

GENESIS 19: SODOM AND GOMORRAH

I. OVERVIEW

- A. The two angels left Abraham and went to Sodom to see the city
 - i. They came to Lot in the evening sitting at the gate
 - ii. They stayed at Lot's house
 - iii. There all the men of the city came to Lot's house to rape the two angels
 - iv. Lot offered his two daughters instead but the men refused
 - v. The angels struck the men with blindness and told Lot they were going to destroy the city
 - a. Lot's sons-in-law refused to leave
 - b. Lot tarried and took his time
- B. The two angels grabbed Lot, his wife, and his two daughters and brought them outside the city
 - i. They told Lot to flee to the hills
 - ii. Lot insisted on fleeing to a small city
 - iii. The angels promised not to overthrow that city but told him to not look back
 - a. Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt
- C. God rained down sulfur and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah to destroy them
 - i. He overthrew
 - a. The cities
 - b. The valley
 - c. The inhabitants of the cities
 - d. What grew on the ground
- D. Lot left Zoar and moved to the hills
 - i. His daughters made him drink wine for two nights in a row
 - a. First night – oldest daughter slept with him
 - i. Gave birth to Moab
 - b. Second night – youngest daughter slept with him
 - i. Gave birth to Ben-ammi – Ammonites

II. THE TWO ANGELS – V. 1

- A. First time they are identified as angels

- i. No indication Lot knew this

III. PARALLELS BETWEEN LOT AND ABRAHAM GREETING THE ANGELS

- A. In the evening – v. 1
 - i. They came to Abraham in the heat of the day
- B. Sitting at the gate – v. 1
 - i. Abraham lived in tents as a nomad
 - a. Fully trusted and relied on God
 - ii. Lot sat in the gate of Sodom
 - a. Where business was conducted
 - b. Likely as a government official¹
 - iii. Psalm 1:1-2 ***Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.***
 - iv. Lot may have been a righteous man, but he lived in compromise²
- C. Rose to meet them – v. 1
 - i. Abraham ran from the tent door to meet them
- D. Bowed himself with his face to the earth – v. 1
 - i. Just like Abraham
- E. My lords – v. 2
 - i. Abraham only greeted one – Lord
- F. Lot's specific requests – v. 2
 - i. Turn aside to your servant's house
 - ii. Spend the night
 - iii. Wash your feet
 - iv. Rise up early
 - v. Go on your way
- G. Abraham's specific requests
 - i. Do not pass by your servant
 - ii. Wash your feet

¹ Guzik, D. (2018). *Study Guide for Genesis 19*. Blue Letter Bible. https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-19.cfm

² Guzik

- iii. Rest yourselves under the tree
- iv. Refresh yourselves with bread
- v. Then you may pass on
- H. We will spend the night in the town square – v. 2
 - i. They initially refused Lot's request
 - ii. They accepted Abraham's request immediately
 - a. Do as you have said
- I. Unleavened bread – v. 3
 - i. Abraham baked cakes
 - ii. Unleavened bread bakes quickly
 - a. No time to rise
 - b. Like on Passover night before the exodus from Egypt

IV. YOUNG AND OLD – V. 4

- A. Age had not brought wisdom and restraint³

V. THAT WE MAY KNOW THEM – V. 5

- A. One criticism many have about the bible is that it never says homosexuality is a sin
 - i. So how can Christians say it is a sin
- B. The bible rarely provides commentary
 - i. It tells what happened and expects us to meditate on the results
- C. The bible does expressly condemn homosexuality
 - i. Romans 1:26-28 ***For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.***
 - ii. Leviticus 18:22 ***You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.***

VI. MY BROTHERS – V. 7

- A. Lot has come to think of the Sodomites as his family
 - i. Forgot who his true family was

³ Armstrong, S. (2011, December 4). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 19A*. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
https://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_19a

- B. They remind him he is not from there – v. 9

VII. I HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS – V. 8

- A. This is the depths of Lot's compromise
- B. He is willing to trade his daughters for strangers

VIII. GET OUT OF THIS PLACE – V. 14

- A. God will warn the righteous to leave before He judges a place
 - i. Jeremiah 51:6 ***“Flee from the midst of Babylon; let every one save his life! Be not cut off in her punishment, for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance, the repayment he is rendering her.***
 - ii. Revelation 18:4-5 ***Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.***
- B. This is a call to remove ourselves from the world's systems so we don't get caught up in its judgment

