

*Question: What about Lot sleeping with his daughters?*

This is in reference to Genesis 19.30-38 where Lot's wife had perished (v.17, 26), leaving only Lot & his 2 daughters. With no other men around, the daughters were concerned about continuing their lineage, something very important in those times, & decided to take things into their own hands (v.31-32). They devised & carried out a scheme to take turns getting their father drunk so they could "lie with him" & became pregnant (v.36).

First of all, this is a historical account of an event that actually happened. It is not a recommendation, condoning or commandment by any means. It is simply the record of an event. Similarly, just as we read about Adam & Eve disobeying God, doesn't mean that we should disobey God.

Regardless of their stated intentions of carrying on the family line, they went about it in an entirely sinful way. They got their father drunk & carried out their deeds without his consent, thereby deceiving & dishonoring him (v.33, 35). Though, Dad might possibly share in some blame because he gave up his responsibilities when he over-indulged in wine... twice. However, it stands to reason that the girls were likely influenced by the sex-crazed culture of Sodom where they grew up (18.20-21, 19.4-5). Not to mention what their relationship with their father may have been lacking (v.8).

Some may claim they weren't sinning because this occurred before such laws were given (Lev. 18.6). Though one can contend that Lot's daughters knew it was wrong, hence the reason they had to get their father drunk. In light of the noted influence of Sodom, it is worthy to note that such unbridled sexual activity was likely a large part of the city's "great" & "grievous" sin (v.18.20).

Not to mention that it seems implicitly contrary to God's design for the family where nowhere earlier is anyone exhorted or commanded by God to do such a thing. To be in line with God's unchanging character, incest is strictly forbidden everywhere later in Scripture. It is highly plausible that people inherently understood this as being wrong, but ungodly people had fostered it as is pointed out when the laws were given (Lev. 18.1-5). It is notable to mention that there was a special point in time where a brother & sister could marry, such as with Cain & his wife (Gen. 4.17), which was a necessity & at that time was not genetically problematic due to the pure gene pool (think: pure-breed), though this was later forbidden (Lev. 18.9) & now known for obvious genetic mutational problems.

Sin has consequences & the sins of this instance, resulted in sons that would create 2 nations that would torment Israel for generations – the Moabites & Ammonites (v.37-38). The nation of Israel is derived from Lot's uncle, Abraham (Gen. 11.27). Interestingly, Abraham & Sarah (Abram & Sarai), took their lineage into their hands & caused similar problems via a son born to their servant Hagar (Gen. 16.1-4). This son, Ishmael, would father a people (Gen. 21.18) that causes Israel trouble to this day (Gen. 16.11-12).

As a result of the wicked desires of the heart (Jer. 17.9) & the corrupt influence of pagan nations, various laws had to be given to protect people from not only natural consequences, but also those that result from sinning against a Holy God. However, one doesn't have to sin outwardly by physically doing something, but the sin starts in the heart. Jesus said "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matt. 5.28).

God takes sin seriously & you only have to sin once (Jam. 2.10) to fail to meet God's requirement of perfection to enter heaven (Rom. 3.23). Because God is just, He cannot overlook sin, but must punish it. But if we turn from our sin & trust that Christ took our punishment for us on the cross, God will make us acceptable because of Christ's perfect righteousness (Rom. 3.21-26). We can then know God & have eternal life (John 3.16-18, 17.3)!