Genesis, part 42 – Lot's Sad Ending (Genesis 19:1-38)

"So the two men ("angels") arrived in Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the city gate. When Lot saw the two men, he rose and went to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground." Genesis 19:1

"And Lot said, 'Sirs, please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night there – and then go on your way early in the morning.'" Genesis 19:2a

"They answered and said, 'No, we'll spend the night in the city square.' But Lot insisted so strongly that they went with him and entered his house." Genesis 19:2b

"Before they went to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom – both young and old – surrounded Lot's house. And they called out to Lot and said, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we can have sex with them.'" Genesis 19:4, 5

The fact that the "old men" of the city were involved as well as the "young men" tells us just how deeply infected with sin the town of Sodom had become!

"So Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him, and said, 'No, my friends. Do not do this wicked thing. I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring **them** out to you and you can do what you wish with them. But do not do this to these men, for they've come under the protection of my roof.'" Genesis 19:6-8

"Then the men said, 'Get out of our way! This man (Lot) came here as a foreigner – and now he presumes to play judge over us! We'll treat you (Lot) **worse** than we treat them!' And they kept bringing pressure on Lot and moving forward to break down the door." Genesis 19:9

"But the two men ("angels") reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. Then they struck the men at the door, young and old with blindness." Genesis 19:10

"Then the two men said to Lot, 'If you have anyone else in this city who belongs to you . . . get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place . . .'" Genesis 19:12, 13

"When Lot hesitated, the men grabbed his hand, and the hands of his wife and his two daughters, and pulled them out of the city." Genesis 19:16

"As soon as the men had brought them out, they said, 'Flee for your lives! Don't look back and don't stop anywhere in the plain . . . or you will be swept away.'" Genesis 19:17

"Then the LORD rained down fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah and thus He overthrew those cities **and** the entire plain **and** all the vegetation in the plain." Genesis 19:24, 25

"Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt." Genesis 19:26

Question #1 – "Did the destruction of Sodom happen as a real historical event?"

Reason #1 – All the rest of the Bible says it did

"God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes . . . but rescued Lot . . ." 2 Peter 2:6, 7

Jesus refers to Sodom and Gomorrah six times in the Gospels – and **each time He reaffirms** that they were destroyed precisely as the Bible says!

"It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building." Luke 17:28

"But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and brimstone rained down from heaven and destroyed them all." Luke 17:29

Reason #2 – The archaeological and historical evidence

Tacitus (100 A.D.) [Histories, Book V, chapter 7]
"Not far from the Dead Sea is a plain, which, according to reports, was once quite fertile and was the site of many great cities, but which was later devastated by violent lightnings."
"In fact, traces of that disaster still exist there, and even the very ground there looks **burnt** and has lost all its fertility."

When it comes to the area of Sodom and Gomorrah – the Bible **AND** archaeology **AND** the historical accounts from two thousand years ago all agree that something positively catastrophic happened there!

Question #2 – "How did this event happen?"

"Then the LORD rained down fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah." Genesis 19:24

"God said it . . . I believe it . . . and that settles it for me!"

- Lot's wife = pillar of salt
- Lot's daughters = defiled themselves
- Lot spent the rest of his life living in a cave with all of his wealth evaporated.

So What?

". . . a righteous man . . ." 2 Peter 2:7

Lot had "the imputed righteousness of Christ" just like his uncle Abraham did.
But He still made a really bad choice that "botched up" his life.

Lot chose to be **greedy**.

One of the key principles in the Bible aimed at keeping us out of trouble is the principle of "**contentment**."

"Keep your lives free of the love of money and be content with what you have . . ." Hebrews 13:5

"For what good is it, if a man gains the whole world and loses his soul? Matthew 16:26a

"But people who want to get rich fall into temptation, and into many foolish and harmful lusts that plunge people into ruin and destruction." 1 Timothy 6:9

The whole reason Lot chose to move to Sodom to begin with was because of the wealth and affluence there!

"Lot saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered like the land of Egypt." Genesis 13:10

"So Lot set out toward the east . . . and pitched his tents near Sodom." Genesis 13:11, 12

"Now Lot, who was moving about with Abraham, also had flocks and herds and tents and the land could not support them while they stayed together, because their possessions were so great . . ." Genesis 13:5, 6

Lot already had **more than he needed**, but he was greedy.

"But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinning greatly against the LORD." Genesis 13:13

As a godly man, Lot should have been moving farther away from sin – not closer to it!

But his greediness for "more" drove Lot to make a really bad choice that (1 Timothy 6:9, 10) "plunged him into ruin and destruction . . . and pierced him through with many a grief."

"When is enough – enough?"

When is it time to . . .

- **Thank** God for it . . .
- **Enjoy** it . . .
- **Use** it for God's work . . .
- **Stop** looking for more and more ways just to get "more"?

"Watch out and be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for a person's life does not consist of the abundance of their possessions." Luke 12:15

"Greed is good. Greed is right. Greed works." Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) in the movie *Wall Street*

Greed took all these people down – and Jesus warns us – if we're not careful – it will take us down too!

Greed comes in many forms – not just "money."

"People have confessed to me every known sin except the sin of **greed**." St. Francis of Assisi

Only the Holy Spirit can expose the greed that lives in every one of our hearts.
And once exposed – only the Holy Spirit can help us control that greed.

"Search me, O God, and reveal my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way." Psalm 139:23