

The Father of Nations:

A Study of Abraham

Lesson Eight: The display of God's wrath for the Father of Nations—*Genesis 19*

August 16, 2020

Unless the LORD of hosts Had left us a few survivors, We would be like Sodom, We would be like Gomorrah.
Isaiah 1:9

Opening Thought: Sodom and Gomorrah are virtually synonymous with sin and wickedness. Therefore, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah gives us a clear picture of how God feels about wickedness and sin. Although the message is tragic, and some of the details are uncomfortable, we must know what happened to these infamous cities in order that, by God's grace, we may avoid a similar fate.

I. Introduction/Review

A. Remember Abraham's hospitality.

1. He was eager to help the men who came to his tent.
2. He under promised and over delivered!

B. Remember Abraham's concern for God's justice.

1. Abraham was concerned about God's character.
2. Abraham was compassionate about the supposed righteous people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

C. Setting a proper tone for tonight's lesson.

1. It can be very uncomfortable to talk about this passage.
2. It can be a little dangerous to talk about this passage.
3. What am I going to do about this?

II. The Situation vv. 1-11

A. Lot's hospitality vv. 1-3

1. Notice the parallel between how Lot treated his visitors and how Abraham did in chapter 18.
2. Notice that the angels resisted at first. Why?
 - a) Could it be because they were there to get an accurate assessment of Sodom and Gomorrah?
3. Lot strongly urged them to stay with him. Why?
 - a) Because he already had an accurate assessment of Sodom and Gomorrah?

B. Sodom's cruelty vv. 4-9

1. Who are we talking about? (v. 4)
2. What were they trying to do? What was their goal, here? (v. 5)
3. What was their sin?
 - a) Was it a lack of hospitality? Yes, but it was a whole lot more than that!
 - b) Was it homosexuality? Yes, in a most aggressive, oppressive, scandalous, brutish form.
 - c) Here's the point, though:
4. How did Lot handle the situation? (vv. 6-8)
 - a) He pleaded with the men not to do what they were planning to do.
 - b) He offered his own daughters as a "more acceptable" substitute.
 - (1) What?!!!!
5. How did the men of Sodom respond? (v. 9)
 - a) "Stand aside!"
 - b) "We are going to treat you worse than them!"

C. The angels' heroism vv. 10-11

1. The angels rescued Lot (v. 10).

2. The angels struck the people of Sodom with blindness (v. 11).

III. The Intervention vv. 12-14

A. Who else do you have here?

1. This is really interesting for the following reasons:
 - a) This shows incredible grace to Lot!
 - b) This command had nothing to do with merit. It seems that God would have delivered the sons in law despite the fact that they were not righteous.
2. Notice that the angels are basically affirming the outcries that the Lord referred to in 18:20-21.

B. You must be kidding!

1. Who was Lot reaching out to? His would-be future sons-in-law.
 - a) It is important to note that these men were betrothed to Lot's daughters.
 - (1) We know this because they were already called "sons-in-law" even though they had not yet married the daughters of Lot.
2. Where were these future sons-in-law? [Pay attention to the timing clues!] 2 options:
 - a) They were away from Lot's house, and Lot ventured out quickly in the middle of the night to reach out to them.
 - (1) This seems unlikely due to the imminent threat of being raped
 - (2) This also seems unlikely due to his later hesitation to leave.
 - b) They were among the crowd.
 - (1) They could have simply been spectators.
 - (2) Even if they were, their participation might help to explain why they thought Lot was joking.

IV. The Resistance vv. 15-22

A. How do you think you would react in this situation?

1. I think most of us could not get out of town fast enough!

B. Why on Earth did Lot resist?

1. We are not told, but the following seems reasonable to me:
 - a) Perhaps he was afraid that he would be attacked on the way out of town.
 - b) Perhaps he was simply paralyzed with fear.
 - (1) **ILL:** A child on the high dive for the first time.

C. How did Lot resist?

1. He didn't want to leave in the first place. v. 16
2. He had to be escorted out of the city! vv. 16-17
3. He refused to flee to the mountains vv. 18-20

D. The angels waited for Lot to be safe vv. 21-22

1. Notice that they couldn't punish Sodom and Gomorrah until Lot was safe.
2. Therefore, Lot's earlier argument that he could never make it to the mountains in time is shown to be invalid.

V. The Destruction vv. 23-29

A. The Lord rained fire and brimstone on the cities and their surrounding areas.

B. Abraham got up early and watched.

1. Why did Abraham watch?
2. Why was Abraham allowed to watch?
 - a) Because the Lord included him on the plan.
 - b) As a reassurance of the absolute justice of God.