

## INFINITE DEPTH: *REVISITING CLASSICS FROM GENESIS*

### GENESIS 19:1-17

#### Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed

**Genesis 19: 1-7** 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 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!”

**Question #1 What emotions or attitudes does the account of Sodom and Gamorrah generate in your hearts?** Answers will vary...recall that many in the Christian community linked Katrina with New Orleans being the new "Sodom". From Pastor's sermon... There is perhaps not a text in the Bible that gets more people more heated more quickly in our age than Sodom and Gomorrah. Why? Well, it brings up questions about human sexuality that our society, as a whole, has completely done a 180 on in the past 50 years. That *must* mean our society is a bit confused – either we were wrong before, or we’re wrong now, but we, and I include Christians, are at least a little confused about it. Furthermore, getting heated about it, i.e. having strong opinions and little humility about it rarely helps the public dialogue.

**Question #2** Sodom was a completely corrupt society. Verse 4 reports that *all* of Sodom's men, from little boys to grandpas, surrounded the house for a homosexual orgy. What term of endearment does Lot use to address the crowd? Infer three reasons why he was so friendly.

Friends!

1. Lot made his home in Sodom. He knew it was not a good place to move yet did so anyway.
2. Lot had social standing in Sodom. (He met the angels at the gate where he had been sitting.)
3. Lot thought the men of Sodom would be suitable spouses for his daughters.
4. Lot had no altar in Sodom.

**Question #3** How does Lot show that he was also insensitive to the abuse of God's gift of sexuality? Look around you. How have you become callous to things God says is a sin? Lot was willing to have his daughters serve the lustful desires of the males of Sodom. Answers will vary...American cultural is extremely sexual in nature... from dress to music and entertainment, internet use etc.

**LOT ALLOWED HIS ENVIRONMENT TO SHAPE HIM. GOD WANTS CHRISTIANS TO SHAPE THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND THEM.**

**Question #4** Debate which question is a better guide for your Christian life:

*How close can I get to evil without falling into sin?*

*How far do I need to stay away in order to be pure?*

**Read Psalm 119:9-16 to find action steps to staying pure in a godless society.** 9. Study God's word. 10. Pray 11. Meditate 12. Pray 13. Recite (Tell others) 14. See the joy of a Godly life. Focus on the positive. 14. Meditate 15. Keep growing by continued study.

**Question #5** Ezekiel 16:49-50 shows we are all residents of Sodom. How so? Sodom's sin is that she's going to do what she wants to do irrespective of God. And when you abandon relationship with God, it perverts your relationships with humans. This account should make us all VERY humble about which sins we cherry pick and should heighten our awareness of the universal fallenness of ALL humanity, and the destruction that takes place when we lose consciousness of God.

**Question #6** There were not even ten believers in Sodom. How did the LORD (Savior God) graciously go beyond what he had promised Abraham? How could this same loving God incinerate an entire city? Consequently, and symbolically, since God does not merely empower us to rescue ourselves, but he rescues us despite our best attempts to destroy ourselves, the angels grab Lot, his wife, and his two daughters by the hands and forcibly remove them from the city.

Jesus, has two jobs...Savior and Judge!

**Question #7** Look up 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. As Sodomites, all of us have had our status changed. Share your victorious declaration. Try to get a number of group members to make an I was...now I am...statement of what the passage assures us.

**Question #8** Lot lived most of his life not taking God's will seriously. He hadn't done evangelism to his homosexual friends, his sons in law laughed at him at this 'sudden' advice to move.

**What is a recipe for us to be better witnesses than Lot was?**

We must take seriously...

1. The urgency of the situation... Hell is real and the Judge is coming back.
2. The world wants us to forget that Heaven is our home. We must submit to God's command to live as an exile in this world. 1 Peter 3:15
3. That Jesus came into our city, switched places with us, and at the cross he faced the sulfuric hellfire, so that even kicking and screaming at times, the angels would grab hold of us and deliver us safely to the Promised Land. Focus on the Gospel!

Closing Prayer – Make sure to take prayer requests for one another.

**Lord Jesus, what amazing love, that you would take the fires of Sodom at the cross so that we could enjoy an eternal Promised Land. Whatever it now means to be in this world, but not of this world, let us know this and live this. Forgive us for categorizing some sins as worse than others and staying away from the world. But also forgive us for dismissing sins, our own or others', and becoming like the world. So that we might be eternal friends with our brothers and sisters, let us be good witnesses to the truth, goodness, and incredible grace that you have shown us. Amen.**