

Genesis 19.27-29

"Grim Vista"

MAY 18, 1980 display of power like Sodom and Gomorrah- happened in USA
Over 100 meters of Mt. Saint Helens was Ripped Away in SECONDS

Volcanic EXPLOSION = 10 million tons of TNT // 500 X's HIROSHIMA
300 degree blast of HEAT - traveled over 200 miles an hour
Trees DESTROYED could have built = 200,000 3 bedroom homes

60 PEOPLE KILLED - some as far as 16 miles away - WHY? UNBELIEF?

SHERIFF BILL CLOSNER "People were in the danger areas around the mountain because they refused to obey roadblocks. The bottom line is that nobody would listen."

This Passage one of Most Vivid Descriptions of GOD'S JUDGMENT in OT

1. Graves that Abraham Saw 2. Ground where Abe Stood 3. God that Abe Served

1. Graves that Abraham Saw

v. 28 He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

LOOKED AT THE SIGHT WITH SHOCK AND SADNESS

A Glance into Hell on Earth > Abe saw The Shoulda, The Coulda, The Woulda

a. The 'Shoulda': Those who Should Have Been Saved

v. 14 "Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking."

RIGHT MESSAGE > PERHAPS WRONG MESSENGER > Walk contradicted Talk

Perhaps HIS MESSAGE did NOT HAVE RING of INTEGRITY or AUTHORITY
Perhaps NEVER had a SERIOUS TALK with them ABOUT GOD / WHY NOW?

"Fools mock at making amends for sin" Proverbs 14.9

v. 26 “Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.”

WAS NOT A LITTLE LOOK / IT WAS A LONGING LUST / DEADLY GAWK

LOT'S FAMILY – Wife, Future Sons in Law – SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED
NOT SAVED BY NEARNESS TO GOD > Proximity to God is not a Pardon

“For even his (Jesus) own brothers did not believe in him.” John 7.5

Judas: ONE OF 12 CHOSEN COMPANIONS OF JESUS DENIED HIM

DEATH HAPPENS SOONER AND FASTER THAN ANYONE IMAGINES
FOR MOST PEOPLE - EVEN OLD PEOPLE - DEATH COMES TOO SOON
WE KNOW PEOPLE DIE - SEEN DEATH - BUT WE WILL NOT EVER DIE!!

b. The ‘Coulda’: Those who Could Have Been Saved

NOT SAVED BY NEARNESS TO GOD > Not Lost by Being Very Far Away

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save” Isaiah 59.1

“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.”
Psalm 139.7,8 KJV

Men of Sodom > ABOUT AS FAR AWAY FROM GOD AS POSSIBLE

13.13 “the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD”

19.11 “Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.”

EVEN BLINDNESS DID NOT STOP THEIR EAGER PURSUIT

Lifestyle is ANYTHING BUT GAY > Multitudes find it Joyless and Hopeless:

“For Young Gays on the Streets, Survival Comes Before Pride”

Michael Kamber for The New York Times

Published: June 27, 2004

David Antoine's coming out last year did not exactly fill his family with pride. A few months shy of his high school graduation, Mr. Antoine said, his mother told him to pack his bags,

and he was suddenly out on the icy streets of Brooklyn, his life stuffed into a trash bag, his bed the hard back of a subway car rumbling from one end of the city to the other.

Brian Murray is still trying to find his place in what is known as the gay community. A good night is the soft bed of a stranger and \$100 in the morning. A bad night is an empty stomach, a park bench and the rousing jolt of a nightstick on his bare feet as he is ordered to move on.

Like Mr. Antoine and Mr. Murray, his friends, Michael Leatherbury, 25, would consider cheering his gay brothers and sisters marching down Fifth Avenue this afternoon ("Gay Pride Day" in USA) if he had a few coins in his pocket and a place to call his own. No sense flirting with strangers, he says, when home is a lumpy cot in a city shelter. "Being homeless is not exactly conducive to dating," he says with a shrug. "These days, I'm not feeling very prideful."

As hundreds of thousands of people flock to New York today for the gay parade, few are likely to give a moment's thought to their homeless brethren, a growing legion of the disowned and the dispossessed, most of them black and Latino, an increasing number of them H.I.V. positive and still in the throes of adolescence. Many of them trawl the Web for paying "dates" or try their luck on Christopher Street in the far West Village, where some quick work in a passing car might yield \$30. "You've got to do what you've got to do to survive," says Mr. Murray, who is 22 and has been turning tricks in the Village since he was 15.

There is no official count of those who are homeless and gay in New York, but Carl Siciliano, who runs the city's largest shelter for gay young adults, puts their numbers in the thousands. Most national studies estimate that as many as half of all homeless youth are lesbian or gay, many of them tossed out by parents who scorn homosexuality for a variety of reasons.

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GROTESQUE as Sin of Homosexuality Is > Like any Sin > FORGIVABLE
In God's Eyes > ALL SIN is Reprehensible, Disgusting, Shameful, and Condemning
Church > Open Door, Open Arms > for ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

How many people who struggle with Gender Identity have been teased or taunted out of the Church, Christian homes? Welcomed into Gay Bars and Clubs >
Now they're Trapped and Victimized? > On the Road to Hell?

GOD LOVES THEM > God has No Pleasure in the Death of the Wicked
DISTANCE > from a Human Perspective > whether NEAR or FAR From God

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him."
Psalm 103.11-13

If anyone wants to come back to God > HE will LEAVE the LIGHT ON FOR YOU

c. The 'Woulda': Those who Would Have Been Saved

vs. 24,25 "the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah...he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including *all those living in the cities*"

AS 1000's PEOPLE WOKE UP THAT MORNING IN SODOM
NONE KNEW IT WOULD BE THE LAST DAY OF THEIR LIVES
EVERYONE IN THE CITIES DIED

Kindly Babushkas, Hardworking Housewives, Highly Educated and Hardly Educated

WE TEND TO THINK THAT GOOD PEOPLE WILL BE SPARED THIS WRATH

PEOPLE THAT ARE NICE - HONEST AT WORK - FAITHFUL TO FAMILIES
PAY THEIR TAXES - EVEN COME TO CHURCH OCCASIONALLY
THESE ARE GOOD PEOPLE THEY WILL NOT GO TO HELL

HELL WILL BE FILLED WITH NICE PEOPLE, GOOD PEOPLE, KIND PEOPLE
ESCAPING HELL HAS NOTHING TO DO W/ BEING NICE, GOOD, KIND

IMAGINE GOING DOWN TO AIRPORT CATCH A FLIGHT
PACK YOUR BAGS - MAKE ALL NECESSARY PREPARATION
WALK UP TO BOARDING GATE - TRY TO ENTER PLANE
TELL ATTENDANT - I'm a very good person, nice, kind, loving
ATTENDANT "May I have your ticket please"
YOU SAY "why should a good person like me need a ticket?"
ATTENDANT "I'm sorry, the only way you fly is with a ticket"

ONLY TICKET TO HEAVEN IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

"in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed"
Luke 17.28-30

Judgment Day > Will we See All People? > Sheep & Goat > Condemned & Cleansed
Classmate from School? Person at Work? Neighbor? Waiter at Favorite Restaurant?
Will they ask us 'How come you never told me about Jesus?'

"As the Scripture says, "Anyone who *trusts in him* will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and

richly blesses all who *call on him*, for, "Everyone who *calls on the name of the Lord* will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they *believe in the one* of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?"
Romans 10.11-15

OWN FAMILY? – Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, Cousins??
Some Believers > Secret Believers > Families Do not Know Christians
Sympathize with Pressures and even Persecution
SHOULDN'T WE BE MORE AFRAID FOR OUR FAMILIES THAN OF THEM?

"There is no such thing as a 'Secret Disciple' – soon the Secrecy will destroy the Discipleship, or the Discipleship will end the Secrecy."

2. Ground where Abraham Stood

a. Stood v. 28 "the place where he had stood before the LORD"

IN MIDST OF TERRIBLE JUDGMENT - ABE PICTURE OF CALM IN STORM

PROMISE FROM GOD 1000 YEARS AFTER ABRAHAM: Psalm 91.7-10
"A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. If you make the Most High your dwelling-- even the LORD, who is my refuge-- then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent."

