

Sodom & Gomorrah – *Wicked World, Merciful God*

Purpose: to show (1) the wickedness of a world without God, (2) the mercy of God toward men, and (3) the effect of godlessness on the righteous.

So far in the book of Genesis we have seen that the fall of Adam meant that the world became a very wicked place. Remember:

- Cain killed his brother Abel, which resulted in a line of ungodly men
- The world became so corrupt that God destroyed it, yet he showed mercy through Noah
- Once again men became corrupt, so God slowed things down by confusing their language and scattering them.

In Genesis 19 we are going to see a very detailed example of the wickedness of the world during Abraham's time, and yet we will consider God's response. We also want to see how wickedness effects even good men.

Chapter 19 is a continuation of the events that were recorded in Chapter 18. God spoke to Abraham and told him that He was going to Sodom to see what was happening there. Abraham intercedes on behalf of the city with the LORD, while two angels continue on to the city. When they arrive, Lot meets them and does not know that they are angels at first. He offers them hospitality (which he probably learned from Abraham) and takes them into his home. Everything seems to be going well until the men of the city enter the scene. Here are a few important things to consider

Without God, men will always become extremely corrupt.

- All of the men of the city surrounded the house (4)
- They were very bold and open in their corruption (5)
- Their desires had gone beyond normal passions (8)
 - Rom. 1:18- 32
- Only the righteousness of Lot was restraining their wickedness (9)

God is very merciful, not wanting any to perish:

- He listened to Abraham's petitions (Ch. 17)
- He disabled the men of Sodom, giving Lot a way to escape (11)
 - This happened with Elisha – 2 Kings 6:18
 - This happened with Jesus – Luke 24:13-16
- He looked to see if any were righteous (12)
- He spared Lot and attempted to spare any of his family (12)
- He would not send judgement until Lot had departed
- He helped Lot to escape (16)
- He spared a little city for the sake of Lot

Why did Lot respond the way he did?

- He offered his daughters in exchange for the life of the men who were visiting (8)
- His sons-in-law did not believe him (14)
- He lingered (16)

- He had very little faith (19,20)

Answer: because he was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked:

2 Peter 2:1-9

Consider this:

Lot separated from Abraham

Lot chose to dwell where things looked good on the outside but were not good on the inside – man’s choice instead of God’s will

Lot became oppressed due to his environment – he did not remain with the blessing of God

Lot loses his wife, and his descendants eventually become enemies of the people of God

Conclusion:

- Without God, mankind will always degenerate; wickedness will increase. Don’t believe the lie that says that men are by nature good. We are not!
- God does not want anyone to perish, but is longsuffering. However, eventually He will deal with sin and punish the wicked. Understand that He does everything possible to deliver us from judgment, but he will eventually deal with sin.
- Dabbling in worldly things can cause even the righteous to have very serious problems. Don’t make the mistake of Lot