

## TWO MEN OF DISTINCTION. GEN. 19:1; DAN. 2:49

INTRODUCTION: THE GATE WAS THE PLACE OF LEGAL TRIBUNALS AND PUBLIC ASSEMBLYS. IN DEUT. WE READ ABOUT THE JUDGES, OFFICERS, AND ELDERS OF THE GATES. PROV. 31:23 SAYS OF THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN: "HER HUSBAND IS KNOWN IN THE GATES, WHEN HE SITTETH AMONG THE ELDERS OF THE LAND," USUALLY WHEN YOU READ IN THE BIBLE OF ONE SITTING IN THE GATE IT MEANS THAT HE IS A CITY OFFICIAL.

1. LOT WAS A MAN OF DISTINCTION IN SODOM.
  - GEN. 19:1, "LOT SAT IN THE GATE OF SODOM."
  1. HE WAS DISTINGUISHED FOR HIS SELFISH CHOICE.
    - A. GEN. 13:10-13, LOT CHOSE ALL THE PLAIN OF JORDAN BECAUSE IT WAS FERTILE AND WELL WATERED EVERYWHERE, BUT HE DID NOT CONSIDER THAT "THE MEN OF SODOM WERE WICKED AND SINNERS BEFORE THE LORD EXCEEDINGLY."
    - B. STORY OF THE MINISTER OF THE SCOTCH KIRK WHO SAID (IN A DREAM) TO THE ELDER, "THERE'S NAE STRIFE UP HERE, JAN."
    - C. CONTRAST LOT'S SELFISHNESS MATERIALISM WITH ABRAHAM'S MAGNANIMOUS RIGHTEOUSNESS.
  2. LOT WAS DISTINGUISHED FOR HIS COMPROMISING CONDUCT.
    - A. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HIS POSITION IN SODOM HE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY COMPELLED TO COMPROMISE HIS PRINCIPLES AND CONDUCT.
    - B. HIS OPPOSITION AVAILED NOT THE SLIGHTEST.
 

HOW COULD IT, WHEN THE SODOMITES KNEW PERFECTLY WELL THAT, WITH ALL HIS DENUNCIATION OF THEIR WICKED WAYS, HE PREFERRED THEIR MONEY-MAKING COMPANY TO THE DESOLATION OF THE HILLS, WHERE HE WOULD BE VEXED WITH NO FILTHY CONVERSATION OR CONDUCT BUT WOULD ALSO FIND NO MARKETS OR WEALTH?
    - C. THERE IS MUCH THAT IS ADMIRABLE AND PATHETIC IN LOT'S CONDUCT THIS LAST NIGHT IN SODOM.
 

TO GO OUT AMONG A DISSIPATED, LAWLESS MOB, WILD WITH PASSION AND INFURIATED BY OPPOSITION — TO GO OUT AND SHUT THE DOOR BEHIND HIM — WAS AN ACT OF TRUE COURAGE.

TO DEFEND HIS GUESTS HE PUT HIMSELF IN A POSITION WHICH COULD HAVE COST HIS LIFE.

YET, THAT IS THE BEST AND JUST ABOUT ALL THE GOOD WE CAN SAY FOR HIM.

HE WAS A COLD-BLOODED, CALCULATING POLITICIAN WHO, IN THE MIDST OF TREMENDOUS PUBLIC CALAMITY, WAS KEENLY ALIVE ONLY TO HIS OWN INTERESTS AND WOULD SCHEME FOR HIS OWN PRIVATE WELL-BEING.
  3. LOT WAS DISTINGUISHED FOR HIS INEFFECTIVE INFLUENCE.
 

(MOODY'S STORY OF OLD MAN WHO WAS A RECLAIMED BACKSLIDER, WHO REALIZED THAT HE HAD TAKEN HIS CHILDREN INTO THE WORLD, BUT COULD NOT BRING THEM OUT AGAIN)

    - A. INFLUENCE ON HIS SONS IN LAW, V. 14,
    - B. ON HIS WIFE, V. 26
    - C. ON HIS DAUGHTERS, VS. 30-38.

*Story of incident of Josiah Wedgwood, maker of the beautiful Wedgwood ware, and the nobleman who influenced young lord with his profanity.*



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Police men separate fighting parents  
whose children cry to help them  
to stay it.

this is why <sup>59.</sup> the teenagers  
have already  
this country have already  
had a brush with the Law.

Parents unite false excuses  
from their children when they  
are absent from school.

There is much that is admirable and pathetic in Lot's

conduct this last night in Sodom.  
To go out among a dissipated, lawless hor,  
wild with passion and infuriated by opposition —  
to go out and shut the door behind him —  
was an act of true courage.

To defend his guests he put himself in a position which  
could have cost his life.

Yet, that is the best and just about all the good  
we can say for him.

He was a cold-blooded, calculating politician who,  
in the midst of tremendous public calamity,  
was keenly alive only to his own interests  
and would scheme for his own private well-being.

Lot was distinguished for his ineffective influence.  
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A. INFLUENCE ON HIS SONS IN LAW, V. 14,  
B. IN HIS WIFE, V. 20  
C. ON HIS DAUGHTERS, V. 30-38.

11. DANIEL WAS ANOTHER MAN OF DISTINCTION, DAN. 2:49,  
"DANIEL SAT IN THE GATE OF THE KING"

1. HE WAS DISTINGUISHED FOR HIS COURAGEOUS CONVICTIONS, 1:8-20,  
HE PURPOSED IN HIS HEART THAT HE WOULD NOT BEFILE HIMSELF.

A. DANIEL'S BODY WAS FREE OF PHYSICAL DISSIPATION,  
AND HIS MIND WAS FREE OF MORAL DISSIPATION.

B. THE PURE IN HEART SEE NOT ONLY GOD

BUT EVERYTHING ELSE BETTER THAN THE SELF-INDULGENT.

C. THEY WHOSE CAUSE IS JUST AND WHOSE HEART IS PURE  
HAVE A BIG ADVANTAGE.

2. HE WAS DISTINGUISHED FOR HIS HONORED ADVANCEMENT, 2:48,49

A. JESUS SAID, "HE THAT HONORS ME,  
HIM WILL MY FATHER HONOR."

B. INTELLIGENT GOODNESS IMPRESSES ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD SENSE.  
EVEN BAD PEOPLE WHO ARE REALISTIC ADMIRE IT  
AND WILL REWARD IT.

MEN OF INTEGRITY AND HIGH IDEALS ARE TRUSTED BY ALL.

IT IS REMARKABLE HOW BIG CITY BOSSES WITH CROOKED POLITICAL  
MACHINERY SOMETIMES PUT MEN OF CHARACTER IN POSITIONS OF TRUST

3. HE WAS DISTINGUISHED FOR HIS DETERMINED DEVOTION, 6:10

A. HE PRAYED AS USUAL, AND DID NOT TRY TO HIDE IT.

B. SOME PEOPLE WOULD BE VERY LOYAL IF THEY KNEW THAT GOD  
WOULD ALWAYS DELIVER THEM IN THE NICK OF TIME.

C. MANY PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO BE HEROES IF THEY KNEW THEY  
WOULD NOT GET HURT.

D. THE THREE HEBREW CHILDREN WERE WILLING TO TRUST GOD,  
AND BE TRUE TO HIM, EVEN IF HE DIDN'T DELIVER THEM FROM  
THE FIERY FURNACE.

4. DANIEL WAS DISTINGUISHED FOR HIS TRIUMPHANT TESTIMONY,

A. THE KING RECOGNIZED THAT THE GOD OF DANIEL WAS THE LIVING GOD  
AND DECREED THAT ALL MEN SHOULD FEAR HIM, 6:25-28

B. DANIEL PROVED THAT A GODLY MAN CAN BE IN POLITICS AND STILL  
MAINTAIN HIS CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY IF HE WANTS TO.

HE PROVED THAT A GOOD HEART CAN BE STRONGER THAN ITS  
ENVIRONMENT. DANIEL'S ENVIRONMENT WAS JUST AS BAD AS LOT'S,  
BUT DANIEL HAD A STRONG RIGHTEOUS HEART, WHILE LOT HAD A  
WEAK, SELFISH, AND WORLDLY HEART.

*Fearless testimony of New Zealand,  
Frederick the Great's greatest  
general.*



See I.B. Vol. 6, p. 392

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Max. H. B.C. - 10-11-87

1st Ind. B.C. Co., Ft. Bess, 25 Oct. 59.