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ABRAHAM PART 26

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

In Genesis 19:30 it tells of Lot, having left Sodom and now he leaves Zoar, finds a cave in the mountain wherein to dwell. Only his two unmarried daughters were with him. All of his other children perished in Sodom's destruction along with his wife. The three, Lot and his two daughters, are alone and the entire Plain of Jordan with its five cities have been destroyed. The whole territory is devoid of life.

It was a disgrace in those times for a man to have no son to carry on his name. Consequently, his two daughters devised a plan (Genesis 19:31-38) to give him an heir. This was their human "wisdom." They would get Lot stone drunk, then they would take turns sleeping with him so as to get pregnant. Lot did not seem to know of their intentions, and he became too drunk to know what he was doing.

Their plan of incest worked. The elder daughter bore a son, Moab, and the younger bore a son Ammon (Benammi). How did this "plan" work out in the long term?

Both of these men produced nations that lasted for approximately 1,500 years. They were situated on the east side of the Salt Lake, not far from the former sites of Sodom and Gomorrah. They were fierce warring nations steeped in idolatry.

About six hundred years later, as Moses lead Israel in the wilderness, Moses was told by God to do them no harm as they were blood related to Abraham. However, after another 400 to 600 years later, the Moabites and Ammonites became Israel's enemies and made war against them. They continued to be against Israel until neither one was a nation any longer (about 200-300 B.C.).

The "plan" devised by Lot's daughters brought much war, death, and conflict to God's chosen people for hundreds of years. Be aware that you may not escape consequences for your bad choices from your own past. Yes, God forgives the sin, and you stand guiltless and righteous before Him. That does not remove the adverse consequences that might occur years later. God can help you bear it by His grace, and sometimes the consequences might be taken away from you. When they aren't taken away, God's grace is sufficient to see you through.

He loves you that much.