

The Book of Jude (Part 8) - Sodom and Judgement May 1, 2021

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/4ghgg33/the-book-of-jude-part-8>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

[Video montage]

The letter of Jude. The warnings of history to the ungodly. Wolves in sheep's clothing.

[Daniel Joseph]

All right, Shabbat Shalom. Awesome. We are going to pick up where we left off in our last message. If you remember, we began to look at the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. This is obviously a story that the writer, Jude, has brought to the table for a purpose. He has a reason to do this. And what he's looking to do is he's looking to radically awaken our spiritual senses. He's looking to awaken us to the reality that there is another side to God than what most believers are recognizing or even willing to recognize.

In other words, we can talk about how God is a God of love, and it's beautiful to be in that camp. That's where we need to be, but He's also a God of justice. We can talk about how God is a God of *chesed* (חֶסֶד). He's a God of mercy and loving kindness, but He's also a God of wrath, which is very, very important. You know, it's easy as a believer, and I can tell you from my own personal experience—it's so much easier to gravitate towards those attributes that we really want, that we enjoy, that we like, that help us, that are beautiful, and we tend to abandon the other attributes.

We've got to accept the whole counsel of God. We have to accept His whole character and recognize these things, and this is exactly what Jude is doing. Jude is coming to the table. He's bringing this; he's awakening you to this reality that God is a God of justice. He is a God of judgment, and it's coming, and if we do not take heed to that, we're going to end up just like the inhabitants of Sodom. We're going to be taken out.

And so, we're going to continue to dig into this story today. We're going to finish this story out, and there are so many precious nuggets of truth. There's so much here on a prophetic level and even on a relevant level for us right now, where we can take the things that we're learning and apply them to our lives right now. There's so much there that we want to extract, that we want to draw out. And so, we're going to do that today. I really think if you pay attention today, it's going to develop you. It is going to develop your faith in a really powerful way.

With that said, with no further ado, let's break into Verse 9 where we left off last time, and this is what we read: — Genesis 19:9— **And they said**—this is the inhabitants of Sodom—**"Stand back!" Then they**

said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

Again, we talked about this a little bit, but it came to a head. Everything came to a head right here. You have the inhabitants of Sodom who are looking to pervert and to know carnally these angelic beings who literally have stood in the presence of the Living God and seen Him in His infinite glory, and these inhabitants want to pervert them. They want to pervert themselves with an abominable act. It's absolutely awful. But then it gets even crazier when Lot comes in and attempts to bring moral clarity to the situation and says, "My brothers, don't do so. Don't commit such wickedness." Then they turn on him. That's when they turn on him.

And you have to understand the environment. The environment is such that judgment is looming; it is at the door, and what is the behavior of society at that time? The behavior of society is total wickedness, total contempt for the Word of God, and hatred for His morality and for the biblical principles. They want nothing to do with it. They become intolerant of Christians. They become intolerant of those who cling to the faith, just as we see here. See, this is what you can expect when you know judgment is at the door. Now, all you have to do, as I mentioned before, is look out your front window. Go to your front window, open up your computer, start navigating, and start looking for different articles that exist, and what you will see is that there's a burning hatred for Christians right now. There's a hatred for the Word of God. There's a hatred for people.

I just read this article yesterday from one of the Ivy League professors coming out and demonizing homeschoolers because they believe in Christian principles. And there's an overlap between homeschoolers and Christianity. This stuff is going to continue; do you know why? Because judgment is at the door. I am telling you; I cannot preach this enough. That's how soon we know God has left us this. Remember what the rabbis say, "*Ma'aseh Avot Siman LaBanim*" (מעשה אבות סימן לבנים). "The deeds of the fathers are a sign for the children." You need to take heed of these things; you need to recognize that these things exist so you know where you're at. This is where we're at today.

Pushing forward, breaking new ground, we read this in Genesis 19:10-11—¹⁰ But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. ¹¹ And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness—listen to this, both small and great, this is amazing—so that they became weary trying to find the door (emphasis added).

