



Sodom and Gomorrah and the the surrounding cities



Genesis 19 New International Version

Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed

19 The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

2 “My lords,” he said, “please turn aside to your servant’s house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning.”

“No,” they answered, “we will spend the night in the square.”

3 But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.

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.”

6 Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him

7 and said, “No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing.

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.”

9 “Get out of our way,” they replied. “This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We’ll treat you worse than them.” They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.

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.

12 The two men said to Lot, “Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here,

13 because 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.”

14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry[a] 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.

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.”



16 When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them.

17 As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!”

18 But Lot said to them, “No, my lords,^[b] please!

19 Your^[c] servant has found favor in your^[d] eyes, and you^[e] have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can’t flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I’ll die.

20 Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn’t it? Then my life will be spared.”

21 He said to him, “Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of.

22 But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it.” (That is why the town was called Zoar.^[f])

23 By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land.

24 Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens.

25 Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land.

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



27 Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the Lord.

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.



29 So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

Lot and His Daughters

30 Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave.

31 One day the older daughter said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is no man around here to give us children—as is the custom all over the earth.

32 Let’s get our father to drink wine and then sleep with him and preserve our family line through our father.”



33 That night they got their father to drink wine, and the older daughter went in and slept with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.

34 The next day the older daughter said to the younger, “Last night I slept with my father. Let’s get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and sleep with him so we can preserve our family line through our father.”

35 So they got their father to drink wine that night also, and the younger daughter went in and slept with him. Again he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.

36 So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father.

37 The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab[g]; he is the father of the Moabites of today.

38 The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi[h]; he is the father of the Ammonites[i] of today.

Let's examine the following verses a little bit closer:



Genesis 18:18 New International Version

18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.[a]

God's hatred of sin and love of righteousness in the world.

God's judicial extermination, on account of their enormous wickedness was to be held up, not to Israel only, but to all future ages of the church, as "an example to those that after should live ungodly"

2 Peter 2:6 New International Version

6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

Gen. 18:20:

(The **Cry** of Sodom & Gomorrah is great); Hebrew word: Zah'-ak; (fem) - the word denotes an outcry arising from pain and sorrow, or as imploring help. This is a cry to heaven for vengeance on account of sin, that demanded an inquiry.

Gen. 18:21:

God was going to examine fully whether the corruption of the people is as universal and hopeless as rumored. In that case, they would have to be exterminated; otherwise, the Lord would inflict a mitigated punishment.

Moreover, this language is used not in reference to a topographical descent from the Hebron hills to the valley of Jordan, but in the anthropomorphic style after the manner of men.

These cities were to be made examples to all future ages of God's severity, and therefore ample proof given, that the judgement was neither rash nor excessive.

Ezekiel 18:23 New International Version

23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

Jeremiah 18:7 New International Version

7 If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed,

The language seems framed to demonstrate the unchallengeable equity of the Divine procedure, and the deliberate result of wise and impartial counsel (Page 158 - JFB)

Whom was Abraham ?

Abraham (first known as Abram) was born the son of Terah, who lived near the southern Mesopotamian city called “Ur of the Chaldees.”

Today, this city (located in modern-day Iraq) worshipped a moon god called Sin. Abram went north because God had a plan for eternity that included this man and didn’t include worshipping Sin.

The fact that one day, of all of his 175 years, Abram heard God call out to him is more than amazing.

The idea that God told him to “leave your country, your people, and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you” demonstrates a relationship of trust or at least knowledge of God before this time (“God had said”).

Abram had a simple faith in who he understood to be the God of all gods.

Abraham’s circa about 2000 B.C.



The 5 cities that made up Sodom and Gomorrah

1. Sodom 2. Gomorrah 3. Ahmad 4. Zeboiim 5. Bela or Zoar

I want to explore the inhabitants, its leaders, their sin(s), culture, their acts against God.

Did the Lord, just wipe out these cities, without giving them a chance to repent ?

God and Sex

Sodom: # 5467, Sed-ome'; Root Meaning: to scorch; burnt (i.e. a volcanic or bituminous district) One of the five cities of the plain or valley of the Jordan, i.e. ...the Dead Sea basin (Gen 10:19; 13:1-13).

Location:

Hebrew word Kik-ka`r for “ Plain ” refers to the basin of the Jordan.

Tradition locates Sodom at the South end of the Dead Sea.

The barren desolation in this area gives mute testimony of judgement by “ fire and brimstone.”

Geographical evidence in this region of salt formations, asphalt, sulfur, and petroleum support the biblical record.

Moreover, it is generally assumed that these cities were located on the sloping plains between the hills of Judea and the shore of the Dead Sea, somewhere at the southern end.

This area was also known, as the Valley of Siddim or Salt Sea (Gen. 14:8)

A peculiar mountain of almost pure salt identifies Sodom and its referred to as “ Lot’s “ wife ” by the local guides.

The exact site of Sodom, is not certain, but most scholars favor a locality around the South end of the Dead Sea.

Popularity:

The most famous (or infamous), of these cities were Sodom and Gomorrah, which according to Gen 19 were completely destroyed by fire.

Circa: It’s destruction circa 2066 B.C. coincides with biblical data for the time of Sodom’s catastrophe

Government:

These cities were really city-states, each with its own “king” (Gen. 14:2).

Pursuant to a war with Mesopotamian kings, these cities became vassal states of Chedorlaomer, king of Elam, for a period of 12 years.

In the thirteenth year, they rebelled and found themselves at war again with Chedorlaomer, and his three allies (Gen. 14: 9).

They were defeated and Lot’s family and others were captured and taken away. Abraham attacked the victorious allies, defeated them, and recovered both captives and the goods (Gen. 14:13-16).

