

DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH:  
A WARNING TO MODERN SOCIETY  
PART 1

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If there is one thing that the Bible makes very clear, it is that when God wants to make a point, He knows how to make it. As I explain in a few other articles, such as "Beholding the Evil and the Good", not only will God repeatedly drive the point home, but He will issue a very stiff warning regarding what will happen if we willingly choose to disobey His holy Laws. However, being the proud, stubborn humans that we are, we just have to test God, don't we? We have to see exactly how far we can go, and how much we can get away with, before God decides to slam down His fist in righteous judgment against us. And it never ends well for us when He does.

Sadly, it has always been this way since the very beginning. Adam and Eve were warned to stay away from a certain tree in the Garden of Eden. We know how that turned out. They found themselves ousted from that beautiful paradise, as we see by these verses:

"And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

Genesis 3:9-24, KJV

The Patriarch Noah and his family must have spent decades building the Ark. But in spite of the fact that just by the act of building the Ark, Noah warned the wicked world of what was going to happen, we are told that only he and his immediate family survived the Genesis Flood. Everyone else

took their last rebellious gasp of air. Consider this set of verses:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth . . . And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die."

Genesis 6:5-13, 17, KJV

"And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark."

Genesis 7:21-23, KJV

"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."

1 Peter 3:20, KJV

Years later, Babylonian king Nimrod -- who was the grandson of Ham, and the great grandson of Noah -- likewise decided

to test the Lord. Thus, he and his rebellious gang proudly thought that they could make a name for themselves and build a tower which could reach to Heaven itself. As we all know, God didn't care too much for their haughty defiance, and the confusion of tongues was the result, as we see by this set of verses:

"And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar [modern-day Iraq]." Genesis 10:8-10, KJV

"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth." Genesis 11:1-9, KJV

Centuries later, Pharaoh was repeatedly told by Moses "Let my people go!" But did that proud Egyptian king listen? Of course not! After all, he was the king of Egypt, and no one ever told the king of Egypt what to do . . . at least so he thought. In the end, his army was destroyed in the Red Sea -- some six hundred chariots, to be exact -- and Moses led the Children of Israel to the mountain of God -- known as Mount Horeb, or Mount Sinai -- where the Laws of God were given to the Israelites. Consider the following group of

verses:

"And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness."

Exodus 5:1, KJV

"And thou shalt say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear."

Exodus 7:16, KJV

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me." "And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me. Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are."

Exodus 8:1, 20-21, KJV

"Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me." "And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me."

Exodus 9:1, 13, KJV

"And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me. Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast:"

Exodus 10:3-4, KJV

"And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we

have let Israel go from serving us? And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand. But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon."

Exodus 14:5-9, KJV

"And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses."

Exodus 14:21-31, KJV

"By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned."

Hebrews 11:29, KJV

Many more are the stories concerning defiance against God which we find in the pages of the Bible. As you can read in articles such as "The Fruits of Disobedience", "Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?" and many others, the track record of the ancient Israelites was likewise anything but stellar. Sadly, even though Moses and Joshua explicitly warned the Twelve Tribes of the curses which would befall them if they should backslide and rebel against the Lord; and even though they had received the very Oracles of God in order to teach them righteous living, the Scriptures record that for literally centuries, those stiff-necked Israelites endure continual persecution, invasion, subjugation and conquest due to their many sins. It was one continuous vicious cycle of obedience followed by rebellion, over and over again.

Amazingly, it was as if they had learned nothing from their time in Egypt. Even during the time of Christ, Israel was a subjugated nation. Those stubborn people just never seemed to learn their lesson; and to this very day, most Jews still have not repented of their unbelief. How truly sad indeed! You see, as I have mentioned before, one important lesson that the Bible teaches us, is that we are supposed to learn from the past. More specifically, we are supposed to learn from the mistakes of the past. We are supposed to look at the long history of the Israelites and say to ourselves, "I better not do that. Look at what happened to them when they did it!" This truth is evident from verses such as the following:

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:"

Romans 15:4 KJV

"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted . . . Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION, upon whom the ends of the

world are come."