"Peace with God" BASED ON RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

CONTRAST - Lot RUNS AWAY from God as Judge / CANNOT STAND
ABE FRIEND OF GOD / RIGHT WITH GOD / BY GOD'S MERCY & GRACE

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand."
Romans 5.1,2

LESS THAN 12 hrs. EARLIER ABE HAD STOOD ON SAME SPOT
HAD FACE TO FACE INTERCESSION WITH GOD HIMSELF

BIBLICAL PEACE IS NOT JUST A FEELING - OBJECTIVE FACT
AS REAL AS THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

BIBLICAL PEACE IS HARD EARNED - JESUS HAD TO DIE FOR IT

RISEN LORD ENTERED LOCKED ROOM & SHOWED THEM HIS SCARS
 “Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace be with you!” John 20.19

TO STAND IN GOD'S PEACE YOU MUST STRUGGLE AGAINST EVIL
 “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.” Romans 16.20

b. Slept v. 27 “Early the next morning Abraham got up”

**LOT HAD LOST EVERYTHING - ABRAHAM HAD LOST NOTHING,
 NOT EVEN A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP**

**LOT ran thru FIRE & SULFUR / ABE Stood and Slept in FAITH & SECURITY
 LOT WAS IN A PANIC / ABRAHAM WAS AT PEACE**

**OBJECTIVE PEACE WITH GOD > Basis of Subjective Peace of God
 MEANT THAT HE HAD SLEPT IN GOD'S PEACE / NO INNER TURMOIL**

“I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.” Psalm 4.8

“He grants sleep to those he loves” Psalm 127.2

JESUS SLEPT IN THE BOAT IN THE MIDST OF STORM ON THE LAKE

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus... And the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4.6-7,9

c. Silent

**ABE was TOLD 10 RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE were ENOUGH TO SPARE SODOM
 PERHAPS SLEPT SOUNDLY because HE THOUGHT SODOM WAS SPARED**

**NOW NO LONGER INTERCEDES FOR PARDON > Window of Mercy Closed
 RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT FALLEN > No Argument, No Complaint, No Pleading**

“every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God”
Romans 3.19

EVEN IN SILENCE – PICTURE OF JESUS

“the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.” Isaiah 53.6,7

CROSS – Jesus Obediently, Silently, Endured our Penalty > Suffered our Judgment

d. Struggle GREAT BATTLE GOING ON FOR SOULS OF PEOPLE

ABE NEVER HEARS FROM LOT AGAIN / NEVER KNOWS HIS FATE
Abe’s Heart BROKEN > Lot Shoulda, Coulda, and Woulda BEEN SAVED

The Rest of the Story - HE WAS SAVED!!! –

WE WILL NOT KNOW FULL IMPACT OF OUR LIFE ON EARTH
WE WILL NEVER KNOW THE FULL FRUIT OF OUR PRAYERS & SERVICE

“he rescued Lot...the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials” 2 Peter 2.7-9

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5.16

v. 29 “he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe”
GOD’S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM CARRIED LOT TO SAFETY

BENEFITS OF THE COVENANT EXTEND TO THOSE AROUND US

“GOD shows love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.” Exodus 20.6

JUST AS THE MEN WHO CARRIED PARALYTIC ON STRETCHER TO JESUS
TOOK OFF THE ROOF AND LOWERED HIM DOWN TO CROWDED ROOM

“When Jesus saw *their* faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven... He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all." Mark 2.5,12

When we GATHER BEFORE THE LAMB - Day of Many Surprises
Ragged, Meaningless Threads of This Life > Reveal God’s Tapestry on Other Side

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6.9

3. God that Abraham Served

a. Wrath THERE WAS NO PEACE DOWN IN THE LOWER PLAIN

2 ANGELS WALKED INTO SODOM - TOOK JUST A COUPLE OF HOURS
DID NOT FIND MANY RIGHTEOUS - LESS THAN 10!

19.13 God’s Messengers: “we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.”

19.24,25 “Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah--from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities--and also the vegetation in the land.”

v. 29 “God destroyed the cities of the plain”

THOUGH GOD MAY HAVE USED EARTHQUAKES OR VOLCANOES
HIS WAS THE SOVEREIGN HAND THAT CAUSED IT TO HAPPEN

GOD OF THE NT? Jesus talks more about Hell than He does Heaven!
Because He does not want anyone to go there.