Mind-blowing because you know what I would expect to see? When God pours out His plague upon the people, one second I can see, and the next second none of us can see. What you would think is that they would drop to their knees and say, "Oh God, I know not what I do. I know not what I do; have mercy upon me." These men are so committed to diabolical evil that even after receiving this plague, they didn't stop pursuing their evil pursuits. I mean, try to process that. That's the kind of evil that is going to exist before the LORD returns, before judgment is poured out.

And I'm going to tell you right now, look at this and study it closely because this behavior, this atmosphere, exists in our country today; no question about it. We can't kill enough babies. You can't offer enough on the altar of Baal. I mean, the things that we're seeing, the sexual immorality that exists in the world right now—there are no boundaries anymore. Absolutely, talk about being out of control; it's insane. And all they want is more, more depravity. We're in the doldrums of depravity right now. This is the environment I would expect to see right before God pours out His wrath—scary.

Moving on to Genesis 19:12—**Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—look at this: take them out of this place!"** (Emphasis added). Get out. Where have you heard that before? Revelation 18:4, **"... Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."** That is a prophetic call. The same call we see here in Genesis is the same call that exists in Revelation. Absolutely amazing.

And notice, this is not just about Lot. This is so amazing because what you're seeing here, again, I tell you, is the gospel that brings salvation. The angels are coming to Lot with a message. And it's not from their point of view; it's not their own opinion. These angels are bringing the Word of the LORD. This is the Word of the LORD, and He is telling them what they need to do to be saved. It's the gospel coming in, and notice in addition to that, it's not just about Lot; it's about His loved ones.

Moms and dads, listen to me carefully. These angels with the Word of the LORD knew judgment was looming; it was going to happen, and Lot, as a father, was commanded, "Go get your sons, and go get your daughters because it's coming." And I'm going to tell you right now, you don't have any more time. This is not the time for Mom and Dad to sit back and go, "Well, you know what, my kids just haven't listened to me over the past years." Well, you know, Daniel, if I come in, if I come to talk to my kids, all that happens is I just push them further away.

I'm telling you right now, listen to what these angels are saying, listen to the Word of the LORD, because this is where we're at right now. Go get them; there is no more time. There is an urgency to the gospel, especially when you see the depravity that is ensuing in this nation and around the world. You have to move; you have to go. Stop trusting in your own abilities. Stop worrying about saying it wrong or that you're going to do it wrong. Pray and go in the Holy Spirit. God can do this, but you have to move. You have to act; I can't stress that enough, because what I don't want to see is us losing our loved ones. We don't want that.

Genesis 19:13—**"For we will destroy this place."** Well, now they're given a motivation. You want some motivation, Lot? Here it is; everything's going to be destroyed—**because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."** (Emphasis added).

Pure and simple, this is the motivation. Judgment is coming. What teeth does the gospel have without judgment? None; it doesn't. I mean, when you come and say to me, "Well, you know, Jesus loves you, and He died on the cross for your sins." And? "Well, your sins, you know, you have to have your sins forgiven." And? Well, who cares? What does it matter? It matters because of Genesis 19:13, because this is what's coming. Judgment is coming. All sinners are going to be destroyed, and unless you get right with Yeshua, unless you confess your sin, there is no hope. Unless you get out of Sodom, there is no hope.

And so, you want to talk about a relevant message? This is relevant for us today, and this is the proclamation. You know, I look at this; this thing is woven throughout the tapestry of Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, the LORD is taking the time, chapter after chapter, book after book, to warn you that this judgment is on its way. There's supposed to be some motivation here. The terror of the LORD is supposed to be inside of us, and it gets us to overcome and gives us the strength to overcome our flesh and our fleshly desires.

I want to give you an example. One of my favorites is Isaiah 13:6-9—⁶ **Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand!** What does that mean? Judgment; judgment is at hand. **It will come as destruction from the**

Almighty. ⁷ Therefore all hands will be limp, every man's heart will melt, oh, ⁸ **And they will be afraid.** So, you know, it's interesting to me because I can look out, and I can see mankind, humanity dripping with arrogance and pride and foolishness. That's going to change in a moment. They're going to be terrified. They will be afraid. **Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; they will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; they will be amazed at one another; their faces will be like flames.** ⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel; it is cruel, **with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.** (Emphasis added). This is the exact same message that the angels just brought to Lot. I kid you not, it's the gospel. This is the warning.

This was the message that John the Baptist brought in his ministry. What was his ministry? —Matthew 3:2—... **"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"** The first words in Yeshua's ministry were—Matthew 4:17—**"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."** Meaning, judgment is coming; you've got to turn now. You've got to get out of Sodom. You have to get out of Babylon. You have to get out.

There's one thing here I want to highlight that is going to take you to a much deeper level of understanding, and that is this: —Isaiah 13:9— **Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger.** You know, some time ago, I don't even know how long ago, I can remember thinking that the LORD opened up His Word to me in such a way that I stood back, and I'm like, "Man, I have a one-dimensional view of judgment." I have a very one-dimensional view of judgment, and I have the sense that my depth of understanding just wasn't there. I'm clear on the fact, "Oh, hey, judgment's coming," but I didn't really understand it. Let me explain to you what I mean. The LORD showed me judgment is a symptom; judgment's a symptom. It's a symptom of what? God's anger. That opened up a whole new world for me. It gave me a better understanding of what judgment is about—God's anger. When God gets angry, he lays everything waste—to **lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.** (Emphasis added).

Now think about that, because what I do know is, this is tangible for each and every one of you. How many of you have seen men get angry, and it's uncontrolled; it's unleashed anger? What happens when men are given over to anger? People get hurt, people die. Where do you think murder comes from? Murder comes from anger. What happens when the all-powerful omnipotent becomes enraged and consumed with anger? And actually, it's interesting because the Torah talks about the LORD as a raging inferno. He's an all-consuming fire. What happens when the LORD lights up? Everyone dies; that's what happens. I mean, you want to talk about giving me a perspective on the judgment. It's so much deeper now that it's personalized. There's a character of God that I'm recognizing. He is mad. He is so angry, and this is what's so scary: when He unleashes that anger, who can help? Nobody can help.

Let me take this a step further. We read in Psalm 7:11—**God is a just judge ...** Again, an attribute we typically don't think about, but even in the reading of the Ten Commandments today, you will find that reality there. —Exodus 20:5-6—⁵ **... visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,** ⁶ **but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.** In other words, what it's saying is, He's a just God. Right within the Ten Commandments, you have God being portrayed as a merciful God, and you have Him being portrayed as a just God. This is what we have.

The psalmist goes on and says this in Psalm 7:11—**... and God is angry with the wicked every day...** (Emphasis added). See, it is so important that we have this perspective because those Christians who are right now practicing sin, are in some form of addiction, whatever that may be, and they're constantly

stumbling, stumbling over and over, not realizing God is getting angry. He is angry with the wicked every day. That makes a difference in how I view my relationship with the LORD. We're making Him angry.

In fact, in Psalm 5:5, if you go back just a couple of chapters, it says, “... **You hate all workers of iniquity.**” I don't want that side of God. I don't want to see that side of God. See, what the devil wants to convince you is this: “Oh no, God doesn't hate you. You can continue to sin. It's okay.” And the devil is attempting to mask the reality that He is fuming, getting to the point of fuming. Now this is not to say, “Hey, because you stumbled on that, all right, the LORD has turned into a raging inferno. No, no, He holds back. He holds back because He is merciful. But make no mistake, if you continue to rebel against Him, and we have so many examples we could talk about and have talked about. This is the side of God that you're going to see. His anger leads to total destruction. Destruction is the symptom of His anger.

Then it goes on and says in Psalms 7:12-13—¹² **If he does not turn back**—so, if you do not repent—**He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready.** ¹³ **He also prepares for Himself, oh, instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts** (emphasis added). Is this the God we know? He's making instruments of death while you are wallowing in your sin. Do not be deceived; this is happening. If you think you're going to claim and profess the holy name of Yeshua, you're going to confess that before men, but you're going to continue walking in iniquity. You think you're going to view porn privately on your computer when nobody's watching? I'm telling you right now, the LORD is sharpening His sword. He is making instruments of death for you.

Now you might say, “Well, Daniel, that's very Old Testament.” Well, hold on a second; go to Revelation Chapter 2. Go to the church at Thyatira, and Yeshua—this is Yeshua—He comes out and says in Revelation 2:20-23—²⁰ “... **You allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.** ²¹ **And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.** ²² **Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed ...** ²³ **I will kill her children with death ...**” Yeshua is literally saying, “Guess what? I'm preparing for war against you. I am making instruments of death. If you do not turn back, this is what's going to happen. I'm coming.” All those who cater to the deceitful teaching that you can live like hell and inherit heaven, I'm coming for you.

Now, this is a spiritual awakening. It's through teachings like this that the Great Revival began, the First Great Awakening. Guys like Jonathan Edwards in 1741, preaching to sinners in the hands of an angry God. Angry God—this is what took men out of sin. This is what brought them to their knees. This is what gave men a real prayer life to know the reality, a reality that the devil doesn't want you to know. Because this is the same lie the devil told Eve in the garden. No, it doesn't matter that you sin; you're okay. You don't have to worry about it. You will surely not die. You're fine; you can continue in this. No, you can't; you cannot do it.

And so, follow the logic here, the biblical logic. We have judgment, which is a symptom of God's anger. But now it begs the question, why is God angry? Sin. See, sin causes God to be a raging inferno, which will lead to judgment. Stop the process, stop it altogether, and run from sin; turn back to Him and repent. He is a merciful and loving God. He is faithful.

Continuing on in our story, we read this in Genesis 19:14— **So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!”**... (Emphasis added). Isn't that awesome? Okay, so these angels—follow this: the angels brought the Word of the LORD; they brought the gospel that brings salvation to Lot. What did Lot do when he

received the Word? He is now bringing it to others, telling exactly what he was told. He is sharing the Word of the LORD with his sons-in-law now. Giving the opportunity—here, receive salvation; you can be spared.

The only problem is—Genesis 19:14—... **But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.** (Emphasis added). He delivers the message of salvation, which he himself readily accepted. He believed it; it was the truth. But now he brings it to his sons-in-law, and they think, "Are you kidding? You're nuts." They don't believe it. His sons-in-law can go out, and they can look at what's going on. And they're going to say, "Really, Lot? I don't see anything. You know what? Today looks just like yesterday and the day before that and the day before that; I don't see any evidence of this judgment." Do you know what these sons-in-law don't believe? They don't believe in the message. They don't believe in the Word of the LORD. Do you know what they don't believe? They don't believe that Sodom is going to be called to account for their sins. That is what they don't believe. And this is exactly what the inhabitants of this country, and even throughout the world, do not believe today.

There are so many who don't believe any of this is going to be called into account. It's absolutely terrifying to see what's going on. To see that I'm not reading that history lesson anymore, I'm living this. I'm walking this; I am a part of the story of Sodom right now, just as you are. We look at this powerful verse, Psalms 10:13—**Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, "You will not require an account."** (Emphasis added).

Do you understand why people continue to go on in rebellion? They don't believe there are going to be any repercussions. It isn't going to matter. Again, going back to the garden, this was the problem. Eve did not believe that God would require an account. Oh, why? Because Satan told her. He told her you will surely not die. Nothing's going to happen just because you eat of a tree. You're actually, I'm going to tell you, Eve, you're going to be enhanced. You're going to be enlightened. It's this type of deception that we are wallowing in right now in this country; it's unbelievable. And this is what I should expect to see if, in fact, we're living in the generation of Sodom as we are. It's painful. I mean, this is where your heartstrings start to be tugged, and this is where you begin to moan over the things that are going on.

We need to be like Lot. We need to believe as Lot believed. Lot believed the Word of the LORD with no reservation. There was no doubt at all. He doesn't come to the sons-in-law as he's talking to them and say, "Well, you know what?" And I've heard people preach the gospel like this, and it makes me bananas. "You may not actually believe this, but wouldn't you want to just err on the side of caution? Why don't you just humor me and come out of the city for a while and do this?" Does Lot present that message? No, he presents the Word of the LORD. Hell is coming; get out. It's really simple. He doesn't have to massage it; he just has to speak the truth. They don't believe it. They don't believe it.

Continuing on in Genesis 19:15-16—¹⁵ **When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."** ¹⁶ **And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters ...** Now, you have to look at this. What's being expressed here is, remember, there are four people now. Sons-in-law don't believe; they're not coming. But now you have four people. You have Lot and his wife, and you have the two daughters. How many angels do you have? You have two angels. Literally, what you see is that the first angel grabs Lot in his wife's hand. He has two arms; he grabs their hands and personally leads them out. The second angel grabs one arm of each daughter.

In other words, what you literally see, this prophetic insight, is that you have the angels of God escorting this family to safety, to salvation. This is exactly what we read in Matthew 24:31— **And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.** The angels are coming to get you. The angels are coming just as they did with Lot. This is an amazing prophetic story.

See, here's the beauty. This is kind of the silver lining today. This is not all about doom and gloom. There's hope; there's hope. This is what we look forward to: we look forward to the angels coming out of heaven. Can you imagine what this is going to appear like as they burst forth out of Heaven? The inhabitants are terrified out of their minds as the angels start coming and getting the elect, and they will also, according to Matthew 13:49-50—⁴⁹ **“... come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”** That's an amazing thought.

Let's finish this out, going back to Genesis 19:16— **And while he, Lot, lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters—listen to this—the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city** (emphasis added). It's actually in the text. The fact that Lot was spared—the fact that he was taken out of Sodom—was the mercy of God. Lot experienced mercy. Well, wait a second, why does Lot get to experience this graciousness, the grace of God, and all the other inhabitants are absolutely destroyed?

Well, Peter takes up the cause in our companion epistle. The very same message that Jude is preaching, Peter preaches in Second Peter, and I want to take you there to show you this because Peter articulates this in an absolutely incredible way, telling us this is exactly why Lot was spared. — 2 Peter 2:6-8—⁶ **and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;** we're actually going to get into that deeper, the LORD willing, next week, but moving on to verse seven, ⁷ **and delivered righteous Lot,** something we've talked about. Here Peter identifies him as righteous, **who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, oh, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—**(Emphasis added).

You know, he references Lot three times; all things are established on the testimony of two or three, and he references Lot three times as righteous, and then he proceeds to tell us why. Why would Lot be spared? Yes, he was righteous, but notice there's a characteristic that Peter homes in on here. And what is that? He couldn't handle sin. He couldn't stomach it; it was awful. It tormented his righteous soul.

Now, I bring this up because I'm telling you right now, if you're not in agony, if you're not tormented over the things that are happening right now, all the sin that is being committed, all the immorality that we see with our own eyes that is happening, you are as dead as they come. You are spiritually dead. There is no life in you. Something is wrong. Something is dramatically wrong because we can go throughout Scripture, and the Psalms do an amazing job. The Psalmist in Psalm 119:158—**I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, because they do not keep Your word.** Something should be happening on the inside. If you have the Holy Spirit dwelling within, you will grieve the things that are taking place as Peter talks about Lot grieving. We need to be like Lot. This is why Lot was spared.

