

Genesis 19.1-15

"Sin City"

"Abraham - the Father of our Faith"

WHAT HAPPENS TO A BELIEVER WHO SLIPS AWAY FROM GOD?  
WHAT HAPPENS TO A CITY THAT REJECTS GOD? TO A WORLD THAT  
DOES SO? JUST HOW SERIOUS IS SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES?

ANSWERS WITHIN THIS CHAPTER - focus on Abe's NEPHEW LOT  
joined w/ Uncle in following his call from God - 30 years earlier

## 1. Sin City

a. Prosperity MORALLY WANTING BUT NOT FINANCIALLY WANTING

THIS WAS THE REASON LOT HAD CHOSEN THE LAND

Genesis 13:10 Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD

LAND WAS ATTRACTIVE TO THEIR ENEMIES

Genesis 14:11 The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away.

v. 2 1st TIME BIBLE MENTIONS "House - w/ ROOF & LOCKABLE DOOR"  
AND STREETS AND A CITY SQUARE

SODOM DESCRIBED BY THE LORD THRU PROPHET EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 16:49 "Sodom...arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.

EVEN JESUS DESCRIBED THEIR MATERIAL BLESSINGS

Luke 17:28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.

WORDS WRITTEN 3000 YEARS AGO APTLY DESCRIBE WORLD TODAY

Psalms 73:3-12 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.  
{4} They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. {5} They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills...{12} This is what the wicked are like-- always carefree, they increase in wealth.

COMMON - PEOPLE ENJOY THE GIFTS W/OUT THANKING THE GIVER

OR THINK THEY DESERVE PROSPERITY - EARNED IT ALL THEMSELVES

b. Perversity ALL THEY HAD YET THEY STILL CAME UP LACKING

Gen 13:13 the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

Genesis 18:20 the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous

v. 4} Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom-- both young and old--surrounded the house. {5} They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."

JOHN PHILIPS "The uproar increased, and Lot, looking out, probably saw that the crowd at his front door was growing by leaps and bounds. Every filthy hound of Sodom had come, young pups and old dogs alike, panting and baying and growling - worse than dogs, worse than swine, all heated to the point of riot with their dreadful hellish passions aflame. "Where are the men? Where are the men?" It was the vilest, most degraded, unholy demand that can possibly issue from the lips of men"

INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE IS VITALLY IMPORTANT

can say believe Bible - what do you think the Bible says??

Metropolitan Community Church – Gay Denomination teaches –  
Sin of Sodom is not Homosexuality, but LACK OF HOSPITALITY!

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH THE PEOPLE IN SODOM??

MCC ANSWER IS OBVIOUS AND CLEAR - they are lacking in hospitality  
to them - this passage has nothing to say about homosexuality

v. 5 LIT. "that we can KNOW them" - HEB. "yada" 943 X's in OT  
only 10 of them refer to intercourse / all 10 are heterosexual

BEST TRANSLATION "so we can get better acquainted with them"  
"let us examine their credentials - see their identification"

ANGER OF MEN OF SODOM - Lot - a resident alien - risked security  
housing these unknown visitors who may threaten safety of city

SIN OF MEN - violating ancient customs/rules of hospitality

"men who had come under Lot's roof" - OF CARE & PROTECTION

SERIOUSNESS OF GOD'S CONCERN FOR HOSPITALITY SEEN IN JUDGMENT!!

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS INTERPRETATION?

1) WORDS USED OF SODOM ARE TOO HARSH FOR LACK OF HOSPITALITY: "wicked" / "vile" / "disgraceful"

2) Lot offers HOSTILE NEIGHBORS - NOT DOCUMENTS BUT DAUGHTERS  
clearly there is a sexual connotation to this whole story

3) HEB word "yada" / 10 X's refers to intercourse - 6 in Genesis  
one of them right in this story - v. 8 of Lot's daughters

NIV - accurate translation "so that we can have sex with them"

4) NEW TESTAMENT APOSTOLIC WITNESS

Jude 1:7 Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

JOHN STOTT "To be sure, homosexual behavior was not Sodom's only sin; but according to Scripture it was certainly one of its sins"

c. Permissiveness AMERICAN MORALITY "my life is nobody's business"

NEIGHBORLY GREETING OF HOSPITABLE SODOMITES

{9} "Get out of our way," they replied. And they said, "This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them."

