THE QUESTION

Was Lot a Jew like Abraham?

Asked by a THF member on November 12, 2026 · published November 13, 2026 · 9 numbered quotations · the 35 early Christian passages and 148 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/was-lot-a-jew-like-abraham

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

The early Christian writers here do not count Lot among the Jewish people. They trace the Jews from Abraham through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob, and Lot is not placed in that line. Justin calls Lot a Chaldean by birth, and several writers say he was rescued from Sodom without circumcision or the law of Moses.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 6

The Jewish people come from Abraham through Jacob

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Aristides traces the Jewish people from Abraham to Isaac, then Jacob and his twelve sons. He adds that they were called the nation of the Hebrews in Egypt and in time were named Jews. Lot is not named in this family line.

1 “The Jews, again, trace the origin of their people from Abraham, who was the father of Isaac, from whom Jacob was born.”

later in the same passage

“And he was the father of twelve sons, who moved from Syria to Egypt. There they were called the nation of the Hebrews by the one who gave them their laws, and in time they were named Jews.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Aristides,** *Apology* 2 (c. 125–140 AD) **Source 3, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 6

Their family line runs through three fathers

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen names Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the three fathers of the Jews. Justin says the Jewish and Samaritan peoples are called the tribe of Israel and the house of Jacob. Neither places Lot in that family.

2 “It is certain, however, that the Jews trace their genealogy back to the three fathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 33 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 27, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

3 “For all other human races are called Gentiles by the Spirit of prophecy, but the Jewish and Samaritan races are called the tribe of Israel and the house of Jacob.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 4, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 6

Justin calls Lot a Chaldean by birth

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

When Justin tells of Sodom's destruction, he names Lot as the one stranger saved and describes him as a Chaldean by birth. He identifies Lot by his homeland, not as a Jew or a member of Israel.

4 “Sodom and Gomorrah are related by Moses to have been cities of ungodly men, which God burned with fire and brimstone and overthrew, with none of their inhabitants saved except for a certain stranger, a Chaldean by birth, named Lot, with whom his daughters were also rescued.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 4, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 6

God's land promise went to Abraham's descendants

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Clement recalls that after Abraham parted from Lot, God promised the land to Abraham and his descendants. The promise is made to Abraham's own line; Lot is named only as the one Abraham parted from.

5 “Again, when he parted from Lot, God said to him, "Look up, and from where you are, look north, south, east, and west; all the land you see, I will give to you and your descendants forever. I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth, so if anyone could count the dust of the earth, then your descendants could be counted."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 34, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 6

Lot was rescued from Sodom uncircumcised

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus and Justin both name Lot as a man God brought out of Sodom though he was uncircumcised. In these lines his rescue does not depend on circumcision.

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6 “Similarly, Lot, without circumcision, was brought out from Sodom, receiving salvation from God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 13, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

7 “Lot, being uncircumcised, was saved from Sodom, the angels themselves and the Lord sending him out.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 5, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 6

Lot was rescued for godliness and righteousness

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement says Lot was rescued from Sodom because of his hospitality and godliness, showing that God does not abandon those who hope in Him. Tertullian calls Lot Abraham's brother and says he was delivered because of righteousness, without keeping the law.

8 “Because of his hospitality and godliness, Lot was saved from Sodom when the entire surrounding area was punished with fire and brimstone, the Lord thus showing that He does not abandon those who hope in Him, but gives up those who turn away from Him to punishment and suffering.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 35, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

9 “Lot likewise, the brother of Abraham, proves that it was because of the merits of righteousness, without observance of the law, that he was delivered from the burning of the Sodomites.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *An Answer to the Jews* 2 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 24, page 6** Read it in the library ›
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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- None of these passages says in so many words whether Lot was a Jew or a Hebrew.

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- The name Jew comes from Judah, Jacob's son, born generations after Abraham and Lot, so in the strict sense it fits neither man.
- These passages do not say whether Lot could be called a Hebrew, as Abraham is in Genesis 14:13.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 35 early Christian passages and 148 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–35, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 36–83, in Bible order), then 100 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *35 passages from 15 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 5) Abraham circumcised ten, and eight, and three hundred men of his household… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle to the Magnesians* (1885 English; on point 4) "those that were of a stony heart have become the children of Abraham, the friend of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Aristides, *c. 125–140 AD · source 3*

3 *Apology* 2 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "Jews, again, trace the origin of their race from Abraham, who begot Isaac, of whom was born Jacob… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 4–7*

4 *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quotes 3, 4, pages 2, 3** "the Jews and Samaritans, having the word of God delivered to them by the prophets, and always expecting the Christ, did not recognise Him when He came, except some few… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Dialogue with Trypho* **Quote 7, page 4** "being uncircumcised, was saved from Sodom, the angels themselves and the Lord sending him out… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 3) with Abraham, and [Abraham] returned to his place. Two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom;' and what follows until, 'But… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 4) used; they are these: 'And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian slave woman, whom she bore to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac, and said to Abraham, 'Cast… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *Diatessaron* 42 and took them all away. So the coming of the Son of Man will be. And as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating and drinking, buying… [continues online] **read ›**

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9 *Diatessaron* 35 said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my words, truly you are my disciples. And you will know the truth, and the truth will make… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 10*

10 *To Autolycus* 24 (on point 1) “his son Abraham, our patriarch, begot Isaac when he was 100 years old… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 11–15*

11 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 4) testifies to him, first by raising up children for him from stones and making his descendants like the stars of heaven, saying, "They will come from the east and the… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Against Heresies: Book IV* would instruct us and say: "Regarding the misdeeds for which the Scriptures themselves blame the patriarchs and prophets, we should not criticize them or become like Ham, who mocked his… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** “he was called the friend of God.” Then, again, Lot, without circumcision, was brought out from Sodom, receiving salvation from God… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 4) So, the promise of God, which He gave to Abraham, remains steadfast. For He said: “Lift up your eyes, and look from this place where you are now, towards the… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English; on point 2) “therefore, Isaac, and Jacob, our fathers, are to be esteemed before all, since they did indeed afford us such early examples of virtue… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 16–20*

16 *Instructor* 1.6 I was a child," may be elegantly explained in this way: that is, when I was a Jew, for he was a Hebrew by descent, I thought as a child… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Stromata* 2.20 (1885 English; on point 3) “dwelt at Babylon, as Lot at Sodom, and Abraham, who a little after became the friend of God, in the land of Chaldea… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Stromata* 2.19 (1885 English; on point 4) “Abraham, who had children by three wives, not for the indulgence of pleasure, but in the hope, as I think, of multiplying the race at the first, was succeeded by… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Stromata* 4.17 (1885 English; on point 6) “faith and hospitality, Rahab the harlot was saved… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Stromata* 7.16 Gospel, even at the very moment when he has come to know salvation, not turn back, as is said of Lot's wife. And let him not return either to… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 21–24*

21 *Against Marcion* 40 (on point 4) for that reason he deserved to be called the father of many nations, while we, who are even more like him in believing in God, are thereby justified as Abraham… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Against Marcion* 34 (on point 4) steps, to heaven are built by the Creator, who also promises that the seed of Abraham shall be like the stars of heaven, certainly by virtue of the heavenly promise… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *On Monogamy* 6 (on point 5) “in uncircumcision. You have the apostle. Learn from him, together with the Galatians. In like manner, too, if you have involved yourself in digamy, you are not the son of… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *An Answer to the Jews* 2 **Quote 9, page 4** “Most High God, uncircumcised and not observing the Sabbath, was chosen for the priesthood of God. Lot likewise, the brother of Abraham, proves that it was because of the merits… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 25–26*

25 *Refutation of All Heresies* 26 (on point 1) “Peleg, and of this Peleg, Genesis 11:16, the father is Heber. And so the Jews came to be called Hebrews. In the time of Phaleg, however, the dispersion of… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Refutation of All Heresies* 14 (1885 English; on point 2) “when he mentions three patriarchs — Abraham, Isaac, Jacob… [continues online] **read ›**

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Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 27–29*

27 *Against Celsus* 33 **Quote 2, page 2** “is certain, however, that the Jews trace their genealogy back to the three fathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4.1 (on point 2) “the flesh are not the children of God;" "nor are they all Israel who are of Israel;" "nor is he a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is that circumcision… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Against Celsus* 48 (1885 English; on point 5) “yet the latter was derived from their ancestor Abraham, the father of Ishmael, who underwent the rite of circumcision along with his father… [continues online] **read ›**

Julius Africanus, *c. 232–265 AD · sources 30–31*

30 *Extant Writings* 1 (on point 4) “belonged to him, was sent away with greater riches. In Canaan, the shepherds of Abraham and of Lot quarreled with each other. So, by mutual agreement, they separated. Lot chose… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Extant Writings* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “the Jews, deriving their origin from them as descendants of Abraham, having been taught a modest mind, and one such as becomes men, together with the truth by the spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · source 32*

32 *Three Books of Testimonies Against the Jews* (on point 4) faith, and that life was in it: “Now the just shall live by faith in me.” Habakkuk 2:4 Therefore Abraham, the father of the nations, believed. In Genesis it… [continues online] **read ›**

Pamphilus, *c. 250–309 AD · source 33*

33 *Exposition on the Acts of the Apostles* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “The rising and slanderous information of the Jews against Stephen, and his address concerning the covenant of God with Abraham, and concerning the twelve patriarchs… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *sources 34–35*

34 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 5, page 3** “known as "the friend," was found faithful because he obeyed the words of God. In his act of obedience, he left his own country, his relatives, and his father's… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “account of his hospitality and godliness, Lot was saved out of Sodom when all the country round was punished by means of fire and brimstone, the Lord thus making it… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *48 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

36 **Genesis 4:20** Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise cattle. **read ›**

37 **Genesis 10:22** The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram, and Cainan. **read ›**

38 **Genesis 11:27** These are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran fathered Lot. **read ›**

39 **Genesis 11:31** Terah took Abram his son, Lot the son of Haran, his son’s son, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, the wife of Abram his son, and he led them out of the land of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan. They came as far as Haran, and Terah settled there. **read ›**

40 **Genesis 12:4** So Abram went, as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he went out of Haran. **read ›**

41 **Genesis 12:5** Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother’s son, all the possessions they had acquired, and every person they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go into the land of Canaan. **read ›**

42 **Genesis 13:1** So Abram went up out of Egypt into the wilderness, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him. **read ›**

43 **Genesis 13:5** Lot, who went along with Abram, also had sheep, oxen, and tents. **read ›**

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44 **Genesis 13:7** And there was quarreling between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle. The Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land at that time. **read ›**

45 **Genesis 13:8** Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no quarreling between me and you, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. **read ›**

46 **Genesis 13:10** Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the region around the Jordan, that it was all well watered (before God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah), like the garden of God and like the land of Egypt, all the way to Zoar. **read ›**

47 **Genesis 13:11** So Lot chose for himself all the region around the Jordan, and Lot set out from the east, and they separated from each other. **read ›**

48 **Genesis 13:12** Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot settled in a city of the surrounding region and pitched his tent in Sodom. **read ›**

49 **Genesis 14:12** They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, and his household, and went away, for he was living in Sodom. **read ›**

50 **Genesis 14:13** One of those who had escaped came and told Abram the emigrant. Abram was living by the oak of Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and the brother of Aunan, who were Abram's sworn allies. **read ›**

51 **Genesis 14:14** When Abram heard that Lot his nephew had been taken captive, he counted his own servants born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them as far as Dan. **read ›**

52 **Genesis 19:6** Lot went out to them at the doorway, and he shut the door behind him. **read ›**

53 **Genesis 19:9** But they said to him, "Stand back there! You came in to live as a foreigner—and to pass judgment as well? Now then, let us treat you worse than them." And they pressed hard against the man, Lot, and came near to break down the door. **read ›**

54 **Genesis 19:29** So when God destroyed all the cities of the surrounding region, God remembered Abraham, and he sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when the Lord overthrew the cities in which Lot lived. **read ›**

55 **Genesis 19:30** Then Lot went up out of Zoar and stayed in the mountain, he and his two daughters with him, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. And he lived in the cave, he and his two daughters with him. **read ›**

56 **Genesis 21:28** And Abraham set seven female lambs of the flock by themselves. **read ›**

57 **Genesis 22:22** Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel." Bethuel fathered Rebekah. **read ›**

58 **Genesis 23:18** to Abraham as a possession before the sons of Heth and all who were going into the city. **read ›**

59 **Genesis 24:1** Abraham was old, advanced in days, and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. **read ›**

60 **Genesis 25:7** These are the years of the days of Abraham's life, as many as he lived: a hundred and seventy-five years. **read ›**

