

An Offering

Righteous Lot - Genesis 19

God sent two angels to warn Lot and his family of the pending destruction of Sodom and Gomorreh. It was evening when the angels arrived at the city of Sodom and found Lot at the city gate.

Upon their arrival Lot, not knowing that they were angels from God, invited the strangers to stay at his house and rest. They indicated that they would spend the night in the town square. Lot insisted and they followed him to his house where he prepared a meal for them.

Before going to sleep that night men from all over the city of Sodom came and surrounded Lot's house. They called to Lot instructing him to release his guests to them so they could commit terrible sins with the strangers. Lot refused and advised them against their wickedness.

Then something happened that absolutely stings the mind to even think about it. As unbelievable as it sounds, the words are clearly recorded in the text of the Bible. As a parent I cannot conceive of what happened; as a father of five girls I am completely repulsed at the thought.

Lot called back to the men of the city and . . . Offered them his own daughters for their sexual exploits . . . Was he out of his mind!?!

The Mighty Warrior Jephthah - Judges 11

Jephthah was an outcast among the Israelites. His mother was a prostitute, so he was driven away from his family and denied any inheritance from his father.

However, when Israel found herself facing a war against the nation of Ammon, she needed a strong warrior to lead her. The elders of Israel called on Jephthah to lead them in battle.

Jephthah was clearly bitter over the way he had been treated but agreed to lead Israel in battle with one condition: he would become their head. The elders agreed and Jephthah became the general of their armies and head of their nation.

The Bible says that the Spirit of God came upon Jephthah as he led Israel, and he made a vow to God. Jephthah vowed that if he was victorious, he would offer as a burnt offering whatever came out of his house upon his return.

It is doubtful that Jephthah could have imagined what would happen. Most likely he thought an animal would exit his house and that he would

joyfully kill the animal as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God.

Jephthah was successful in battle and the Ammonites were defeated. Upon his return home, however, it was not an animal that exited the doors of his house, but his daughter.

Jephthah was devastated as he saw his daughter knowing that he had made a vow to God that could not be taken back.

It is something that makes the mind numb. How could a man be so foolish? How could he have overlooked this possibility? How could he possibly keep this vow; how could he not keep it?

Our minds race with thoughts of the horror of the situation. But the broken hearted warrior . . . Offered his own daughter . . . Was he out of his mind!?!

An Offering

Many years ago, years after the days of Lot and Jephthah, the world was in turmoil. The power of sin reigned and there was no hope for mankind. But Deity looked down with compassion hearing our cry and . . . God offered his only begotten Son . . . Was He . . . !?!