpass our expectations, and they should fill us with joy and wonder. Who would imagine that God would do so much for those who deserve so little?

Questions

1. What does Abraham name his son?
2. What does that name mean?
3. Why is Sarah so amazed?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the blessings God gives us that surpass expectations.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. Genesis 21:1

Praise: Psalm 116 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Saturday - Genesis 21:9-13 - Mocking Laughter

Abraham throws a big party for Isaac when he is weaned. Isaac is probably between 3 and 5. At this great feast, Sarah sees Ishmael, the son of Hagar, mocking her son, Isaac. Ishmael is 14 years older than Isaac, and as his older brother should be treating Isaac kindly. But maybe because of pride or jealousy, Ishmael decides to laugh at Isaac. This is a dangerous thing to do considering the precarious position he and his mother have in Abraham's household. This is a picture of the mocking and persecution Christians can expect to face from unbelievers. But those who persecute God's people are also in a very precarious position in God's world.

Sarah is furious and demands that Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away. (She seems to easily forget that this whole mess was originally her idea.) Abraham is reluctant to send Ishmael away because Ishmael is his son. He is upset at Ishmael mocking Isaac and at Sarah insisting on such a punishment. God comes to Abraham and tells him what to do. Ishmael must be cast out, so Isaac can be established in the covenant. Isaac is to be set apart to God; from Isaac the promised Saviour will come. But God promises to take care of Ishmael and make him a great nation.

Questions

1. What does Ishmael do to Isaac?
2. What does Sarah want Abraham to do?
3. Which son will God make His covenant with?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. Genesis 21:1

Praise: Psalm 117 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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