Let me build on this, and I want to take you to the Book of Enoch. Since Jude has such an affinity for this book, he speaks to this very thing. We read this in Enoch 48:7— **And the wisdom of the Lord of Spirits hath revealed Him** (Jesus); it's a messianic passage that refers to the Son of Man, the Mashiach, who we

know to be Yeshua, **to the holy and righteous; for He hath preserved**, and no pun intended here, but the lot of the righteous. Okay? He's preserved **the lot of the righteous**. Why? Well, this is what's interesting: we learn this **because they have hated and despised this world of unrighteousness, and have hated all its works and ways in the name of the Lord of Spirits** (emphasis added). It's disgusting.

See, when the righteous look out on the world today, all they see is Satan has vomited his filth and uncleanness all over the place, and they see mankind licking it up. It's disgusting. It has to be repulsive. If sin is not repulsive, you need to get the Holy Spirit, you need to get saved, you need to get right with Yeshua, you need to call upon His name, and you need to confess your sin and say, "LORD, I know I'm not right. I don't have Your heart." Lot had the LORD's heart; the agony that the LORD feels over sin, Lot felt that. We need to have that.

I want to take you to the Apocrypha, The Wisdom of Solomon, or some people just refer to it as the Book of Wisdom. It says this in Wisdom of Solomon 10:6—**Wisdom rescued a righteous man when the ungodly were perishing; he escaped the fire that descended on the Five Cities** (emphasis added). I want to be clear, this is not a general statement of righteous people; this is explicitly about Lot. That's very important. And this is kind of interesting because this was written long before; we're talking mid-first century BC, long before Peter wrote his words, and yet Peter writes the exact same thing. Some would consider that Peter might be borrowing from the Apocrypha. The point being, wisdom rescued a righteous man.

In other words, Lot heeded the LORD's voice. He heeded counsel. He heeded wisdom. And that's what saved him. And we know this because he could have behaved just like his sons-in-law. Think this is a joke. What a joke. I don't see any evidence of, you know, us going to be called into account for our sin. I don't see any evidence of judgment. I'm not going to listen. Lot could have taken that path. Oh, he believed every word. He heeded wisdom, and it saved him. That's what it will do for us.

I love this, one of my favorites, in Hosea 10:12—**whoever sows righteousness will reap mercy!** This is why Lot received mercy. He sowed righteousness. And again, don't let the devil deceive you. You will reap what you sow. You want to sow uncleanness, you want to sow idolatry, you want to sow covetousness in your life, you want to chase after the things of the world, and you want to cave to fear, to the fear of the world? Don't expect to inherit heaven. Don't expect that He's going to say (Matthew 25:21), **"Well done, good and faithful servant."** It's going to be, "You were a faithless servant. You did not believe. You didn't believe judgment was coming; you did not believe that. You paid no attention to My anger as you committed sin day after day after day. I was getting angry; I was sharpening My sword, but you didn't hear."

Genesis 19:17—**So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! See the Word of the LORD: run for your lives. You think of Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 6:14-15—¹⁴ ... what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial?** None, run, get out of Sodom, get out of Babylon, and save your life. And this is what's being communicated here. It is the Word of the LORD. I love this, again, thinking of Psalm 119:59-60—⁵⁹ **I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies.** ⁶⁰ **I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments.** He moves to keep the commandments; he hears the Word, and he goes.

Now look at what the angel says next in Genesis 19:17—**... Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain** (emphasis added). Don't do it. Don't be as (Proverbs 26:11) **a dog returns to his own vomit.** You

don't get to come into the gospel, get baptized in the name of Yeshua, and then get to turn your head back and go, I kind of want to go do the things of the world again. I kind of want to do at least some of the things that I used to do. I want to go, you know; there are parts of my old life that I want back. You're dead. You cannot do it. Yeshua says in Luke 9:62—**"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."** Cannot happen.

