



**“Whoever reads the Old Testament must struggle with the apparent brutality of God’s judgment found there. For many people this is as far as they read. They stumble over the violent passages we call the ‘hard sayings.’ Some even go so far as to argue that the Old Testament God-a shadowy God with a bad temper, a kind of demonic deity whose blazing wrath is beneath the dignity of the New Testament God of love. In this chapter I want to stare the Old Testament God right in the eye. I want to look at the most difficult, most offensive passages we can find in the Old Testament and see if we can make any sense of them. This chapter is not for the weak of stomach or of heart.” – R.C. Sproul**

**“And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah).” – Gen. 13:10**

**“The Bible does worry, you know. There are hints of this anxiety in chapter 13. The Bible seems to be trembling over what is to come.”  
– Dale Ralph Davis**

**“...just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.”**

**– Jude 7**

**“It is true that in the rest of Scripture Sodom is connected also with a number of other sins: Isa. 1:9,10 and 3:9 connect it with blatant indulgence in all kinds of iniquity; Jeremiah 23:14 with lying and adultery; and Ezekiel 16:49 with pride and prosperity combined with the neglect of the poor. But all these texts display the same spectrum of iniquity that Romans 1 describes, in which sexual sins are only part of the larger pattern of corruption in the pagan world. Sodom was not destroyed because it specialized in homosexuality, but because it was a plague center of every kind of depravity, including pride, sensuality, and injustice.” – James Boice**

**“Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.”**

**– Gen. 13:13**

**“...and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard).” – 2 Peter 2:7-8**

**“God means for the world to see him as glorious, both in his mercy and his wrath. It’s not as though he is glorious when he shows mercy and inglorious when he shows wrath and judgment. Both his wrath and his mercy are glorious.” – John Piper**

**“For God to be truly and finally good to his whole creation he must remove from it whatever spoils and destroys its goodness-ideally by repentance, but if necessary by judgment.” – Richard Baucham**

**“Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. ‘Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! And you Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades...But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.’ – Matthew 11:20-24**

**“But why such woes for Capernaum, which had been Jesus base for missions thus far and even his adopted hometown? What had they done to deserve this? Like most normal people in the world, they were not guilty of any notorious crime or of anything particularly offensive or inhumane. Here we find no normal atrocities-genocide, ethnic cleansing, or the sodomy of the Sodomites. Here we simply have the normal perversity of disbelief in Jesus. Disbelief? Is that the worst sin in the world? Everyone ranks sin differently-murder, adultery, stealing, parking in a handicap space without a sticker, eating trans fats. But disbelief-failure to trust in Jesus? That’s not even on some people’s list. Well, it’s on Jesus list, at the very top! A contemporary comparison would be a person who grows up in a country where Christianity is prominent or at least normative (e.g., the USA!), has been surrounded by the gospel taught and lived out at church and homes by Christian parents and others, and yet rejects the saving grace of God. Perhaps this describes you. Be warned. It is not trivial matter to know so much and not believe.” – Douglas O’ Donnell**

**“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and**

**lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” – Matt. 11:28-30**