IX. HE SEEMED TO BE JESTING – V. 14

- A. His warning does not hold any weight due to his compromise
 - i. Lot was saved from destruction but his life was wasted⁴
- B. They still made their choice
 - i. Lot isn't to blame for their decision⁵

X. THE MEN SEIZED HIM – V. 16

- A. They saved Lot, his wife, two daughters
- B. Four hands for four people
 - i. They did all they could do⁶

XI. I CANNOT ESCAPE TO THE HILLS – V. 19

- A. Lot is unwilling to fully leave behind his previous life
 - i. Even after seeing the consequences
 - ii. Zoar was in the same valley as Sodom and Gomorrah

XII. I GRANT YOU THIS FAVOR ALSO – V. 21

- A. It's concerning when God allows us to live in our disobedience

⁴ Guzik

⁵ Armstrong, S. (2011b, December 12). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 19B*. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
https://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_19b

⁶ Guzik

- i. Like Israel when they demanded a king

XIII. ZOAR – V. 22

- A. Lot emphasized the small size
 - i. As in, minimized the amount of sin in the city
 - ii. Compared to Abraham who minimized the amount of righteous required to spare a city⁷

XIV. RAINED – V. 24

- A. Just like the flood
- B. Language of judgment
- C. Foreshadows the day of judgment
 - i. 2 Peter 2:6 ***if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;***

XV. PILLAR OF SALT – V. 26

- A. Salt was used as a preservative
 - i. She tried to preserve her life by looking back
 - a. Luke 17:32-33 ***Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.***

XVI. AND HE LOOKED – V. 28

- A. What kind of impression would this have left on Abraham?

XVII. GOD REMEMBERED ABRAHAM – V. 29

- A. Just like God remembered Noah
- B. God remembers his faithful ones in the midst of judgment

XVIII. WENT UP OUT OF ZOAR – V. 30

- A. He was afraid to live there
 - i. Maybe his compromise would catch up with him again
 - ii. Or maybe the people were afraid of him and it became dangerous
- B. So he went to live in caves
 - i. Worse than if he had just stayed with Abraham

XIX. DRINK WINE – V. 32

⁷ Armstrong, S. (2011c, December 18). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 19C*. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
https://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_19c

- A. Like Noah drank wine and became victim of sexual sin after being rescued from God's judgment
 - i. Two more cursed children born, just like Canaan
 - a. Moab and Ben-ammi
 - i. Moabites and Ammonites became enemies of Israel

XX. POINTS TO JESUS

- A. Yahweh in the form of a man – preincarnate Christ?
 - i. Whether yes or no, sets precedent for God taking the form of man
 - a. Significant problem many Jews have with Christ being God is that God is One (Deuteronomy 6:4)
 - i. Therefore God who is Spirit cannot be human also
- B. This is the second time God has brought disaster as judgment against sin
 - i. Both times sin remained in the lives of the righteous
 - ii. God's judgment has not solved the problem of sin
 - iii. We need a righteous Seed who can emerge from judgment sinless⁸

XXI. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- A. How does the bible challenge our modern view of how we should be involved in politics and local government? Are we more likely to change world systems or are world systems more likely to change us?

- B. What effect does a compromised life have on our witness and our testimony? What kind of fruit can we expect to see?

⁸ Armstrong, S. (2012, January 1). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 19D*. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
https://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_19d

- C. Would you be able to leave everything behind if an angel came and told you God is going to destroy your city? How deep is your attachment to the world?

- D. Have you experienced times when it was difficult to leave your former life behind? Have you experienced consequences of not leaving behind your former life?

- E. What emotions does God's judgment on the wicked stir up in us? How should we respond to God when He does this?

- F. Did Abraham know that God rescued Lot? How would you respond to God if He answered your prayer but didn't tell you He answered your prayer?

XXII. FURTHER STUDY

- A. How does Paul command us to live (1 Thessalonians 4:9-11)? How does this contrast with the way Lot lived his life? In what ways can you walk this out daily?

- B. What commentary is the prophet providing about Jerusalem in Ezekiel 16:49-50 in comparing it to Sodom? What lesson can we learn from this?

- C. What effect does compromise have on how we experience eternity (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)?

- D. What does God say about those whom He allows to live in disobedience? See 1 Samuel 8:7.

- E. What does Jesus ask us to do if we want to follow Him? What does He promise us if we do this? See Luke 18:18-30.

- F. Compare and contrast Genesis 19 with Luke 24:13-35. What are some similar key words? What are the similarities and differences? What could Luke be trying to tell his readers through these connections?
