

GENESIS

Genesis 19 | "The Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah"

I. THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH (19)

A. (v. 1)

1. **"And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;"**

a. "And there came two angels to Sodom at even"

- 1) The "two men" mentioned earlier (Gen. 18:2, 22) were actually two angels!
- 2) Cf. Genesis 18:20-22 - The LORD told Abraham, "And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD."
- 3) Sometimes we think that God overlooks the sins of a wicked city, but that is not true. He hears the cry of wicked cities. In this case, the cry of the cities of *Sodom and Gomorrah* were great, and *their sin* was very grievous.
- 4) **Q** = What was *the sin* of Sodom that had it destroyed?... Most people think it was Homosexuality. However, that is only one of the sins listed, though it was a major reason for her destruction.
 - a) Cf. **Ezekiel 16:49-50** - The prophet Ezekiel described the sin of Sodom - "*Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.*"
 - i. Pride
 - a. They thought they were better than everybody else.

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- b. They felt that they were superior.
 - ii. Prosperity
 - a. They were wealthy and lacked nothing.
 - b. They had developed to such a high degree that they didn't need God.
 - iii. Idleness
 - a. They had lots of time on their hands to pursue pleasure!
 - b. When you have a lot of time to do nothing, so that you don't get bored you try to entertain yourself. However, the experiences that once brought a thrill and pleasure to you start to fade, so you look for new experiences.
 - iv. Uncaring
 - a. They became callous and indifferent to the needs of the people around them because they were so absorbed with themselves.
 - b) KEY: These were the ROOTS of the sin of Sodom that led to open and aggressive homosexuality!
- 5) KEY: The sin of Sodom was the PUBLIC AND AGGRESSIVE REBELLION of the homosexual community that was tolerated and accepted by the society.
 - a) Cf. **Isaiah 3:9** - The prophet Isaiah, in speaking of Jerusalem and Judah, said, "*The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.*"
 - i. **KEY:** When I look at our society in the United States today, and I see the aggressiveness of this segment of society —

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the blatant openness with which they parade their sin — I realize how far down the road we have gone, and how near we are to the end.¹

- b) Cf. **Jude 7** - *"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."*

b. *"and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom"*

1) The DOWNWARD PROGRESSION of Lot:

- a) Looked toward Sodom. (**Gen. 13:10**)
- b) *"Pitched his tent toward"* Sodom. (**Gen. 13:12**)
- c) *"Dwelt in"* Sodom. (**Gen. 14:12**)
- d) *"Sat in the gate"* of Sodom. (**Gen. 19:1**)

i. Lot had become one of the Elders of the city, a position of authority and prominence.

- a. **KEY:** He was probably elevated to this position because of his WEALTH (**Gen. 13:5-7; 14:16**) and STATUS as the nephew of Abraham, the one who rescued all the inhabitants of Sodom (**Gen. 14:16-17, 22-24**).

2) *"the gate of Sodom"*

- a) Archeologist Dr. Steven Collins and his team discovered the gate at Tall el-Hammam. During the Middle Bronze Age, Sodom was protected by an imposing rampart fortification system that greatly enhanced the already substantial defensive wall

¹ Chuck Smith. *Answers For Today*, p. 139
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that surrounded the city during the Early Bronze Age. The fortifications were over 100 feet thick, and as tall as 50 feet high!²

B. (v. 2)

1. ***"And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night."***

a. "house"

1) Lot is a wealthy man that owns a *house* in the city of Sodom, and has a role in the local government (v. 1).

a) **NOTE:** Contrast Lot, who has set up permanent residence in the city, with Abraham, who is a nomad living in a tent.

C. (v. 3)

1. ***"And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat."***

a. "and he made them a feast"

1) **Q** = Where was Lot's wife? Why didn't she make the meal?...

a) Maybe she was doing something else (i.e. working, running, shopping, at the spa, lounging by the pool, etc.)

b) Maybe she was upset because she didn't want anybody over, and Lot didn't clear it with her first. Maybe the house wasn't clean.

c) Maybe she just wasn't very hospitable.

² <http://nebula.wsimg.com/5e3f98b5a2648cd4ee9724ccc490bf03?AccessKeyId=AD0C503627C3B88E5A7F&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

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D. (v. 5)

1. **"And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them."**
 - a. *"that we may know them"*
 - 1) *"know"* - Heb. *"intimately know"*
 - a) They were demanding Homosexual relations with these men.
 - b. Here we see the OPEN AGGRESSIVENESS of the homosexual community.
 - 1) **NOTE:** The society of Sodom had become so morally weak that the homosexual community rose up and had become so strong that they felt a freedom to express their perversion openly. Society had accepted it.
 - 2) **KEY:** Whenever a society is so weak that those who are perverted in nature feel that they can openly push their agenda and make public demands and become aggressive, then you have a society that is ready for the judgment of God. That is the final affront to God.
 - a) When I look at America, and especially California, I see the same sin here and its ultimate and final manifested form: open, aggression of the LGBTQ community.
 - i. The PRIDE parades and marches.
 - ii. The lawsuits over wedding cakes, marriage licenses, etc.
 - iii. The "Safe Zones" on college campuses.
 - iv. The pushing of their agenda in the school classroom, even as young as Kindergarten.
 - v. Every TV show now has to have a gay or lesbian couple as a representative of their minority group.

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- b) The aggressive agenda against Christianity.
 - i. Infiltrating churches and denominations, even having homosexuals ordained to the ministry.
- 3) **NOTE:** I find it interesting that the Homosexual Community despises the Church, yet it is the presence of the Church in their society that is holding back their destruction and judgment!
 - a) Cf. **Romans 1:26-28** - *"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"*
- 4) **NOTE:** I DO NOT BELIEVE IN GAY-BASHING. I believe that we are to love the LGBTQ community. God loves them! (**John 3:16**) And because we love them, we need to speak the truth of God's Word and lead them to Christ.
- 5) **KEY:** I am just telling you what the Bible says is the FINAL STAGES of a society that will fall under the judgment of God.
- c. Possible Sodom/Minoan Connection:
 - 1) During their excavations at Tall el-Hammam, Dr. Collins discovered Minoan pottery, which indicates a Sodom/Minoan connection.
 - 2) The Minoans were an ancient civilization on the island of Crete, and one of their customs was Cretan pederasty, which involved the ritual kidnapping of a noble boy by an adult male of the aristocratic class, with the consent of the boy's father.

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- 3) The ancient historian Strabo (64 B.C.—21 A.D.), said the Minoan culture on the island of Crete had a custom where older men would abduct young boys and rape them as a type of right-of-passage.³
- a) Strabo: “They have a peculiar custom in regard to love affairs,⁵⁸ for they win the objects of their love, not by persuasion, but by abduction; the lover tells the friends of the boy three or four days beforehand that he is going to make the abduction; but for the friends to conceal the boy, or not to let him go forth by the appointed road, is indeed a most disgraceful thing, a confession, as it were, that the boy is unworthy to obtain such a lover; and when they meet, if the abductor is the boy's equal or superior in rank or other respects, the friends pursue him and lay hold of him, though only in a very gentle way, thus satisfying the custom; and after that they cheerfully turn the boy over to him to lead away; if, however, the abductor is unworthy, they take the boy away from him. And the pursuit does not end until the boy is taken to the "Andreium" of his abductor. They regard as a worthy object of love, but the boy who is exceptionally handsome, but the boy who is exceptionally manly and decorous. After giving the boy presents, the abductor takes him away to any place in the country he wishes; and those who were present at the abduction follow after them, and after feasting and hunting with them for two months (for it is not permitted to detain the boy for a longer time), they return to the city. The boy is released after receiving as presents a military habit, an ox, and a drinking-cup (these are the gifts required by law), and other things so numerous and costly that the friends, on account of the number of the expenses, make contributions thereto. Now the boy sacrifices the ox to Zeus and feasts those who returned with him; and then he makes known the facts about his intimacy with his lover, whether, perchance, it has pleased him or not, the law allowing him this privilege in order that, if any force was applied to him at the time of

³ ³ Strabo, *Geography*, 10.4.21 http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Strabo/10D*.html

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the abduction, he might be able at this feast to avenge himself and be rid of the lover. It is disgraceful for those who are handsome in appearance or descendants of illustrious ancestors to fail to obtain lovers, the presumption being that their character is responsible for such a fate. But the parastathentes⁵⁹ (for thus they call those who have been abducted) receive honours; for in both the dances and the races they have the positions of highest honour, and are allowed to dress in better clothes than the rest, that is, in the habit given them by their lovers; and not then only, but even after they have grown to manhood, they wear a distinctive dress, which is intended to make known the fact that each wearer has become "kleinos,"⁶⁰ for they call the loved one "kleinos" and the lover "philetor."⁶¹ So much for their customs in regard to love affairs."⁴

E. (v. 7)

1. "And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly."

- a. Lot knew that what they were doing was *wicked*, and he called them out on it.
 - 1) Cf. **2 Peter 2:7-8** - "*And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)"*
 - a) Lot was troubled by their culture. It bothered him every single day.

F. (v. 8)

1. "Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to

⁴ Strabo, *Geography*, 10.4.21 http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Strabo/10D*.html

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them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof."

- a. **Q** = How could Lot be willing to sacrifice his virgin daughters to be gang-raped so that these two men are not gang-raped? Why would he do something so horrible?...
 - 1) Some have suggested that Lot was offering his daughters knowing that these homosexual men wouldn't want them, and he was being diplomatic.
 - 2) We do know that in the Middle Eastern culture, women were held in low esteem, and a guest in your home was to be protected more than your own family.
 - a) This is still the custom of many of the Bedouins and Middle Eastern cultures.

G. (v. 9)

1. *"And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door."*

- a. Lot had tried to fit in with the crowd and be accepted in the eyes of the world, but when it came down to it, the world turned on him!
 - 1) **KEY:** The world will turn on you the moment you don't go along with their agenda, especially if it's to live a godly life for Jesus Christ.

H. (v. 11)

1. *"And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door."*

- a. "blindness"

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- 1) This Hebrew word is used only 1x elsewhere in the Bible (**2 Kings 6:18**), and it speaks of *blindness with mental bewilderment*.
- 2) In other words, it's mental confusion that is a result of distorted vision.

b. *"they wearied themselves to find the door"*

- 1) This shows the lustful, insistent heart of unbridled passions! They were struck with *blindness*, and in their burning lust, they still were trying to get through the door!

I. (v. 14)

1. **"And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law."**

a. *"But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law"*

- 1) They did not take Lot very seriously and thought that he was just playing games with them, so Lot lost his two married daughters and their husbands who stayed behind.
 - a) **NOTE:** When our walk is compromised with the world, our family will see it and not take us seriously when we speak of the coming judgment.

J. (v. 17)

1. **"And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."**

a. *"look not behind thee"*

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- 1) "look" - Heb. "look intently; regard; consider; behold; observe; gaze"
 - a) Cf. **1 John 2:15-17** - "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

K. (v. 22)

1. **"Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar."**
 - a. "Zoar" - Heb. "Little; Insignificant"
 - 1) Dr. Steven Collins identifies Zoar with the modern Wadi Mujib, where the Arnon River goes into the Dead sea, which is located⁵ 27 miles south of Sodom.

L. (v. 23)

1. **"The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar."**
 - a. "risen" - Heb. "gone forth"
 - 1) In other words, the Sun had completed its daily course and was setting in the West by the time Lot came to Zoar. Thus, Lot had from dawn to dusk to travel the 27 miles from Sodom to Zoar!⁶

M. (v. 24)

⁵ DMS 31° 27' 57" N, 35° 34' 24" E Decimal 31.465833, 35.573333

⁶ <http://nebula.wsimg.com/0d519d0111379eea15fb8378d115b958?AccessKeyId=AD0C503627C3B88E5A7F&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

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1. "Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;"

a. Life had been going on as usual for those in Sodom and Gomorrah, but judgment did come. And it was at a time they didn't expect!

1) Cf. **Luke 17:28-36** - "*Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*"

N. (v. 25)

1. "And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground."

a. "overthrew" - XX Gr. *katastrophen* - "brought a catastrophe on"

1) Same word used in Peter's 2nd epistle:

a) Cf. **2 Peter 2:6** - "*And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;*"

O. (v. 26)

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1. **"But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."**
 - a. "looked back" - Heb. "gazed; considered; regarded"
 - 1) This has the idea that she was longing for Sodom and *gazing* back at Sodom, which was a direct violation of the command given by the angel (v. 17).
 - a) Cf. **Luke 9:62** - Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
 - b. "from behind him" - Heb. "back from behind; away from; away back"
 - 1) This has the idea that she was *gazing* and longing for Sodom in her heart, which is causing her to linger *behind* a ways. She was disobeying the angel (v. 17).
 - c. There is a WARNING in here for us:
 - 1) Cf. **Luke 17:32** - Jesus said, "**Remember Lot's Wife.**"
 - a) "Remember" - Gr. present imperative active - "continuously be remembering"
 - 2) **Q** = Do you *look back* to your past and time in the world with longing? Do you kind of miss the good old days? Have you been experiencing a draw back to the old life?... *Be remembering Lot's wife!*
 - 3) **Q** = Why did you give up the old life and the things of the world to begin with?... Because it had nothing to really offer you! It was empty!
 - 4) **KEY:** The world and the old life had absolutely nothing to offer you, and it still has nothing to offer you! Why would you want to go back?! "Remember Lot's wife!"

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P. (v. 30)

1. **"And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters."**
 - a. "he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters"
 - 1) **NOTE:** Lot went from being a rich tent dweller, to a city dweller in a house and a big family, but ended up in poverty with only his 2 virgin daughters, living in a cave!

Q. **TWO OBSERVATIONS FROM THIS CHAPTER:**

1. **Homosexuality is considered a grievous sin, worse than any other sexual sin.**
 - a. There are degrees of sin, and homosexuality is considered one of the worst types of sins.
 - b. Homosexuality is a sin that God will eventually judge.
2. **In the future Messianic Kingdom, Sodom will be restored!**
 - a. There will be a city known as Sodom, a saved nation, a moral city in that day!
 - 1) Cf. [Ezekiel 16:44-57](#)

R. **CONCERNING NEW TESTAMENT QUOTATIONS AND APPLICATIONS OF THIS PASSAGE:**

1. Cf. [Matthew 11:23-24](#)
 - a. Jesus said that it would be "more tolerable for Sodom in the day of judgment" than for Capernaum.
 - 1) **KEY:** Although homosexuality is a grievous sin, an even more grievous sin is having been confronted with spiritual truth, especially concerning the Messiahship of Jesus, and rejecting it.

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2. Cf. **2 Peter 2:6-9**
 - a. Lot is usually portrayed as a "carnal Christian," but that's not actually the case found in Scripture. He was *righteous* and *vexed* in his soul.
 - 1) **NOTE:** Lot was attracted to the area of Sodom, and he was able to stay pure. But, what was the price that Lot paid for this?... It cost him his entire family! The morals of his entire family were corrupted, though Lot himself stayed pure.
 - 2) **KEY:** Lot was strong enough to withstand the temptations and the evil that was in Sodom, but his family was not.
 - b. Many times parents make a foolish mistake as they dabble with the things of the world, and allow their kids to watch R-rated movies. The parents say, "As an adult, I can handle it, and I saw stuff like this as a kid. It doesn't really bother me." We feel that we can watch those kinds of things and not be dramatically affected by them. But, what you don't realize is that your kids will see some of those things and they're not emotionally mature enough to process those emotions and they can't handle it.
 - 1) While you feel you can live in Sodom and not be affected, you do not consider the damage it can do to your family. You may survive, but your children often become the victims and they don't survive.
 - 2) **KEY:** If you love your children, then keep your house PURE!
 - 3) **KEY:** Compromise will eventually destroy you and/or your family!
 - a) Cf. **Galatians 6:7-8** - "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."
 - b) **Q** = What kind of music are you listening to? What's the lyrical content?...

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- i. You say, "I can handle it." But, can your kids?!!!
 - 4) **NOTE:** This is the last we hear of Lot's story. This is his LEGACY — He was saved, but his family was lost.
 - a) **Q** = What's *your* legacy going to be to your family?...
 - c. **KEY:** There's nothing wrong with a Christian living in a wicked city like San Francisco! They need the Lord! However, it is imperative that the city doesn't get into the Christian!
 - 1) I believe that God wants Christians in places like San Francisco, Las Vegas, Hollywood, etc., but make sure you're called to live there if you do!
- 3. Cf. **Jude 7** - Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of sexual immorality in that they went after *strange flesh*, sexual unity that was not normative. In their case, it was homosexuality.