61 **Genesis 25:19** These are the generations of Isaac the son of Abraham: Abraham fathered Isaac. **read ›**

62 **Genesis 25:20** Isaac was forty years old when he took as his wife Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian from Mesopotamia of Syria and the sister of Laban the Syrian. **read ›**

63 **Genesis 28:7** and that Jacob had listened to his father and his mother and had gone to Mesopotamia of Syria. **read ›**

64 **Exodus 1:2** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, **read ›**

65 **1 Chronicles 1:3** Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, **read ›**

66 **1 Chronicles 1:25** Eber, Peleg, Reu, **read ›**

67 **1 Chronicles 1:26** Serug, Nahor, Terah, **read ›**

68 **1 Chronicles 1:27** Abraham. **read ›**

69 **1 Chronicles 1:28** The sons of Abraham: Isaac and Ishmael. **read ›**

70 **1 Chronicles 1:32** And the sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine: she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Midian, Medan, Ishbak, and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan: Dedan and Sheba. **read ›**

71 **1 Chronicles 1:34** Abraham fathered Isaac. And the sons of Isaac: Jacob and Esau. **read ›**

72 **1 Chronicles 2:2** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. **read ›**

73 **1 Chronicles 8:22** Ishpan, Obed, Eliel, **read ›**

74 **Nehemiah 10:32** We will also lay commandments on ourselves, to charge ourselves a third of a didrachm yearly for the service of the house of our God: (Septuagint 2 Esdras 20:33 (Nehemiah 10:32 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

75 **Job 5:6** For trouble shall by no means come out of the earth, nor shall pain spring up from the mountains; **read ›**

76 **Job 5:7** but man is born to trouble, and the young of the vulture fly on high. **read ›**

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77 **Proverbs 12:21** Nothing unrighteous will please the righteous, but the ungodly will be filled with evils. **read ›**

78 **Song of Solomon 6:3** I am my kinsman's, and my kinsman is mine; he shepherds among the lilies. **read ›**

79 **Matthew 1:2** Abraham became the father of Isaac. Isaac became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of Judah and his brothers. **read ›**

80 **Acts 7:8** He gave him the covenant of circumcision. So Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day. Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs. **read ›**

81 **Hebrews 7:4** Now consider how great this man was, to whom even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth out of the best plunder. **read ›**

82 **Hebrews 7:6** But he whose genealogy is not counted from them has accepted tithes from Abraham, and has blessed him who has the promises. **read ›**

83 **James 2:23** And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Now Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *100 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 2:24 · 9:18 · 15:6 · 17:27 · 32:29

Exodus 32:34

Leviticus 26:41

Deuteronomy 32:10 · 32:23

Psalms 18:26

Isaiah 1:9 · 33:13 · 33:14 · 52:5 · 54:1

Jeremiah 2:13 · 4:4 · 5:8

Malachi 1:2 · 2:15

Matthew 3:7 · 3:9 · 5:5 · 5:32 · 8:11 · 9:29 · 12:36 · 19:4 · 19:8 · 19:17 · 22:29 · 23:9

Luke 1:46 · 1:52 · 3:8 · 6:12 · 7:37 · 9:20 · 9:35 · 9:62 · 10:21 · 14:11 · 16:11 · 16:18 · 16:19 · 16:22 · 16:23 · 16:29

John 1:3 · 1:17 · 2:18 · 3:36 · 6:40 · 19:34

Acts 7:5 · 7:6 · 7:51

Romans 2:29 · 4:3 · 4:11 · 4:12 · 8:5

1 Corinthians 3:10 · 4:15 · 6:15 · 9:22 · 12:13 · 13:11 · 14:20

2 Corinthians 2:15 · 4:4

Galatians 1:6 · 2:16 · 3:5 · 3:6 · 3:7 · 3:13 · 3:16 · 3:23 · 3:26 · 3:28 · 4:7 · 4:28 · 5:2

Ephesians 4:5 · 5:8

Philippians 3:3

Hebrews 2:2 · 5:10 · 7:1 · 11:4 · 11:5 · 11:7 · 11:13 · 11:17

1 Peter 3:19

2 Peter 2:5 · 2:6 · 2:7

1 John 2:18

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Was Lot a Jew like Abraham?” on November 12, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 13, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY