



OPENING COMMENT

The rescue of Lot is not a typical rescue story. As we read through the dramatic tale of the angels' visit, we begin to understand how corrupt the city really was. Unfortunately, we also discover that Lot's decision to live in the city has had a profoundly negative impact on his own life and moral choices. In the end he reticently escapes the carnage with his two daughters, but everything else he had was consumed by fire. It is in this account that we can learn a lot about the effects of sin, the judgment of God, and the mercy of God, which causes us to wrestle with some significant current cultural realities along the way.

READ THE TEXT: Genesis 19:1-29

The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth² and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square."³ But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." 6 Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, 7 and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. 8 Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the



shelter of my roof." 9 But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. 10 But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. 11 And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door.

12 Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. 13 For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it." 14 So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

15 As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." 16 But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away." 18 And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords. 19 Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. 20 Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!" 21 He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. 22 Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

23 The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. 24 Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. 28 And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.

29 So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1. How does this text mirror these same angels account with Abraham in Genesis 18? Where are they similar? Where are they different?
2. What ways does the author show the scope of sin in Sodom?
3. Given the immediate context, how would we interpret the word “know” in verses 5 and 8?
4. What do we learn about Lot in the immediate context?
5. What do we learn about God in the context?
6. Why is Lot ultimately saved? (vs 29)

APPLYING THE TEXT

1. Lot finds himself in a place of prominence at the city gates, which is not intrinsically sinful, yet we find him being influenced by the culture instead of influencing the culture. How might we, in our places of influence, ensure we are gospel influencers instead of being influenced?
2. In what areas of life do you find yourself easily influenced by the culture around us?
3. Sodom and Gomorrah stand as an archetype of future judgment. How does that future judgment motivate or comfort you?
4. There are scientific theories as to how Sodom was destroyed (ie. An earthquake and storm simultaneously released natural gases in the area, which were ignited). Whether accurate or not, how might we interact with science, and its discoveries from a biblical perspective?
5. The clear implication from Sodom and Gomorrah is that homosexuality is one of the sins Sodom was judged for. How might we begin to winsomely interact with the culture in a way that maintains scriptural integrity, but does not alienate those who hold different worldviews? Is that even possible?¹

BIBLICAL THREAD

1. Genesis 6:-9 – first account of destruction of sin in the world.
2. Genesis 9:20-29 – First account of homosexual misconduct.
3. Leviticus 18 and 20 – laws on sexual purity.
4. Ezekiel 16:49-50 – Ezekiel comparing Sodom as a sister to Israel.
5. Matthew 10:5-23 – Jesus outlines that Sodom’s punishment is light compared to those who reject the disciples.
6. Jude 7 – Summarizes the sin of Sodom as sexual in nature.
7. 2 Peter 2:7-8 – Peter calls Lot righteous
8. Revelation 19-20 – a picture of the end judgment.

¹ Great resources: Rosaria Butterfield, Sam Albery, Harvestusa..org, livingout.org.



CONCLUSION

Sodom and Gomorrah primarily give us a picture of how seriously God deals with sin. He is not a passive God who ignores the wrongs done in this world. He hears the plight of the oppressed and will bring justice in his timing. This should be a sober reality as we fight the entangling sin found in our own lives and a motivator as we engage with those who do not yet call Christ Lord. More than that, it would grant us great comfort to know that all the wrongs committed, against us and those we love, will be accounted for. Either those found guilty will be held accountable for their sin, or their sin will have been fully paid for in Christ. This should grant us great hope as we engage a world mired in sin and so capable of inflicting pain and suffering on many levels.

We also need to heed the warning found implicit in the text. The influence the culture can and does have in our lives is a real threat to our Christian walk. We do not need to interact with fear, but we do need to be aware that as we live with others, they will have a profound impact on our worldview and we should be careful to anchor ourselves securely in the truth of scripture and the work of Christ. Otherwise, we risk becoming like Lot and finding ourselves lingering when judgement is on the horizon.

SHARE & PRAY

LIFE GROUP VISION:

The goal to meeting together around the word of God is three fold. First, we want to more clearly understand what God is saying to us through his Word and apply it to our own hearts and minds. Secondly, we want to build a loving community with each other to disciple one another toward maturity in Christ. Thirdly, we desire each of us, as ambassadors of Christ, to look outwards to our community and ask how we can bring the truth of the gospel to bear on those whom God has placed in our lives.

