

The Lord Warned Lot to Flee From Sodom

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to develop such a compassion for those who are not yet Christians that they will pray continually for the Holy Spirit, the Father, and the Son to work in the lives of those who are without Christ and without hope. In this topic, we will see why it was necessary for the Lord to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

We saw in the last topic that Abraham was pleading with the Lord to spare the city of Sodom even if there were only ten righteous people in the city. The Lord agreed to spare the city for the sake of ten. Meanwhile, the two angels had left Abraham and Christ and were going to the city of Sodom. Genesis 19:1-5 says, “Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. And he said, ‘Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant’s house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.’ And they said, ‘No, but we will spend the night in the open square.’ But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, ‘Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them *carnally*.’” We see that the angels reached Sodom at evening time.

Here, we see that Lot was now sitting at the gate of the city. The gate of the city was the place where the leaders of the city gathered in that time. Ruth 4:1-2 says, “Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, ‘Come aside, friend, sit down here.’ So he came aside and sat down. And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, ‘Sit down here.’ So they sat down.” This meant that Lot had now become one of the leaders or judges of the city. Lot saw these two angels who appeared in the form of men and invited them to come and stay at his place for the night. They responded that they would just sleep in the city square. Then, Lot insisted strongly that they come and stay at his house. This was due to the fact that he knew the sinfulness of the men of the city. The men agreed to stay at the home of Lot and he prepared a feast for them that night.

However, the men of the city showed up at the door of the house of Lot. This included both the young and the old men. It included nearly all of the men from every part of the city. The word translated “know” is used for sexual relationships between Adam and Eve, in Genesis 4:1, where we read, “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, ‘I have acquired a man from the Lord.’” It was used for homosexual activity, in Judges 19:22, where we read, “As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house *and* beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, ‘Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him *carnally*!’” It was used for rape just a few verses later, as Judges 19:25 says, “But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought *her* out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go.” In this and the following verses, we see that these men raped the woman until they killed her. Since these angels came in

the form of men to Sodom, we see that the men of Sodom came for homosexual activity.

We see that Lot tried to satisfy the men of Sodom, both young and old, by offering them the opportunity to sexually abuse and rape his daughters rather than his visitors. Genesis 19:6-11 says, “So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, and said, ‘Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof.’ And they said, ‘Stand back!’ Then they said, ‘This one came in to stay *here*, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.’ So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. And they struck the men who *were at* the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary *trying* to find the door.”

The fact that Lot offered his two daughters to these men would cause us to question even the fact that Lot was righteous. However, 2 Peter 2:7-8 says, “and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds...” This verse makes it clear that the righteous soul of Lot was tormented by the evil that he saw and heard daily in the city of Sodom. This meant that the men were very public in their display of their evil actions. The fear that such activity would happen to the two visitors if they stayed in the open square was probably the reason that Lot had insisted strongly that they stay at his house.

Suddenly, the men of the city turned against Lot. They told Lot, “This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.” Lot had apparently told these men in the past that their actions were sinful because they said that he kept acting as a judge. As a result, they decided to treat Lot the way that they had planned to treat the two visitors. The phrase translated “now we will deal worse” is normally translated *to be evil, to do evil, to hurt, to do wickedly*, and other similar phrases. Exodus 5:23 says, “‘For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all.’” In that case, Pharaoh had done evil to the people. Here, we see that the men of Sodom made it clear that they planned to mistreat Lot worse than they had planned to mistreat his visitors. The hearts of those men were filled with evil just like the men in the days of Noah. Genesis 6:5 says, “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.” God had told Abraham in the previous chapter that the sin in Sodom was very great.

The two angels reached out, pulled Lot into the house, and then shut the door to protect Lot from the evil that the men planned against Lot. Then, the two angels struck all of the men outside the door with blindness. That did not stop the men of Sodom. Even though they could not see, we read that the men of the city were so eager to mistreat Lot that they kept trying to find the door until they became exhausted. Meanwhile, the angels told Lot that the Lord had sent them to destroy Sodom. Genesis 19:12-14 says, “Then the men said to Lot, ‘Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city— take *them* out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it.’ So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, ‘Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!’ But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.” The angels told Lot to warn any other

family members about what was soon going to happen to Sodom.

Angels have a limited knowledge just as we have limited knowledge. They did not know what other family members Lot had in the city of Sodom. As a result, they first asked Lot if he had any other family in the city. Without waiting for an answer, they started naming other possible relatives: son-in-law, sons, daughters, and whoever else he had that might be related to him. The angels told Lot to get all who were related to him out of that city quickly. The angels told Lot that they were going to destroy that city and the surrounding cities.

Then, the angels explained why the Lord had sent them to destroy Sodom and the surrounding cities. The angels said that the outcry of that city had grown great before the face of the Lord. The people of the city of Sodom and the surrounding cities were so evil that the Lord heard the cry of those who were being oppressed by these sinful cities. As a result, their judgment was going to be both immediate and eternal. Jude 7 says, “as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” The immediate judgment was going to come within hours, but the judgment was also going to be eternal on the people of those cities. The only way to avoid that judgment was to escape immediately.

God chose to make those cities an example to those who would live in the future. 2 Peter 2:6-9 says, “and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)—*then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.” These cities experienced both the immediate and the eternal judgment of God.

Meanwhile, Lot had also lost his testimony by choosing to live in that evil city. He went and told his sons-in-law to get out of the city immediately because the Lord was going to destroy the city. However, instead of listening and taking action to get out of the city, the sons-in-law thought he was joking. As a result, they were destroyed along with the rest of the city. We want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that their testimony will not be believed if they imitate the actions of the wicked. May the Lord richly bless you as you explain these things to your children.