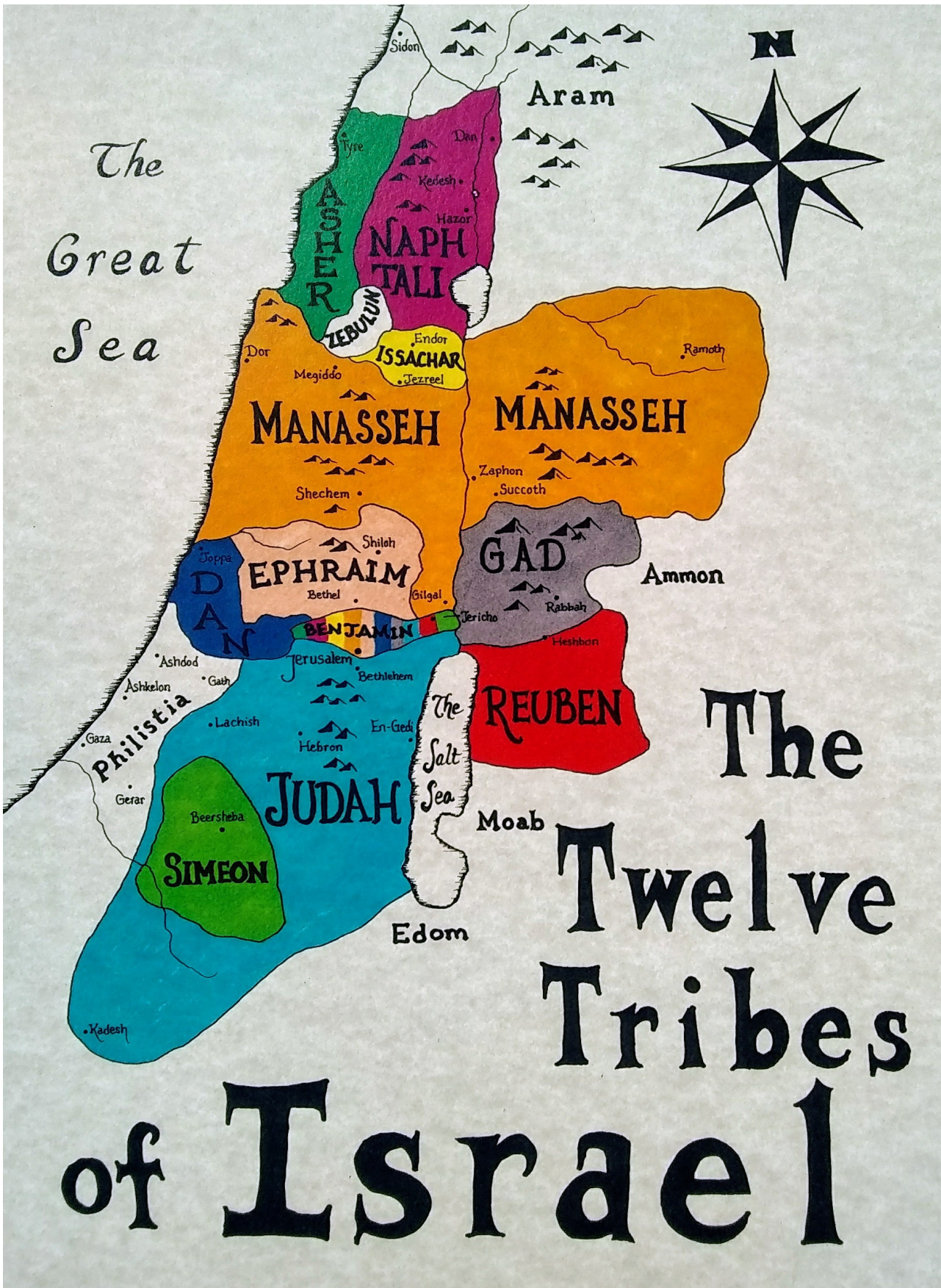


NOT FINISHING WELL!
GENESIS CH19:30-38



ILLUSTRATION

An American Billionaire, named Howard Hughes who was born in 1905 and who died in 1976, through his own family and his own endeavours he became one of the richest men in America. Along with being a film director, an aviator and an astute business person, he amassed a substantial fortune. Coating top film actresses, married twice, buying Casino's in Las Vegas, he lived an intriguing life! When Howard Hughes took his last breath it was 1:27 on the morning of April 5th, 1976, and he was in an aeroplane over northern Mexico on his way to a Texas hospital. Decades earlier he'd built the planet's largest seaplane and aviated the circumference of the world in a record-setting 3 days, 19 hours, 14 minutes and 10 seconds.

Dying aloft might seem a fitting end for such a man, and in many ways, it was. But, when he died, having had no children of his own, and no immediate family, his estate was worth a staggering \$2.5 billion (\$11 billion in today's dollars), and he didn't leave behind a will. ***You could think, "He started life well, but finished poorly!" Is this a caricature of Lot?***

For the Christian, the emphasis is not so much on how you start, but how you run and finish this life of faith in Christ!

LOT'S DECISIONS! V30

Remember God's promise to Abraham in Genesis Ch12:3, **"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."** This is where Lot started, under the protection of Abraham and the blessing of God. Lot had amassed a great fortune under Abraham, according to Genesis Ch13:5-6! ***But at the end of v30, how would you characterize Lot's life? Is it not one of utter alienation, not part of living in a Gospel Community, away from ministry and civilization, disgraced and widowed, as he had lost everything, perhaps miserable and if so, only to become even more miserable! Not a great picture!***

Where is Lot heading to exactly?

1. Which hills? Are they the same hills as Ch18:16 (when they looked down), or Ch19:17 + Ch18:19, the place of safety from destruction? ***The hills of the promised land!***
2. Is not the answer and location of the hills given in the names of Lot's grandchildren in v37 Moab and v38 Ammon?

Why is Lot not heading back to Abraham and the promised land and the protection and blessing of the Lord? Why, as I am suggesting based on the names of his grandchildren, is he heading to hills and mountains in the opposite direction away from and outside of the promised land (Ch13:14-18)?

Because after these verses Lot is only ever mentioned as a warning of judgement to others:

- Deut Ch2:9 - Lot's grandchildren Moab
- Deut Ch2:19 - Lot's grandchildren Ammon
- Deut Ch29:23 - Sodom and Gomorrah used as a warning
- Psalm 83:8 - Lot's descendants mentioned
- Amos Ch4:11- Sodom and Gomorrah used as a warning
- Matt Ch10:14-15 - Sodom and Gomorrah used as a warning
- Luke Ch17:28-37 - Lot's wife is mentioned as a warning
- 2nd Peter Ch2:6-7 - Lot is mentioned as "righteous"

LOT'S DAUGHTERS PLANS! V31-35

The "UNPREACHABLE PASSAGE!" A commentator by the name of James Montgomery Boice was told this about the final verses of Genesis Ch19, that, ***"although they serve a good purpose, cannot be a text for a sermon"*** and that many other preachers "skip" over them (Cited in James Montgomery Boice, Commentary on Genesis, page 641)! Why? The reason being of course, is that Moses records for us incidents of incest (Incest is sex between close relatives), which to any society is abhorrent!!

These verses, like other similar verses in the Bible, should cause us to think and ask, "Where would you like your family, your children, your friends, to learn about the facts of life?" Is it not better for our family, our children our friends to learn about the facts of life, through the true stories of the Bible, where sin is condemned and life situations and human beings can be the recipients of God's amazing grace?

Lot's two daughters, who were rescued by God's messengers, His angels from Sodom (Gen Ch19:16) have an awful plan? They believe that they can only secure their future, by taking "a leaf out of" their father's book! What is the origin of the idiom "take a leaf out of one's book" and when is it used? ***The idiom "take a leaf out of one's book" originated from the practice of using a book as a source of inspiration or guidance. The phrase suggests emulating or***

imitating the positive qualities, actions, or behaviours of another person.

What a terrible plan! Remember Ch19:8, Lot's cowardly suggestion? How ironic!

Sadly, as v33 + v35 reveal, "So they made their father drink wine that night" (elements of Gen Ch9:21 – Noah), and the unthinkable becomes a reality, all because people take matters into their own hands, with no hope in God! ***Remember Ch9:24-25, Noah getting naked and drunk, Ham, acting in a sinful way? Without God, Noah had no human power to curse, only if the Lord acted!*** Sin is still a huge issue for Man post the flood! Noah gets drunk and Ham breaks what will be the 5th Commandment! Noah when he wakes, from his drunken stupor, curses HAM! NOPE! He curses Canaan, Ham's 4th youngest son (Ch10:6). ***WHY?*** 5 times in 12 verses (Can you find them?), the word "Canaan" is used by Moses in this passage. Remember God is talking to Moses at the top of Mount Sinai, and Moses writes the first 5 books of the Bible, narrated by God. Where are the Israelites at this moment, at base camp! And where have they just left, and where are they going to? ***EGYPT + CANAAN!*** Why curse Canaan and not Ham? We need to have an overview of Leviticus Ch18, where in 30 verses, 22 times the word "nakedness" is used for the understanding of a sexual relationship! Noah, I would suggest is prophesying! God allows Noah to have future insight into how the Canaanite people will be a constant thorn in Israel's side!

How would you now characterize Lot and his two daughters lives?

LOT'S DESCENDANTS! V37-38

If only we could see and taste and be comforted by God's grace! What will God now do?

If only Lot had headed towards the hills in the promised land, and took shelter with Abraham his Christian uncle (Ch13:18 + Ch18:1- Abraham and the Oaks of Mamre near Hebron)! If only!

These verses didn't really need to be recorded by Moses, did they? Incest, isolation, widowed, sexual shame! Did we really need to know? ***YES!***

BUT WHY? BECAUSE OF CHRIST!

The names Moab and Ammon, are the names of the sons born to Lot's daughters! They become tribes and thorns in the future life of Israel! But they are also mentioned or referred to in the genealogy of Jesus! ***In the Gospel of MATTHEW CH1:5***, Ruth the Moabite woman, married to Boaz, great grandmother of King DAVID, in the genealogy of Jesus!

And in the same Gospel, Ch1:7, Solomon's son, king Rehoboam, whose mother was one of King Solomon's wives (one of his 700 wives + 300 concubines), Naamah (2nd Chronicles Ch12:13 – Naamah the Ammonite)! Of all the wives and concubines and children, Naamah and Rehoboam are chosen!

- ***God is willing to take human sexual scandals and nail them to the cross of Christ!***
- ***God is willing to take human sexual shame and nail them to the cross of Christ!***
- ***God is willing to take human any and all sexual sin and nail it to the cross of Christ!***
- ***There is no sin in this world that cannot be taken to the cross of Christ, where real human beings can receive forgiveness from God, through the redeeming blood of Christ!***

We have to preach Christ!

APPLICATION

The prophet Hosea wrote of Israel in the days of their national decadence, saying that they had sowed “the wind” and were to “reap the whirlwind” (Hosea Ch8:7), how could this be applied to Lot's life and ours?