Sodomite:

One who practiced that unnatural sexual perversion which characterized ancient Sodom namely, carnal copulation between male persons (Gen. 19:5).

The English term translated Sodomite in the OT, is from the Latin sodomita, derived from the Heb. seldom, Sodom.

A Hebrew word for “sodomite” derived from this root does not occur in Scripture, the Hebrew term so translated being Qadesh, which means a male temple prostitute who was attached to the heathen sanctuaries and consecrated to the impure rites of pagan worship.

The term is from a root meaning “to be set apart or consecrated,” in this case for immoral purposes.

Sodomy:

Universally prevalent (cf. Rom 1:27), was forbidden in Israel (Deut 23:17; cf. Lev 18:22; 20:13), but was present as early as Rehoboam’s reign (1Kgs 14:24).

Rehoboam;

The only son of Solomon, as far as we know, by Naaman the Ammonites.

Rehoboam succeeded Solomon on the throne in 931 B.C. and reigned for 17 years till the day of his death in 913 B.C. (1Kgs 11:43; 14:21, 31).

Both Asa (1Kgs 15:12) and Jehoshaphat (22:46) temporarily removed the Sodomites, but by Josiah’s time they were found in the temple itself (II Kgs 23:7). The feminine form, qedesha: signifies a - “prostitute” or “harlot” (Gen 38:2; Hosea: 4:14).

The English term “**homosexual**” is used in 1 Cor 6:9 by RSV and NASB, and in 1 Tim 1:10 (NASB) to translate Greek word; **arsenokoitai**, male bed partners.

The twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, were most intimately associated as cities of gross sin (Gen 18:20; Mt 10:15).

Condemnation of Sodom is shared by the city of Gomorrah:
(Gen: 18;20; II Pet 2:6; Jude 7).

Gomorrah:

6017, Amorah; a (ruined) heap direct information on this city is very scant and can be arrived at mainly through its association with the cities which “ were joined together in the vale of Siddim” near the Dead Sea.

These cities of inequity were only a few miles from Hebron, the home of Abraham, and from Jerusalem, the home of **Melchizedek**; yet so vile, their sins reached heaven.

It had been **only 400 years since the Flood**, almost within the memory of men then living.

Yet men had forgotten the lesson of that cataclysmic destruction of the race.

And God “rained fire and brimstone” on these two cities, to refresh men’s memories, and to warn of, the wrath of God that awaits wicked men; and maybe, to serve as a token of the earth’s final doom in a holocaust of fire (II Pet 2:5, 6; 3:7, 10).



Jesus likened the time of His Return to the days of the flood.

Both were periods of unspeakable wickedness.

Today, on a scale never before known in history, with greed, brutality, beastliness and criminal instincts, in demons, in the high places of earth, it does not require much imagination to see the end toward which we are heading, however much good men and statesmen may try to avert it. Unless there comes a world-movement of Repentance, the Day of Doom may not be far off.

Bela or Zoar;

meaning "small" or "insignificance" in Hebrew (a "little one" as Lot called it), was a city east of Jordan in the vale of Siddim, which later became the Dead Sea.

Zoar, was spared at Lot's plea, as his place of refuge - (Gen. 19:20-23).

In (Gen. 14: 8) Zoar, had been previously been called Bela.

Zoar, was surrounded by a tropical climate and the waters coming down from the mountains of Moab, Zoar, was a flourishing oasis where the balsam, indigo, and date trees bloomed luxuriantly.

Zoar: The lone survivor, of the 5 cities; was, the small town of Zoar, which apparently was located at some distance from Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lot and his daughters lodged there temporarily after leaving Sodom and before they fled to the hills behind the city (Gen 19:20-30).

These cities are also called the Pentapolis (Five Cities), as per the aforementioned verses, Zoar, was still visible at the South end.

Foot Notes:

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible;
Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia;
Smith's Bible Dictionary;
Halley's Bible Handbook;
Jamison, Fauset and Brown Commentary;
Nave's Topical Bible;
Vines's Expository Dictionary Of Old and New Testament Words;

Among the major extant Hebrew manuscripts of this period are:

Cairo Codex - (A.D. 895);
Leningrad Codex of Prophets (916);
Aleppo Codex (930); -
Leningrad Old Testament (entire Old Testament) (1008).
Archer, PP. 18-19

Supporting Evidence:

The Bible is a dictionary onto itself.

I will submit for your perusal and consideration, the following evidence in support of the information, that I have submitted to you, as the accounts for Sodom and Gomorrah as related by **the Bible (KJV)**.

The Hebrew Old Testament was so meticulously preserved through the remaining centuries that when the Dead Sea Scrolls (c. 150 B.C.) were discovered in 1948 and subsequently compared with existing Hebrew manuscripts of A.D. 900-1000, they were almost identical.

Thus, was confirmed the dependability of our English Old Testament, which had been based mainly on the Masoretic manuscripts of that century.

Archer writes:

Do we have any objective evidence that errors of transmission have not been permitted by God to corrupt and pervert His revelation?

Yes, we have, for a careful study of the variants ... of the various earliest manuscripts reveals, that none of them affects a single doctrine of Scripture.

The Forgiveness of any and all Sins:

Friends, while this study focused on Sodom and Gomorrah, Homosexuality, is a sin like any other sin, I.E. Adultery, Murder, Stealing, Robbery, abusing the orphans, ...

Moreover, don't let anyone tell you that you are going to Hell because your Gay There's not a person on the face of this earth, that has the power to send anyone anywhere !

So, what must any of us do to get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?



Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have ever lasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In Jesus' Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed