

Genesis 19.15-29

"A City beyond Saving"

Home **INVADED** by **INTRUDERS** > Intend to **HARM** Loved Ones  
**MERCY** calls you to **PROTECT** Them > Call for **JUSTICE, PROTECTION**

100,000 **SYRIANS** Died looking for **SOMEONE** to **STAND** for **JUSTICE**

Some people **ONLY** Believe in a God of **MERCY**

If **GOD NEVER JUDGES** He is **NOT MERCIFUL**

Bible Says - **JUDGEMENT** must be **DONE** to **PRESERVE MERCY**

**JUDGMENT** of God fell upon **CITY** of **SODOM** about 4000 yrs ago

**GOD** made **SURGICAL STRIKE** – That was Just, Holy, Loving, True

### 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."

Lot **TOO COMFORTABLY ATTACHED TO WORLD // ROOTS TOO DEEP**

Thus **HIS SONS-IN-LAW THINK HE WAS JOKING** about **JUDGMENT**

**ANGEL OF GOD SAYS TO FLEE THE WRATH OF GOD**

v. 18 But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please!

**IN MERCY THEY OFFER WAY OF ESCAPE - CHANCE OF SALVATION**

**LOT SAYS "NO, no wait a minute - Let's do this my way!!"**

**DON'T KNOW** his **PROBLEM** with **MOUNTAINS** – **UNCLEAR** from **TEXT**

**MORE AFRAID OF THE MOUNTAINS THAN THE WRATH OF GOD**

Lot begins PROCESS of BARTERING WITH ANGELS

1) GOD HAS BEEN GOOD ENOUGH TO SAVE HIM -

NOW ALLOW just a LITTLE SIN - LET ME TAKE THINGS IN CONTROL

2) PERHAPS HE THINKS does NOT have Strength to REACH MOUNTAINS

SHOWS NO FAITH IN GOD'S Providential / SUPERNATURAL ABILITY

If God can Send Fire to Destroy Sodom / He Can DELIVER Lot

AFTER GOD DEFEATED THE IDOLS OF EGYPT IN THE 10 PLAGUES

THE ISRAELITES CANNOT BELIEVE HE WILL OPEN THE RED SEA

They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?"  
Exodus 14:11

3) LOT ARGUES THE TOWN IS VERY SMALL / name Zoar = SMALL

IN OTHER WORDS - CAN'T I SIN JUST A LITTLE BIT / VERY SMALL SIN

THIS IS NOT A PRAYER IT IS A BARGAIN - "I'll have it MY WAY"

Perhaps you have Wondered: WHY CAN'T I HAVE IT BOTH WAYS?

Why can't I be Saved by Jesus Christ and also Direct my own life?

Why can't I follow God most of the time,

then disobey Him from time to time when I really want to?

CAN'T I SIN JUST A LITTLE BIT?

SADLY - Greatest COMMITMENT of LOT was to HIMSELF - SELFISH

Vs. 19,20 ...sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die...Let me flee to it - Then my life will be spared."

EMPHASIZES GRACE OF GOD IN SALVATION EVEN MORE

SELF SCOUNDREL like LOT is DELIVERED from WRATH of God

SALVATION ALL of GRACE - From FIRST to LAST / Beginning to END

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

WAS NOT A LITTLE LOOK / was a LONGING LUST / DEADLY GAWK  
GOD allowed Mrs. Lot that Last Longing Look/ I HOPE SHE ENJOYED IT

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

No One CLOSER to Jesus Christ than JUDAS ISCARIOT > Forever LOST!

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

PROBLEM WITH SINNING JUST A LITTLE BIT

IS THAT YOU CAN SIN JUST A LITTLE BIT – In fact you can SIN A LOT!!  
THERE would be NO DANGER if GOD ALWAYS STEPPED In to STOP US

But HE DOES NOT - HE LETS US GO - DANGER OF OUR FREEDOM

He let Lot make decision to get closer & closer to Sodom

He allowed Abraham to tell the Pharaoh his Wife was his Sister

He allowed the Israelites to make a Golden Calf and Worship It

He allowed David to SHAME Bathsheba and Kill her Husband Uriah

He did not stop the Prodigal Son from Leaving Home

"In the final analysis, God will allow you to do what you are committed to doing  
- and you will have to bear the consequences" James Boice

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

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I  
ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!  
Psalm 139.7,8

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

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

v. 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

UNNATURAL as Sin of Homosexuality Is > Like any Sin > FORGIVABLE

In God’s Eyes ALL SIN is 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 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’ll 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

Kind Grandfathers, Hardworking Housewives, Highly Educated/ Hardly Educated

WE THINK THAT GOOD PEOPLE WILL BE SPARED THIS WRATH

PEOPLE who are NICE - HONEST AT WORK - FAITHFUL TO FAMILIES

PAY THEIR TAXES - EVEN COME TO CHURCH OCCASIONALLY

THESE ARE GOOD PEOPLE Never Imagine THEY WILL 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 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: All GATHER > Sheep & Goat > Condemned & Cleansed

Your Classmates, Colleagues 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?"

Romans 10.11-14

## 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:

“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.”

Psalm 91.7-10

Family of LOT > NO Such SECURITY – No Where to STAND FIRM

SCRAMBLED Wildly in Sinking SODOM for their PRECIOUS STUFF

Rushed BACK INTO HOUSE TO PICK UP SOME ESSENTIALS

LOT – JUMBO-TRON TV / LAZY BOY CHAIR / GOLF CLUBS

WIFE - ORNAMENTAL SPOON Collection / ESPRESSO Machine

DAUGHTERS – Tight Jeans / iPhones / Matching T Shirts with Boyfriends

FOOLISHNESS of Prosperity Teaching > Stuff almost kept them in Sodom

Angels GRABBED BY HAND – DRAGGED THEM FROM DANGER

v. 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.

For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it... People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 1 Timothy 6:7,9

Abe STOOD with CONFIDENCE Not with STUFF – Knowledge of 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

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

Like JESUS who SLEPT in BOAT thru STORM on LAKE GALILEE

“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

c. Silent

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

NO LONGER INTERCEDES FOR PARDON > Window of Mercy Closed

RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT Fell > 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 being WAGED 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 FULL FRUIT OF OUR PRAYERS & SERVICE

“he rescued Lot...the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials”<sup>2</sup> 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

When we GATHER BEFORE THE LAMB - Day of Many Surprises

Ragged, Meaningless Threads of This Life: Reveal God's Tapestry on Other Side

### 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!

v. 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.”

HAPPENS SOONER AND FASTER THAN ANYONE IMAGINES

CAME A POINT WHERE THEY HAD GONE TOO FAR AGAINST GOD

CROSSED LINE OF JUDGMENT / PASSED BOUNDARY OF HIS MERCY



vs. 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 – Died to Keep you OUT!

Want to CHOOSE HELL – You will have to Step over His Body to Get 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

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?

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

FATE OF THOSE WHO REJECT JESUS WILL BE MUCH WORSE

Jesus: "No one knows about that day or hour... The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”  
Matthew 24:36,50,51

b. Righteous GOD IS HOLY AND GOD IS JUST

WORLD COMPLAINS - "it is not fair, no chance, no warning"

COMEDIAN DOES A ROUTINE: 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 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 at ALL IN HIM - HE is SUPREME PERFECTION

“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?"

Genesis 18.25

HE WILL DO RIGHT - CANNOT DO WRONG - CANNOT DENY HIMSELF

HE WILL KNOW PERFECTLY - HE WILL DISPENSE PERFECT JUSTICE

When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. Proverbs 11.10

PEOPLE of SODOM FULLY DESERVED JUDGMENT - WORTHY OF IT  
EMPHASIS IS THAT DESTRUCTION REALLY COMES FROM GOD

v. 24 Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah--from the LORD out of the heavens.

HIS WAS THE SOVEREIGN HAND THAT CAUSED IT TO HAPPEN

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

"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.'" Luke 16:29-31

JESUS OUR ONLY HOPE OF BEING MADE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS

FULFILLS God's DEMANDS of JUSTICE / REQUIREMENT OF HOLINESS

BECAUSE GOD HAS DONE THIS FOR US WE CAN RECEIVE MERCY

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God 1 Peter 3.18

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

Word "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 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 & Finds ETERNAL COMFORT Abraham’s Side

Rich Man ETERNAL TORMENT 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?

SODOM was BEYOND SAVING > LOST in SULFUR and SMOKE!

HOPE for BEIJING – Your City – All Cities > Time of MERCY in Christ

Not Sure HOW LONG this TIME of Mercy will be OPENED to US?!

NOW > You have HEARD Word –

You SHOULD be SAVED – You COULD be SAVED –

I Pray that it will be TRUE for YOU > You WOULD be SAVED

Genesis 19.<sup>15</sup> 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.”<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> And as they brought them out, one said, “Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away.”<sup>18</sup> And Lot said to them, “Oh, no, my lords.<sup>19</sup> Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die.<sup>20</sup> Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!”<sup>21</sup> He said to him, “Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken.<sup>22</sup> Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there.” Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.<sup>23</sup> The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar.<sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.<sup>25</sup> And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the

cities, and what grew on the ground. <sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. <sup>27</sup> And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. <sup>28</sup> And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace. <sup>29</sup> So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

1. Have you ever asked Lot's question, "Why can't I sin just a little bit?"
2. Is the Lordship of Jesus Christ a "smorgasbord" – take what you like, leave behind what you don't? If not, what is it?
3. What might tempt you to turn back look longingly on the final day?
4. Reminded in this text of God's solemn judgment, who must you speak with about Jesus and salvation? When will you do this?





