

Some themes and topics within Genesis 18-19

roughly in order of appearance

1. **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE CHAPTERS AND GEN 17**

If Gen 17 is from “P,” and Gen 18 from “J” or “non-P,” what about all the ways the story flows from ch. 17 to ch. 18?

2. **INSIDE/OUTSIDE THEMES**

Male/female: various “entrances” (city, house, bodies) as “female”; entering them as “male”

Citizens vs. strangers: how the Sodomites and Lot see each other

City vs. earth: in the city or out of it as a home

3. **HOSPITALITY: RURAL VS. URBAN**

Comparing Abraham’s and Sarah’s provision in 18.1-8 with Lot in 19.1-5

4. **YHWH’S APPEARANCES**

Why appear via three “men” or “angels” only here?

5. **LAUGHTER**

What is the nature of Sarah’s laughter in 18.12-13?

It’s relationship with Abraham’s laughter in 17.17?

6. **DIVINE JUSTICE**

In 18.22-33, what standards of justice are at issue, both within the Bible and beyond?

For whom might this passage be directed?

7. **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENESIS 19 AND THE FLOOD**

God’s judgment in past and future

Relationship between Genesis 19 and Judges 19

8. **ANGELS**

Why the “men”/“angels” only here and not earlier or again later? How are we to understand what an “angel” was for the original audience?

9. **HOMOSEXUALITY**

Considering earlier scholarship and what we know now about human sexual orientation, rape, etc.

10. **IMMIGRATION/MIGRATION**

Lot as an “alien” to the Sodomites

11. **PATRIARCHY/FEMINISM**

Why would Lot offer his virgin daughters to his rape-minded neighbors?

Lot’s wife: what’s with becoming a “pillar of salt”?

What about his daughters getting him drunk and themselves pregnant at the end?