

VEXED SOULS

Request: “What is a vexed soul? I read in 2 Peter that Lot had a vexed soul. Could you explain it to us?”

Before we study Lot’s vexed soul, we need to examine our lesson text.

Our lesson text begins with a second class conditional clause (“if” / 2 Pt.2:4). A second class conditional clause (2cc) assumes something to be contrary to fact. Robinson – “The thing in itself may be true, but it is treated as untrue.”

A conditional clause has a protasis [‘if’ part] and an apodosis [‘then’ part].

In our lesson text, the protasis is 2cc (ei+ind) [if] clause that runs from 2 Pt.2:4-8. It consists of four parts (2 Pt.2:4; 2:5; 2:6; and 2:7-8). The main idea is rescue or deliverance. The main idea is linked from 2 Pt.2:7 to 2 Pt.2:9.

The 2cc apodosis (‘then’ + any verb) continues the main idea of rescue into 2 Pt.2:9-11. The apodosis clause has three parts: Lord knows (2 Pt.2:9); unrighteous (2 Pt.2:10); and elect angels (2 Pt.2:11).

In the KJ Bible, the English word **vex** is used twice (2 Pt.2:7, 8). In the NAS Bible, the word **vex** is translated as oppressed (kataponeo) in 2 Pt.2:7 and it is translated tortured (basanizo) in 2 Pt.2:8. Notice that there are two different words with two different meanings about the same spiritual problem.

This lesson will study five aspects of how Lot’s soul became vexed (oppressed and tortured) by living among the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

1. The Bible says that Lot’s soul became oppressed and tortured by living among the ungodly people of Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Pt.2:6-10).

You will see that Peter gave 9 things that vexed the soul of Lot (ungodly, sensual conduct of unprincipled men, lawless deeds, unrighteous, indulging flesh in its corrupt desires, despise authority, daring, and self-willed, and reviling angelic majesties).

But this is the unsaved world without any restraint placed upon depravity by governing authority to suppress evil behavior (1 Pet.2:13-17; Rom.1:24-32; 13:1-7; Jude 7; Ezek.16:49-50).

This is the world that believers are called to be lights in – “That you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.” (Phil.2:15)

Why would this vex Lot’s soul?

2. It is interesting that each time Lot’s soul is mentioned as being vexed (oppressed and tortured), the Lord gives one Greek word in response (rhuomai/ rescue or deliver) (2 Pt.2:7-9).

There are **eleven** different Greek words for ‘deliverance’. This makes rhuomai important to Lot’s soul problem.

Rhuomai means to rescue from or to preserve from or to deliver from. The context determines what one is delivered from. In Lot’s case, the [why] and the [from what] are the same regarding the need for rescue.

3. In Lot's case, deliverance meant removing him bodily from Sodom rather than removing Sodom from his soul (Gen.19:1-29). The Lord is directing Lot to His geographical and directive will.

However, it is a soul problem and not a physical one. This means that his vexation will continue.

This shows that the spiritual problem is with Lot's vexed soul. He had sodomized his soul with *cosmos diabolicus* (evil) thinking.

Lot had compromised living the Word of God for living materialistic comforts among an ungodly people (Gen.13:9-11; 18:20; 19:13). (Titus 2:11) "Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age."

4. You have heard people say "you can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy"; well this is idea behind the vexed soul of Lot.

Sodom began living in Lot while Lot was living in Sodom.

This is what I meant by Lot sodomizing his soul. This is what happens when a believer engages in reverse process reversionism (RPR) (Eph.4:17-20). You become the object of your love (Matt.6:21) [treasure] (drunkard, addict, swindler) (Rom.7:14-25) [love and hate].

- When the angels came to Lot to warn him about the impending divine judgment, Lot's son-in-laws thought he was jesting, Lot (Gen.19:14), he was fearful of leaving (Gen.19:30), his wife looked back (Gen.19:26), and his daughters committed incest with a drunken Lot (Gen.19:36).

(Col.3:2-3) "Set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

5. Lot and Sodom had both received an earlier divine warning regarding their ungodly life (Gen.14).

The coalition army attacked and easily defeated them and carried off Lot along with the people and possessions of this area (Gen.14:17). Abraham with 318 men defeated this great army and rescued Lot and the people, and then returned all of their possessions.

Yet neither Lot nor Sodom and Gomorrah repented and took God seriously. Lot did not take this divine discipline seriously!

(Heb.12:11) "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."

He didn't take it seriously because Lot didn't take the Word of God seriously!

(2 Tim.3:16-17) "All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

Lot had become a volitional slave to living in Sodom for the materialistic benefits in spite of the ungodly behavior of the people and culture (Eph.4:20-24; Rom.12:2).

(2 Cor.10:5) "We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."