

Pastor Ron Case  
12/15/13

## **“The Vortex” (4)**

*“So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son...” (Genesis 12:4-5a)*

### **Faithful Abraham**

**Hebrews 11:8-10** – (8) “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (9) By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. (10) For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.”

### **Resists Assimilation**

**Genesis 14:21-23** – (21) “And the king of Sodom said to Abram, ‘Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.’ (22) But Abram said to the king of Sodom, ‘I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, (23) that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’”

**Genesis 15:1** – “After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: *I am thy shield, thy exceeding great reward.*” (KJV)

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| <b>Key Point: Keep One Hand Lifted to God</b> |
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### **Fickle Lot**

**Genesis 13:10-13** – (10) “And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) (11) So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. (12) Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. (13) Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.”

### **Sucked into the Vortex**

**Genesis 14:12** – “They also took Lot, the son of Abram’s brother, who was dwelling (*to sit down, settled*) in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.”

### **Rescue & Reversion**

**Genesis 14:14-16** – (14) “When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. (15) And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. (16) Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.”

**Genesis 19:1** – “The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth.”

### **Rescue & Ruination**

**Genesis 19:15-17, 26** – (15) “As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, ‘Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.’ (16) 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. (17) And as they brought them out, one said, ‘Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away.’ (26) But Lot’s wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.”

### **Questions:**

What impacted me the most in this message?

Is my hand open and lifted to God, or clutching the world? (Ps. 24:4, 141:2; 1 John 2:15)

What is more real to me, the present world or God’s Kingdom? (Matt. 6:19-20, 33; 2 Cor 4:18)