



## Leaving Sodom

(Genesis 19:1-38)

### I. Sodom's Description

- **The place** - Genesis 13:10, "And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it **was well watered** everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) **like the garden of the Lord**, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar."
- **The prosperity** - Luke 17:28, "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: **They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;**"
- **The pride** - Ezekiel 16:49-50, "Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.<sup>50</sup> And **they were haughty and committed abomination** before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit."
- **The people** - 2 Peter 2:7-8, "and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by **the filthy conduct of the wicked**<sup>8</sup> (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing **their lawless deeds**)."
- **The parade** - Isaiah 3:9 (NIV), "The look on their faces testifies against them; **they parade their sin** like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves."

### II. Sodom's Depravity

- **V.3** - Lot knew what would happen if these strangers stayed in public during the night. So he "**pressed them strongly**," (ESV) or as OT scholar Gordon Wenham translates it, "manhandled" them!<sup>1</sup>
- **V.4** - "the men of Sodom, young and old, to the last man". Every man was there and desired to participate.
- **V.5** - "so that we might **know** them." (NIV - "have sex with them."; NASB - "have relations with them.") 10 out of the 12 times "know" (Heb. *yada*) is used in Genesis, it refers to sexual relations (see **Gen. 4:1, 25**).

<sup>1</sup> Gordon Wenham, *Genesis 16-50*, Vol. 2, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, 1994), 54.

- “Sinners are offended because you do not give hearty approval to their actions (cf. **Romans 1:32**). In their eyes, **absence of approval is unforgivably judgmental.**”<sup>2</sup>
- **The Bible condemns homosexuality as sin:** **Genesis 19:4-7; Judges 19:22-23; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-10; Jude 1:7**
- For further study:  
**Born This Way? Homosexuality, Science and the Scriptures** by: J. Alan Branch  
**What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?** By: Kevin DeYoung

### III. Sodom’s Destruction

- **Genesis 18:25, “...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” Hebrews 10:31, “It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”**
- Jesus used Sodom as an example of the righteous judgment of God, stating to the inhabitants of Capernaum, **“it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you” (Matt. 11:24).**
- Billy Graham’s wife, Ruth, once said, “If God doesn’t judge America, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”
- Lot lost it all, except for his two daughters. The Judgment Seat of Christ describes Christians who will still be in heaven, but they will not get the reward they thought they deserved. **“He himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames” (see 1 Cor. 3:11–15).**

### IV. Sodom’s Delusion

- **V. 8** - Lot offers his two daughters to the men to violate. Lot’s heart had become callous, desensitized, and numb to the sin and wickedness in which he lived.
- **V. 26** – Lot’s wife had been told not to look back. The angels took her by the hand and led her out of the city. But, Lot’s wife, looked back and died in the fire and brimstone, turning to a pillar of salt. Jesus warned His followers to **“Remember Lot’s wife” (Luke 17:32)**. Jonathan Edwards once wrote, “While you are out of Christ, you are in Sodom.... Sodom is the place of your nativity, and the place where you have spent your lives.... Remember Lot’s wife!... Remember what became of her.”<sup>3</sup> Jewish historian Josephus claimed to have seen this statue.<sup>4</sup>
- **VV. 31-38** – Skip Heitzig said, **“Lot was able to take his daughters out of Sodom, but not take Sodom out of his daughters.** That moral compass is awry in their own lives.”<sup>5</sup>
- “It was Moabite women who later seduced the men of Israel to commit immorality (**Num. 25:1–3**) and Ammonites who taught Israel the worship of Molech, including the sacrifice of children (**1 Kgs. 11:33; Jer. 32:35**).”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup> R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004), 272.

<sup>3</sup> Jonathan Edwards, “The Folly of Looking Back in Fleeing out of Sodom” (May 1735), in *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, 2 vols. (Edinburgh and Carlisle, Pa.: Banner of Truth, 1976), 2:66; as quoted in James Boice, *Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 632.

<sup>4</sup> *Josephus Jewish Antiquities*, 1.203, Vol. 4, trans. H. St. J. Thackeray (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1978), 101.

<sup>5</sup> Skip Heitzig, “Genesis 19” (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife Corporation, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> William MacDonald, *Believer’s Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 57.