

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

The Judgment of Sodom & Gomorrah – Genesis 19, part 1

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. (Genesis 19:24-25)

Context:

Abraham had just learned that God intended to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their _____.

Abraham interceded for Sodom but discovered as he did that there no _____ in the city except for _____. (The Lord declared that he would not destroy Sodom if there were _____ righteous people, and obviously there were not).

Abraham was about to learn this critically necessary lesson for every person of God: God is both _____ and _____. He is a God of _____ and _____. Any other view of God is non-biblical.

¹⁹ 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 earth ² 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."

Two angels ...

Lot at the "gate of Sodom" ...

Lot's hospitality (and it's likely motivation ...

The response of the angels ...

The vindication of God's righteous judgment ...

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.

Some observations of Sodom's wickedness:

1. Their sin is clearly _____ and not _____ (so don't buy into any revisionist nonsense you may read or hear about what is really at stake here).

This is about gross *sexual* sin, not about "inhospitality".

And refuse the nonsense that suggest what is "unnatural" here is that men desired sex with angels. They clearly did not know they were angels. And when Jude 7 mentions destruction, it includes Gomorrah and the surrounding cities. The angels didn't go there. The sin was clearly _____ to God's good design and an _____ to Him.

2. This deviancy had become _____ in Sodom.

The language used here looks like a potential gang rape, but it's not like the language of forcible rape used later in Genesis 34 in the case of Dinah (terms like "seized" or "forced").

The word used here is translated euphemistically, "_____".

In other words, this was normal evening activity for an utterly depraved, morally broken culture.

The sin was _____ ("*All the people to the last man*").

Question for us: How does sexual _____ become "normal" and pervasive in a culture?

Carl R. Trueman:

3. Anyone who does not _____ in, _____ with, or enthusiastically _____ those in this sin will be an _____ (or worse). (see: v. 9)
4. Those living in the midst of Godlessness must actively combat its _____ (this is part of _____) or be taken captive by it – especially for our children's sake.

Who is discipling your family?

What influence did "righteous" Lot have in Sodom?

What influence am I having?

5. Fighting wickedness is _____.

You can't appeal to _____ like Lot attempted.

You can't assume a common " _____ ", because you don't share one.

You absolutely cannot _____ (especially your children!)

God – the Covenant Keeper:

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.

Note the **saving interventions of God**:

Shut the door ... incapacitated the mob ... secured the house

Then, the angels clearly _____ Lot of what was to come ...

Lot _____ them, but consider the reaction of his sons-in-law: "he seemed to be jesting".

They had effectively been _____.

And even though he believes, Lot _____.

Lot knew of the moral condition of the city.

Lot knew God's judgment was soon going to rain down.

Lot knew his family was at risk.

Lot knew what was God was saying as the angels told him to flee.

So, *why did he linger?*

Yet, God's commitment to His _____ and His character of _____ accomplish Lot's deliverance. They literally _____ them out of Sodom.

" ... the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire ..." (Jude 21b-23a)

Next week: **How To (and Not To) Finish Well**