

V. THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM (Genesis 19:23-29)

- A. The Moment of Destruction (Genesis 19:23, 27)
 - 1. It would be a shocking and sudden moment when Divine judgment fall upon Sodom.
 - 2. *“The sun was risen upon the earth”* (Genesis 19:23). The timing of events places this moment early in the morning. The confirming of this is based upon a reference to Abraham getting up *“early in the morning”* (Genesis 19:27) and viewing the smoke of the destruction.
 - 3. *“When Lot entered into Zoar”* (Genesis 19:27). Not until Lot was inside Zoar did judgment fall upon these other cities. The safety of the righteous (the fact of Lot being righteous is confirmed in 2 Peter 2:7, 8) was paramount with God. Again, this is a great testimony of God, that He will spare the Church from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10).
- B. The Method of Destruction (Genesis 19:24)
 - 1. *“The LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven”* (Genesis 19:24).
 - 2. Sodom and Gomorrah were placed in God’s incinerator.
 - 3. Liquid fire drenched the wicked cities of the plain which quickly made them a raging inferno.
- C. The Magnitude of Destruction (Genesis 19:24, 25)
 - 1. **The villages were destroyed** – four villages (cities or towns) were destroyed by the hand of God. Sodom and Gomorrah are listed in Genesis 19:24 and Admah and Zeboiim are listed in Deuteronomy 29:23.
 - 2. **The valley was destroyed** –
 - a. *“And all the plain”* (Genesis 19:25). This is the *“Jordan plain”* (Genesis 13:10, 11) that so attracted Lot when he separated from Abraham.
 - b. It encompassed the area between the hills on the east and the west side of what is now the Dead Sea. To this day this area is a desolate place where it used to be a lush, fertile area *“before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah* (Genesis 13:10).
 - 3. **The villagers and vegetation were destroyed** –
 - a. *“All of the inhabitants of the cities”* (Genesis 19:25).
 - b. Instant annihilation of the inhabitants occurred.
 - c. *“That which grew upon the ground the ground”* (Genesis 19:25).
 - d. All the grass, trees, shrubs, and crops were burnt up.
- D. The Woman in the Destruction (Genesis 19:26)
 - 1. **The disobedience of Lot’s wife** –
 - a. *“His wife looked back”* (Genesis 19:26).
 - b. She disobeyed the warning by the angels, and it cost her, her life (Genesis 19:17).

2. **The doom of Lot's wife** –
 - a. *“And she became a pillar of salt”* (Genesis 19:26).
 - b. Because of her tragic end, she is a warning to all.
 - c. Christ makes mention of this in the gospels (Luke 17:32).

- E. The Demonstration of the Destruction (Genesis 19:27, 28)
 1. **The vantage point of the destruction** –
 - a. Abraham was able to see the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah from his place.
 - b. *“Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD”* (Genesis 19:27).
 - c. Abraham was able to see that God's impending judgment had fallen upon these cities and plain where wickedness had been rampant.
 - d. These cities had taken advantage of the longsuffering nature of God (Ecclesiastes 8:11) and now their time had run out (Jude v. 7).
 2. **The smoke from the destruction** –
 - a. *“Lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace”* (Genesis 19:28)
 - b. This is a warning of God's destruction that will come on the world in the future (2 Peter 3:10)
 3. **The surveying of the destruction** –
 - a. Abraham *“looked... and beheld”* (Genesis 19:28).
 - b. This reminds us of the Psalmist, when he wrote *“Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked”* (Psalm 91: 8-9).
 - c. Abraham had made God his refuge and had been rewarded and protected for doing so.

- F. The Mercy in the Destruction (Genesis 19:29)
 1. **The mercy allotted** – Because of Abraham's intercession (Genesis 19:29).
 2. **The rescuing imparted** – This now makes the second time that Abraham played a crucial role in rescuing Lot from trouble. The first time was in Genesis 14, when he was captured by the kings of the east. Now this time by supplication in Genesis 18.

- VI. THE DEED OF WICKEDNESS (Genesis 19:30-38)
 - A. The Prelude to the Deed (Genesis 19:30)
 1. This part of chapter 19 is one that many would like to just skip right on over.
 2. Lot's daughters will commit a horrible act with their father and stands as a witness to Lot's own failure to lead his home in God's ways.

- B. The Place of the Deed (Genesis 19:30)
1. The dissatisfaction of the place – Now that Lot was in Zoar he apparently became dissatisfied with it and ended up in the very place that he had been instructed to go to at the beginning (Genesis 19:17).
 2. Lot fled because he feared to dwell in Zoar (Genesis 19:30).
 - a. It seems fear continues to grip Lot at every turn.
 - b. The fear of man will snare a person to the point that they will make terrible decisions (Proverbs 29:25).
 - (1) This snared Abraham (Genesis 12:11-13; Genesis 20:2)
 - (2) This snared Aaron (Exodus 32:22-24)
 - (3) This snared Saul (1 Samuel 15:24)
 - (4) This snared Peter (Galatians 2:11-13)
- C. The Proposing of the Deed (Genesis 19:31-32)
1. **The person making the proposal** (Genesis 19:31)
 - a. Made by the firstborn
 - b. Made to her younger sister
 - c. Exaggerated by the firstborn
 2. **The principles in the proposal** (Genesis 19:31)
 - a. The eldest used some principles that are favourites of the devil to justify evil behaviour.
 - b. One is to let circumstances justify the means. That is, character takes a backseat to circumstances and dictates conduct. Another is letting the end justify the means. In this case, they would be able to preserve seed. Evil uses clever but corrupt principles to justify evil.
- D. The Performance of the Deed (Genesis 19:33-36)
- E. The Offspring from the Deed (Genesis 19:37-38)
1. **Both were with child and named their boys** –
 - a. *“The firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab... And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Ben-ammi”* (Genesis 19:37, 38).
 - b. It is significant that the girls, not Lot, named the boys and the meaning of the names displayed their evil.
 - (1) Moab means *“from the father.”*
 - (2) Ben-ammi means *“son of my people.”* That is, an offspring of her own kind, namely, a relative.
 - c. The meaning of the names reveals the girls’ lack of shame for what they did.
 2. **Both boys became nations** –
 - a. *“Father of the Moabites... the father of the children of Ammon”* (Genesis 19:37, 38).

- b. The descendants of the boys became two nations. Their lands were located east of the Dead Sea with Moab being in the South and Ammon in the North.
- c. We read much in the Bible about these two nations because their doings with the Israelites.
- d. These nations relationship with God and with Israel was very bad.
 - (1) They both will oppose the march of Israel into the promised land.
 - (2) After Israel settles in Canaan, their periodic wars between these two nations and Israel.

VII. WHERE LOT FAILED IN HIS LIFE

A. Introduction:

1. Lot was not the evil man that many perceive him to be.
2. In the scriptures, he is called a just man (2 Peter 2:6-8).
3. Yet, we see from scripture that Lot certainly failed.

B. He Failed in His Priorities

1. He chose riches over righteousness (Genesis 13:10-13).
2. He chose prestige over purity (Genesis 19:1 – “Lot sat in the gate”).
3. He chose the lesser of evils over the perfect will of God (Genesis 19:7-8 – He offered his daughters to the men of Sodom in order to protect the angels who were under his care.)
4. This contrasts with the priorities of Abraham (Genesis 18:19).

C. He Failed in His Motivation

1. He was moved by what he saw (Genesis 13:10; cp. Genesis 3:6; Joshua 7:20-21; 2 Samuel 11:2).
2. He was moved by the fear of man (Genesis 19:19, 30; Proverbs 29:25).
3. This contrasts with the motivation of Abraham (Genesis 14:21-23).

D. He Failed in His Resolution

1. He served without enthusiasm ([Genesis 19:1] – compare “rose up to meet them” with “he ran to meet them” [Genesis 18:2]).
2. He hesitated in his decisions (Genesis 19:16 – “while he lingered”).
3. He constantly changed direction (Genesis 19:21-22 with verse 30; cp. Ephesians 4:14).
4. This contrasts with the resolution of Abraham (Genesis 14:14-16).

E. He Failed in His Influence

1. No influence with the world (Genesis 19:9 – though he gave his life to it).
2. No influence with his family (Genesis 19:14, 26).
3. This contrasts with the influence of Abraham (Genesis 18:22-32) and Jacob (Genesis 32:28).

F. He Failed in the Fruit of His Life

1. His daughters had no sense of right and wrong (Genesis 19:31-32).
2. His offspring fought against the people of God (Genesis 19:37-38).
3. This contrasts with the fruit of Abraham (Genesis 22:15-18; Proverbs 11:30).

NOTE: We should learn from the mistakes and sins of Lot and determine to avoid them in our own lives. What should we do to keep from making the same mistakes as Lot did?