THE MORAL FIBER OF CITY WAS ROTTEN

ANY APPEAL TO REASON OR MORALITY IS SEEN AS FOREIGN / ALIEN

Judges 21:25 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

KING = MORAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADER / HOLD SOCIETY TOGETHER

RUTH BELL GRAHAM / MRS. BILLY GRAHAM - CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL HONOR "If God does not judge America, he will have to apologize to Sodom."

DEBATE WITH HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY AS TO % OF POPULATION /  
10 or 1  
SOON WILL BE A MOOT POINT - IF WAS 1 IT WILL BE 10 THEN 20 AND  
ON

CANNOT WATCH TV SHOW W/OUT CONDONING REFERENCE TO  
HOMOSEXUALITY

MAJOR CITIES ACROSS AMERICA HAVE GAY PRIDE DAYS / PARADES  
DEMANDING RIGHT TO BE LEGALLY MARRIED // ANY OTHER COUPLE

MUCH MORE THAN A CIVIL RIGHT - SEEN AS SUPERIOR WAY OF LIFE  
SODOMY IS NO LONGER CRIMINAL IT IS CONSTITUTIONAL

SO THAT WHEN MESSENGERS OF GOD COME TO SODOM -  
ALL THE MEN OF THE CITY WANT TO GANG RAPE THEM

PROGRESS OF EVIL - JUST AS LOT GRADUALLY SUNK INTO SIN  
BY MOVING EVER CLOSER TO SODOM

COMMUNITIES GROW PROGRESSIVELY MORE EVIL / FURTHER FROM  
GOD

ANGELS COME TO THE CITY - MEET WITH VIOLENT REJECTION  
BLINDNESS STRIKES ALL MEN - REMAIN UNREPENTANT  
MESSENGER OF GOD GOES WITH CALL TO REPENT - THEY LAUGH AT  
HIM

RIGHTEOUS RUN OUT OF CITY IN FEAR - WICKED SAY "good riddance"  
STEP BY STEP FURTHER FROM GOD / HEARTS GROW HARDER &  
HARDER

Romans 1:20-28 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. {21} For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. {22} Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools {23} and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. {24} Therefore

God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. {25} They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. {26} Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. {27} In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. {28} Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

3 X's AWFUL STATEMENT "God gave them over" / WHAT THEY WANTED

## 2. Sinful Citizen

### a. Compromising THRU CHAPTERS - LOT SLIDING INTO EVIL

Genesis 13:12 Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

Genesis 14:12 Lot...he was living in Sodom.

v. 1 Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city.

SEAT IN GATE = POSITION OF LEADERSHIP / GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Ruth 4:1 Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there.

GRADUAL SLIDE INTO SODOM // OUR GRADUAL SLIDE INTO UNBELIEF

MISS A DAY IN PRAYER AND BIBLE READING "no big deal, I'm busy"

MISS WEEK OF TIME W/ GOD "God knows some weeks busy than others"

SOON BIBLE READING AND PRAYER BECOME THING OF THE PAST

COME TO CHURCH ONCE A MONTH INSTEAD OF ONCE A WEEK

WORD TITHING MAKES YOU LAUGH NOT MAKES YOU OBEY

James 1:14-15 each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. {15} Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

b. Condoning v. 7 LIVED AS ELDER IN SODOM

{7} and said, "No, *my friends*. Don't do this wicked thing.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

"If you are going to dine with the devil, make sure you use a long spoon"

DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN ONLY LIVE IN A MONASTERY - AVOIDING EVIL?

CAN CHRISTIANS HAVE LEADERSHIP ROLES IN SECULAR WORLD?