PEOPLE IN THE WORLD BLAME XTIANs FOR THINKING TOO MUCH
ABOUT GOD'S JUDGMENT - HELL AND WRATH - TOO MUCH

OPPOSITE TRUE- WE DON'T THINK ABOUT HELL ENOUGH
RARELY MOVED BY THE FACT THAT PEOPLE REALLY WILL BE LOST

WE ARE TOO BUSY TO BE CONCERNED

“It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10.31

CHURCH HAS BEEN SQUEEZED INTO THE MOLD OF THE WORLD

"Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.” 2 Peter 3.3,4,10

THINK OF WORST IMAGINABLE TRAGEDY ON EARTH - MAN'S DOING
HELL IS MULTIPLIED A THOUSAND TIMES / HELL IS GOD'S PUNISHMENT

FATE OF THOSE WHO REJECT JESUS WILL BE MUCH WORSE

“If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.” Matthew 10.14-15

b. Righteous GOD IS HOLY AND GOD IS JUST

WORLD COMPLAINS - "it is not fair, no chance, no warning"
COMEDIAN DOES A ROUTINE THAT GOD GIVES EVERYONE A BEEPER
Beeper goes off 5 minutes before you die / chance to REPENT

BEEPER IS GOING OFF - Who is Listening? Who is Repenting?

EVERY CALAMITY WHICH STRIKES – Every Death, Every Destruction
NOT JUST SOME ATMOSPHERICAL ACCIDENT - SOVEREIGN ACT OF GOD

IF GOD WAS NOT JUST - SIN COULD GO UNNOTICED - LIKE WE DO!

Our justice is fallible and flexible - "oh, that's alright!"
JUST GET ON THE PLANE EVEN WITHOUT ANY TICKET

BUT GOD'S WORD CANNOT BE BROKEN – COMMANDS BINDING

ALSO, GOD IS HOLY - HE DWELLS IN UNAPPROACHABLE LIGHT
THERE IS NO DARKNESS IN ALL IN HIM - HE IS SUPREME PERFECTION

18.25 “Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY & JUST - WE HAVE NO PLACE IN HIS PRESENCE
GOD HAS GIVEN MANY CHANCES - MANY WARNINGS

FLOOD WAS A WARNING / THIS INCIDENT IN SODOM & GOMORRAH
CROSS WHERE JESUS DIED - Tells how Seriously God Considers Sin
ABRAHAM HIMSELF TELLS RICH MAN IN HELL ABOUT BEST WARNING

Luke 16:29-31 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'...'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

JESUS OUR ONLY HOPE OF BEING MADE HOLY AND MADE RIGHTEOUS
FULFILLS GOD'S DEMANDS OF JUSTICE / REQUIREMENT OF HOLINESS
BECAUSE GOD HAS DONE THIS FOR US WE CAN RECEIVE MERCY

"if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" 1 John 2.1,2

c. Remembers v. 29 "God... remembered Abraham"

WE SINCERELY PROMISE > "I will pray for you" / Often, QUICKLY FORGET!
Hawaiian Tradition > Wedding Ring prepare for Senility > Name on Outside

"REMEMBERED" - NOT AS IF GOD CAN FORGET ANYTHING /
NOT A FEEBLE OLD MAN WHO IS LOSING IT

'REMEMBERED' FOR OUR BENEFIT / REMIND US HE NEVER FORGETS
HIS LOVE IS CONSTANT - HE IS OMNISCIENT - HE KNOWS ALL

AFTER THE FLOOD FILLED THE EARTH

"God remembered Noah...and the waters receded." Genesis 8.1

WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM BECAME PRISONERS IN EGYPT

"God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob." Exodus 2.24

"He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God." Psalm 98.3

"For he remembered his holy promise given to his servant Abraham." Psalm 105.42

This Passage one of Most Vivid Descriptions of GOD'S JUDGMENT in OT

ABE > Prominent Role in Most Vivid Descriptions of GOD'S JUDGMENT in NT

Poor Beggar > Lazarus > Dies and finds ETERNAL COMFORT > Abraham's Side

Rich Man > ETERNAL TORMENT Fires of Hell > Pleads for Water, Warn Brothers

From Heaven Abe speaks to this Pitiful Soul in Hell:

“between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us” Luke 16.26

What side of this Chasm will you be on? Your Family? Your Friends?

“As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, *now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.*”

2 Corinthians 6.1,2