Then he says this; how prophetically significant. Genesis 19:17—**... Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."** (Emphasis added). Isn't this interesting? Let me share a passage with you from the Book of Enoch. I didn't put it up here, but when you read the Book of Enoch, Enoch is given a vision of the Kingdom of God. Mind-blowing imagery that is used, and what he saw. Do you know what he saw? He saw mountains. He saw seven mountains. I mean, in your mind, you're thinking menorah. But the seventh one, the middle one, was higher than the rest. And right within there, Enoch recognized it was the throne of God. It's this mountain, so you see this imagery that's being used in this story: escape to the mountains. This is where we're going. This is where the angels intend to take us, to *Shamayim* (שָׁמַיִם), Heaven, to escape the judgment of God. And that's why Isaiah 26:20 says, **"Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past."** That's what's coming.

Dropping down to Genesis 19:24-26—²⁴ **Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.** ²⁵ **So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.** Everything was destroyed; nothing was left. Nothing, God's anger. He is angry, and nobody survived. But guess what? ²⁶ **But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.** (Emphasis added). Lot's wife yearned; she was missing. See, Matthew 6:21 says, **"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."** Her eyes went to where her heart was. Her eyes were not on the Word of the LORD, on the promises of the LORD, or on the truth of the LORD, which would have led her out to the mountains; no, her eyes turned back to Sodom.

And I think about us today. I love Psalms 101:3, **"I will set nothing wicked before my eyes ..."** Nothing wicked will come before my eyes. — Matthew 6:22—**"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light."** And so, she turned back; she longed for the things of the world. Again, I warn you, if you have that hunger in your heart, you're yearning for the things of the world—you are going to be turned to salt. You do not want to do that. Trust in the LORD; trust in His ways. Don't look back. Yeah, it's amazing how the eyes are so telling of an individual and who they are and where they're at.

I want to close in Luke Chapter 17; these are the words of Yeshua. He says in Luke 17:28-29—²⁸ **"Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;** ²⁹ **"but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.** In other words, there was no sign. The wicked had no sign that judgment would come. They're eating, drinking, and giving in marriage; everything was continuing as it always had. The only way you would have known is if you believed the Word of the LORD. Faith. If you have faith, then you can see clearly. — Hebrews 11:6—**But without faith it is impossible to please him ... Amen?**

Luke 17:30-31—³⁰ **"Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.** ³¹ **"In that day, in other words, you'd better study the story of Sodom and Gomorrah because this is what it's about. It's going to tell you how it's going to be at the end of the age. In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away ...** (Emphasis added). In other

words, have no affinity for the things of the world. When you're given the message of the gospel, unless (Luke 14:33) you forsake all that you have, you cannot be His disciple. Leave it all behind.

Have you ever noticed something interesting when Yeshua called the disciples, Peter, Andrew, James, and John? They were fishermen. Go back and read it in the Gospel of Matthew. He calls them, they drop their nets, and they're gone. No looking back at all, immediately following Him. Do you have that kind of faith? Because that's the kind of faith it's going to take to make it.

I think of Ezekiel 14:13-14—¹³ “Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, there's going to be great violence, and cut off man and beast from it. Total judgment, total devastation. And then it goes on to say, ¹⁴ Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord God. That's it, by their righteousness. And it's not saying their righteousness in and of itself; it's saying that we have chosen to follow the Living God of Israel. We will hold the line.

And so, continuing to finish the rest of this passage, Luke 17:31— ... And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. You can't look back. And then Yeshua says this: — Luke 17:32-33—³² “Remember Lot's wife (emphasis added). The one thing He isolates, He centers on the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Remember her; remember what she did. ³³ “Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.” You cannot love your life to death in this age. You cannot; don't do it. Don't love your life; it will be the death of you.

So, whatever you're hanging on to in the world right now, because I am telling you, we are in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah; judgment is at the door. It is time for you to go get your children. It's time for you to get your house in order. It is time for you to get your heart in order and to get right with the LORD; it has to happen now. Hebrews 3:15—“Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” Don't rebel. Don't harden your heart. Don't lie. Don't receive deception saying, “I'm okay. It's fine.” You're not okay. None of us is okay when we're wallowing in sin, having the LORD sharpen His sword in the background, and pretending that we're going to inherit heaven when we're going to hell. This is the message that we need to heed.