NOT ENVIRONMENT BUT SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE  
GOD WITH JOSEPH IN PHARAOH'S COURT / WITH DANIEL IN BABYLON

DANIEL ORDERED NOT TO PRAY/ THROWS OPEN WINDOWS TO BE SEEN BY ALL

1) LOT WENT INTO SODOM WITH WRONG MOTIVES  
to benefit from its ungodly way of life - not reach them for God

2) SODOM WAS A WICKED CITY  
like moving into a brothel / or running a business for the mob

JAMES BOICE "There is a great difference between taking the gospel into a wicked place and entering into to wicked aspects of its life"

ROMANS 1 MOST GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF MAN'S SINFUL CONDITION  
SPIRAL STAIRCASE SINKING DOWNWARD INTO THE PIT OF HELL  
THE VERY LAST VERSE / THE CLOSEST TO THE WICKED PIT

Romans 1:32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

c. Cowardly TREMENDOUS FATHER/DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIPS!!

{8} Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof."

Psalm 15 LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? {2} He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart...who keeps his oath even when it hurts... {5} He who does these things will never be shaken.

TOO MANY SERVE GOD ONLY WHEN IT IS POPULAR OR CONVENIENT  
OR UNTIL SOMETHING MORE EXCITING COMES ALONG

SOBERING DESCRIPTION OF FINAL JUDGMENT - LAKE OF FIRE - 1st IN  
Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

ONLY ONE WE ARE TO FEAR

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 8:13 Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them

WE NEED TO BE MORE AFRAID FOR PEOPLE THAN OF PEOPLE  
BECAUSE WE FEAR THE JUDGMENT OF ALMIGHTY GOD

d. Comical HE LOST ALL INTEGRITY- THEY THOUGHT HE WAS JOKING

{14} So 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.

HIS MESSAGE DID NOT HAVE RING OF INTEGRITY OR AUTHORITY

## NEVER HAD A SERIOUS TALK WITH THEM ABOUT GOD / WHY NOW?

Proverbs 14:9 Fools mock at making amends for sin

### QUALIFICATION FOR LEADERSHIP IN CHURCH

1 Tim 3:7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

## 3. Sin's Consequences

### a. Separation from God ANGELS WERE UNWELCOMED STRANGERS TO SODOM

#### GOD WILL NOT COME INTO CITY / EVEN ANGELS ARE STRANGERS

{10} But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. {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.

#### WAY TO MERCY IS SLAMMED SHUT FOR THEM / NO TURNING BACK

Isa 59:2 your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

#### CONTRASTS

##### ABRAHAM

friend of God  
angels came to Abe's tent  
Abe was pilgrim in world  
Abe met with God in daylight  
Abe's offered prepared meal  
Abe would offer Son as sacrifice  
God gave Abe message - Blessing  
Faith of Abe is timeless testimony

##### LOT

friend of the world  
angels came to Lot's house  
Lot was settled in Sin City  
Lot met angels in shadows  
Lot offered unleavened bread  
Lot offered daughters for sex  
Lot heard words of Cursing  
Lot's failures immortalized

### b. Separation by God DIVISION OF LOT'S OWN FAMILY

{14} So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters.



MISSED THEIR OPPORTUNITY FOR LIFE - FOR HEAVEN

{15} With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."

SO OCCUPIED W/ FAMILY TIES NOT MUCH EMPHASIS ON THEIR SOULS

TALK ABOUT WEATHER / SPORTS / JOKES / NEVER CHRIST

WENT TO FAMILY REUNIONS / NEVER WITNESSED FOR X

SODOMITES Thought LOT WAS JOKING - GOD WAS NOT JOKING

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW CHRIST - I AM NOT JOKING WITH YOU  
SIN IS NO GAME - EVIL WILL BE PUNISHED

GOD IS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE - HE IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS  
EVERY SINNER WILL BE PUNISHED

ONLY ESCAPE IS THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

BELIEVER? TRYING TO LIVE IN SODOM / BE DOUBLE-AGENT FOR GOD?

DEVIL WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE US ON HIS SIDE  
and to be shouting "Praise the Lord" while we serve him

LOT DID NOT WIN SODOM / SODOM DESTROYED LOT - ALMOST  
COMPLETELY

Luke 17:32-35 Remember Lot's wife! {33} Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. {34} I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. {35} Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."

VERSE IS APPROPRIATELY APPLIED TO LOT

1 Corinthians 3:15 he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

ANGELS URGED LOT AND HIS FAMILY TO HURRY UP - SO DO I