

Genesis 19: Sodom, Gomorrah and Lot's Wife

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Genesis 19 contains the record of the destruction of the cities of the plain, especially Sodom and Gomorrah. It also contains the destruction of the family of Lot.

Part I: Sodom and Gomorrah

Very early on, Sodom and Gomorrah were marked as cities of great evil. *Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD* (Genesis 13:13). We are told more clearly the nature of their sins in the New Testament. In Jude 7 we are told that their wickedness was primarily their sexual immorality of homosexuality. We are told repeated in both the Old and New Testament that homosexuality is an abominable practice before God. We might also see their hatred of Lot for being one who revealed their evil.

Ultimately, Sodom and Gomorrah serve as an example in the New Testament of the punishment of God on the wicked. In 2 Peter 2:6 we are told that God made *"them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter"*. They are cited in Matthew 10:15, 11:23, Romans 9:29, and Revelation 11:8 as the typical result of sin. God will punish, we must believe it.

Part II: Lot's Actions

When the 2 angels come to the town, Lot insists that they accept his hospitality for their own safety. When the men of the city arrive, Lot offers them his daughters. This is a horrific action that cannot be justified. We need to see that this is one of the time that scriptures reveal someone's conduct with little or not comment to it. That it was evil is revealed by the angelic action of striking out at the men of the city. Perhaps we ought to take no more point of this event than this: evil deeds with good intentions are evil.

Part III; Lot's Wife

In Luke 17:32-33 Jesus said "Remember Lot's Wife". Lot's wife is an example of one who believed, but not enough. Consider these points:

She was lost even though her husband was saved – Galatians 6:4-5

She was lost even though she was warned of the danger – Matthew 7:22-23

She was lost even though she made an effort to be saved – Hebrews 4:1

She was lost even though she committed just one sin – James 2:10

Conclusions:

Genesis 19 has a lot of theological ideas that have important ramifications for us today. First, it is an absolute that God punishes wickedness. *"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). Second, we need to flee from wickedness, not negotiate or try to survive in it. Finally, don't look back when you leave sin.