1 Corinthians 10:6, 11, KJV

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are SET FORTH FOR AN EXAMPLE, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

Jude 1:7, KJV

That last verse leads us into our main topic of discussion. If there is one particular story which stands out in the Scriptures, surely it is the one concerning the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the other cities of the plain. If you are not aware of it, this tragic story is so important, and the lesson it teaches so vital, that it is mentioned by a number of authors, beginning with Moses in the Book of Genesis. Next it is mentioned by the Prophets Isaiah, Amos and Jeremiah. Finally, in the New Testament it is mentioned by Jesus, Peter and Jude. As I said at the beginning of this series, when God wants to make a point, He knows how to make a point. So the fact that this particular story has a thread throughout the Scriptures ought to tell us something. God wants us to learn something from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

But before we actually get into the Biblical account itself, let me provide you with some background information first. The very first mention of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Bible occurs in the tenth chapter of the Book of Genesis. In that chapter, we are informed that the eastern border of the land of Canaan was the Jordan River which ran into the Dead Sea, or the "salt sea" as it is known in the Scriptures. It was there, in the Valley of Siddim that Sodom and Gomorrah, and the other cities of the plain were located, as we can easily determine by the following verse:

"And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, unto Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha."

Genesis 10:19, KJV

Please note that in the previous verse, Moses first describes the western border of Canaan from Sidon to Gaza to Gerar, and then he crosses over to the eastern border where he mentions five cities of the plain. One city which is not mentioned in



that verse is Zoar, which was also a city of the plain that was located near Sodom and Gomorrah. This very same land area by the Jordan River and the Dead Sea eventually became the eastern border of the land that was assigned to the tribe of Judah. Judah's western border became the "great sea"; that is, the Mediterranean Sea, as we can determine by this set of verses:

"And the east border was the salt sea, even unto the end of Jordan. And their border in the north quarter was from the bay of the sea at the uttermost part of Jordan . . . And the west border was to the great sea, and the coast thereof. This is the coast of the children of Judah round about according to their families."  
Joshua 15:5, 12, KJV

Returning to the Book of Genesis, the next time that Sodom and Gomorrah are mentioned in the Scriptures is in chapter thirteen. As you may recall, and as I explain in articles such as "The Children of God and Politics" and "One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews", when Terah forsook his old life in the city of Ur in the land of the Chaldees -- which today is a part of Kuwait -- and headed north, in addition to his son, Abram, and Abram's wife, Sarai, he also took along Lot, who was the son of Haran, Abram's brother. Lot's father was not able to make the journey, because he had already died. However, Terah only made it as far as the city of Haran in Padanaram -- a part of modern Syria -- where he also died. Thus, Abram, Sarai and Lot continued on alone to the land of Canaan. Consider the following group of verses:

"Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. But Sarai was barren; she had no child. And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran."  
Genesis 11:27-32, KJV

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came."

Genesis 12:1-5, KJV

As the previous group of verses conclude, eventually, Abram, his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot reached Canaan. At that time, the Canaanites -- who were the descendants of Cush and Ham -- dwelled in the land. To make matters worse, there was a great famine in progress. So, Abraham decided to take his family down into Egypt. Being as Abraham's wife Sarai -- that is, Sarah -- was so beautiful, Abraham chose to pass her off as his sister for his own protection. But that is where that old Patriarch ran into trouble. You see, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt wanted to marry that pretty woman.

In the end, the Lord sent some nasty plagues to Pharaoh. This resulted in him discovering the whole truth of the matter. It comes as no surprise then that he sent Abraham, his wife and all of their servants on their way, out of Egypt. So, Abraham re-entered the southern part of Canaan and eventually made it back up to Bethel, where he had previously built an altar and sacrificed unto the Lord. One interesting point which some of my readers may find somewhat shocking, is the fact that Sarah was actually Abraham's half-sister. According to the verse below, Abraham and Sarah had the same father, but different mothers:

"And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife."

Genesis 20:12, KJV

Thus, he spoke a half-truth as he and his wife had agreed to do during the course of their travels to the land of Canaan for their own protection, particularly Abraham's protection. One result of the journey into Egypt is that Abraham became quite wealthy and had lots of gold and silver, cattle, and servants, both male and female. But this created yet another problem. You see, Abram and Lot each had so many flocks, that eventually, the land was not able to sustain them both. As a result, Abraham's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen began to argue amongst themselves. It is at this point in our story where Sodom and Gomorrah re-enter the picture. Consider what happened next:

"And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."

Genesis 13:2-13, KJV

I don't know about you, but I get the impression that Lot may have been somewhat of a selfish fellow. While it is true that Abram did allow Lot to choose which direction he would

take, considering that old Abram was the elder amongst their clan, I think that the right and courteous thing for Lot to have done, would have been to leave the best land to Abram. Instead, Lot saw how absolutely beautiful the plain of the Jordan River was, and he grabbed it for himself. Notice that Moses even compares it to the Garden of Eden in the previous verses. But also notice the ominous warnings in those verses as well: "before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah . . . But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly." Lot's decision reminds me of the following verse that is found in the Book of Psalms:

"And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."

Psalms 106:15, KJV

You see, while Lot got what he wanted, it wasn't before long that some very serious problems arrived at his doorstep. As the previous verses demonstrate, Sodom and Gomorrah were already on God's radar. However, even before that calamity arrived, something else happened which placed Lot and his family's lives in serious jeopardy. Earlier, we discussed how Nimrod had set up his kingdom to the east in the land of Shinar, later known as Assyria/Babylonia and Mesopotamia, and today as Iraq. Now, a few hundred years later, Nimrod's empire has continued to flourish; so much so that the new king of Babylon -- Amraphel -- has formed a confederacy with other kings in the empire. Like all rulers, they wanted to expand their territory. So, they turned their eyes westward towards Canaan and the lush plain of the Jordan River, and they declared war on the five cities of the plain; that is, Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Bela, which was also known as Zoar. Consider the following verses:

"And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations; That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar. All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea. Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled."  
Genesis 14:1-11, KJV

As you can see, this war occurred in the Valley of Siddim,

which corresponds to the "salt sea", which today we know as the Dead Sea. The people of the plain lost that war, and were thus subjugated by Chedorlaomer, who was the king of the Babylonian province of Elam. However, as that last verse states, after thirteen years of subjugation, they grew tired of it. Thus, the kings of the five cities of the plain chose to rebel against Chedorlaomer.

Tragically, it was a foolish decision on their part, because King Chedorlaomer simply returned with the very same three Babylonian kings, and again fought against the five kings of the cities of the plain, in the very same place; that is, in the Valley of Siddim. But this time it was worse, because not only did the kings of the plain lose again, but it appears that the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah lost their lives when they fell in the slimepits. According to Adam Clarke's 1832 "Commentary on the Bible", these slimepits were in reality wells or pits from which asphaltum or bitumen sprung from the ground. Basically, bitumen is a naturally-occurring black, viscous, pitch-like substance, similar to what is used today to tar roads. I am reminded of the famous LaBrea tar pits in Los Angeles, California. It is the very same thing. Consider the following verses which describe these events:

"And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that were with him, and smote the Rephaims in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim, And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto Elparan, which is by the wilderness. And they returned, and came to Enmishpat, which is Kadesh, and smote all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Hazezontamar. And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim; With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings with five. And the vale of Siddim was full of slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain. And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way."

Genesis 14:5-11, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH:  
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PART 2

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Lot And His Family Are Taken Captive By The Babylonian Kings, Abraham Rescues Lot And His Family, Abram Refuses The Spoils Of War, Abram Negotiates With The Lord Regarding The Fate Of Sodom And Gomorrah, Abram's Concern For Lot And His Family, Lot's Two Daughters And Lot's Questionable Character, False Claim By Gays That People Of Sodom Were Destroyed Simply For Being Inhospitable, Was Lot Backslidden From The Lord?, Deep Compromise In The Churches, Go And Sin No More, Unbelieving Sons-In-Law Of Lot, Don't Procrastinate When God Says It Is Time To Go, Lot Whines About Having To Go To The Mountains, Destruction Of Sodom And Gomorrah, Moses Mentions Sodom And Gomorrah When Warning The Israelites, Isaiah Jeremiah And Amos Refer To Sodom And Gomorrah As They Pronounce Judgment Against The Nations, Sodom And Gomorrah Convey Idea Of Total And Complete Destruction, Jude Peter And Jesus Discuss Sodom

As we concluded in part one, with the second defeat of the kings of the five cities of the plain at the Vale of Siddim, not only did the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah lose their own lives, but the four kings from Babylon to the east likewise took a great spoil from the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. But something else happened as well. Following the first war with the Babylonian kings, one would be inclined to think that Lot might start to wonder if perhaps it wasn't so safe

to pitch his tents so close to Sodom. But not Lot. Despite the obvious danger, he apparently remained right where he was. Perhaps it was because the wicked people of Sodom were a good source of revenue for Lot. We really don't know. But whatever the case may be, that is when Lot's real trouble began, as we read in the very next verse:

"And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed."  
Genesis 14:12, KJV

As you can see, Lot, his family, and all of their possessions were part of the great spoil that was taken by the Babylonian kings. Lot wanted the best part of the land, so old Abraham acquiesced and let him have it. We can imagine that Lot must have worked rather hard to obtain all his material wealth. He even purposely decided to pitch his tents near an exceedingly wicked group of cities. Now, just like that, God allowed him to lose it all. Well, at least temporarily. You see, Abraham, his uncle, had heard what had happened to Lot and his family, and this is what happened next:

"And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram. And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people."  
Genesis 14:13-16, KJV

Imagine that! Abram was over seventy-five years old by that time, and yet with a little more than three hundred men, he traveled as far as Damascus, where he managed to pull off a surprise attack at night, and rescue Lot and his family, and regain all of Lot's possessions as well. Of course, he also had the help of Mamre, Eshcol and Aner, and whatever men came along with those three men. What happened next strikes me as interesting, because I think it reveals something regarding Abram's character. Even though the king of Sodom offered to

let Abram keep the spoils of war -- that is, all of the goods which Abram had recovered from the Babylonian kings -- Abram absolutely refused. While Abram says that it is because he does not want to give the king of Sodom a reason to boast, I suspect that the real reason why Abram made such a vow before the Lord, may have been because he knew how wicked the people of the five cities were, and he did not want to have anything to do with them. But that is just personal speculation, so you can take it or leave it. The Scriptures state as follows:

"And the king of Sodom went out to meet him [Abram] after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale . . . And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich: Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion." Genesis 14:17, 21-24, KJV

Being as this article is about Sodom and Gomorrah, at this point in our discussion, while they contain some important information, we are going to skip Genesis chapters fifteen through seventeen, and jump to chapter eighteen. This is where what we can term "the main event" begins. In other words, the complete destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the other cities of the plain.

As many of you will recall, Sarai, Abram's wife, was barren. This was of great concern to Abram, being as he and his wife were now both advanced in age, and it appeared as if Abram would have no biological heir, despite God's earlier promise to greatly multiply his seed. So one hot day Abram is sitting in the door of his tent in the plains of Mamre, when lo and behold, the Lord Himself and two of His Angels arrive. It is what is stated after the discussion regarding Sarai's coming pregnancy that is of concern to us insofar as this current article is concerned. Following is exactly what transpired:

"And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. And the



LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? . . . And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place."

Genesis 18:16-18, 20-33, KJV

Once again we get a peek at Abram's inner character. Think about this. Despite the trouble which Lot had been to Abram, -- fighting between their herdsmen, and having to rescue Lot and his family from the Babylonian kings -- Abram still very much cared for Lot. I suspect that this is why he questioned the Lord's decision regarding the destruction of Sodom and

Gomorrah, and brought up the issue concerning the righteous. But we also see the Lord's character as well, because He was willing to listen to Abram's pleas. Thus, He promised that He would not destroy Sodom if any righteous remained in that wicked city.

As we soon discover, even though Lot and his family lived in that terrible city of sin known as Sodom, God still desired to save them. Thus, He sent the two Angels to escort them by force out of that abominable, wicked place, just prior to its fiery destruction. As I mentioned in part one, from reading about Lot, personally, I get the impression that he was a bit self-centered, always looking out for what was in it for him, and being most concerned with his own well-being and survival first. We get another glimpse of Lot's questionable character when the homosexuals in Sodom discover that Lot is hosting the two Angels in his home. Of course, the men of Sodom did not know that they were Angels at that time, but there should be no doubt that they certainly found out soon enough.

However, what I would like to call to your attention is that when those homosexuals came pounding on Lot's door, because they wanted him to turn over his two visitors to them, so that they could "know" them -- in other words, meaning to engage in homosexual sex -- Lot offered his own two virgin daughters to those wicked people instead. Personally, that a man would betray his very own daughters, and willingly turn them over, knowing that they are going to be sexually abused, is very hard to digest. Yet that is exactly what Lot offered to do. Whether Lot did this to protect his Angelic Visitors -- who even he may not yet have realized were Angels -- or merely to protect himself, I am really not certain. Consider this group of verses:

"But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof."

Genesis 19:4-8, KJV

Notice that Lot tells the men of Sodom "do not so wickedly". You see, while some supporters of the gay and lesbian agenda erroneously claim that the reason why God destroyed the evil people of Sodom and Gomorrah and the other cities of the plain is simply because they were an "inhospitable" group of folks -- which I find absolutely ludicrous -- by the mere fact that Lot says those words, we know that he fully understands that those vile homosexuals want to engage in sex with the Angels. That, in my view, is another reason why he probably offered them his two virgin daughters instead. Clearly, Lot was not trusting God for the outcome of this terrible situation. Look at it this way. If God wiped out the five cities of the plain simply because they were "inhospitable", as the gays claim, then we are all in very serious trouble with the Lord.

In fact, if you require additional proof that this claim by the gays regarding "inhospitality" is totally bogus, let me remind you of an incident which occurred in the New Testament. We find the story in the Gospel of Luke, as we see here:

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."

Luke 9:51-56, KJV

While we may not fully understand what is being said there -- verse fifty-three is somewhat obscure -- it does appear that the people of this particular Samaritan village were acting in an inhospitable manner towards Jesus and His followers. As you can see, in their haste, the Apostles wanted to be judge, jury and executioner, and call fire down from Heaven in order to destroy the people of that village. I am sure you can see the similarities with what the gays are claiming. However, in total contrast to their false belief, Jesus did not destroy

that village. Instead, He rebuked His own followers due to their lack of compassion and own hardness of heart. So, just being inhospitable is not a justifiable reason for destroying four entire cities, as occurred in the Book of Genesis.

We find additional, clear evidence that the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah were sexual in nature in two verses which are found in the Epistle of Jude. I shared one of these verses with you in part one. In his Epistle, Jude writes as follows:

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

Jude 1:6-7, KJV

As I mentioned in part one, this warning regarding Sodom and Gomorrah is shared by various authors throughout the pages of the Bible. This admonition by Jude is the final warning to be found in the Scriptures. I will be discussing other verses a bit later in this series.

There is something else I would like for you to notice about Lot's situation. Please notice where they are at. At the very beginning of our story, we were told that Lot had pitched his tents near Sodom. However, now, years later, look where they are at. They are apparently living in a house within the city limits itself. In other words, Lot and his family have become even more embroiled in the affairs of that wicked city than before. At least that is my personal impression. They are now living thick in the middle of vile perverts and degenerates. They appear to be living a totally compromised lifestyle, all for the sake of wealth and comfort.

This reminds me so much of the sickening compromise that we see in a growing number of churches and denominations today. As I point out in related articles, it is one thing to try to be inclusive, and to have compassion, patience and mercy with members of the LGBTQ community, in the hope that perhaps we can encourage some of them to repent, to accept the Lord, and to have a real change in their lives. But it is quite another to ordain gay and lesbian bishops, priests, ministers and

pastors; and then to even have them marry these sinful people who openly defy God's holy Laws. As I have said before, in my view, this is clearly sending the wrong message. Such people don't need for the churches to marry them. They need for them to tell them "Go, and sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee", exactly as Jesus did, as we see by these verses:

"Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

John 5:14, KJV

"She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

John 8:11, KJV

In contrast to Lot's apparent compromise and entrenched, easy life in the city, smart, old Abraham was still keeping a safe distance from that sinful city, and living in his tent with Sarah. That is why God blessed Abraham. He was still a free nomad for the Lord. He could easily pick up his roots and go anywhere at anytime the Lord told Him to. So again, I must question Lot's character, and I suspect that he was rather backslidden from the Lord. Yet in spite of this, just like us sinners today, God still chose to have mercy on Lot, and to deliver him and his family from that evil place before His righteous judgments fell upon it. Thus, after blinding the men of Sodom, we read the following in the Book of Genesis:

"And the men [Angelic Messengers] said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law."

Genesis 19:12-14, KJV

How tragic! It turns out that Lot's sons-in-law were just as wicked and unbelieving as the rest of the people of Sodom. In fact, it appears that they thought that Lot was simply joking or jesting with them. As a result, they apparently chose to

remain in Sodom -- and were destroyed -- because there is no further discussion of them anywhere in the Book of Genesis.

Aside from the main lesson regarding the perverse nature of homosexuality, and how much God hates it, as I point out in "Remember Lot's Wife: What Was Her Fate?", another very important lesson which we can learn from this story, is that when God says it is time to go, it is time to go, and we had better not drag our feet. Once again, we see that this was Lot's sin. Apparently, he was having a rather difficult time forsaking all of his material wealth. As the group of verses below state, Lot was lingering. He was procrastinating. He was trying to avoid the inevitable loss of everything he had worked so hard to obtain. In these verses, "lingered" is translated from the Hebrew word "mahahh". According to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, this word means to linger, tarry, wait or delay:

"And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."  
Genesis 19:15-17, KJV

Just look at that! Lot and his family's procrastination was such, that the Lord's two Angels finally just had to grab all of them by the hand and literally drag them out of the place. They couldn't even begin to understand the mercy that God was having on them, because of the word He had given to Abraham. In the next group of verses, we really get to see inside of Lot's heart. He shows us plainly how attached his heart is to the cities of the plain. After all, they have afforded him an easy, comfortable life amongst all of the sin and perversity. It was bad enough that the Angels had to drag Lot's family out of that wicked city. But despite God's mercy, Lot still has the audacity to whine. He complains that he does not want to go to the mountains. Thus, a compromise is reached with the two Angels, and they agree to spare Zoar, as we see by these verses:

"And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar."

Genesis 19:18-22, KJV

Notice that the final verse above tells us why that city was called Zoar. Interestingly enough, the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon informs us that this name means "insignificance". Finally, with Lot and his two daughters temporarily safe in Zoar, the inevitable happens, and God rains down fire and brimstone upon both Sodom and Gomorrah, and the other cities of the plain. Based on the verses we read earlier, it would seem that this catastrophe struck at least four cities in all: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim. It is not made clear whether or not Lasha was included in the total destruction, even though it too was located in proximity to Sodom and Gomorrah. Moses writes as follows:

"The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace. And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt."

Genesis 19:23-29, KJV

Thus was the severe judgment of the four wicked cities of the plain. It was total and complete. Nothing was left alive; not even plants on the ground. It became a totally dead area, and a powerful witness of God's displeasure with the abominable sin of homosexuality. If anyone tries to tell you otherwise, don't believe them, because, in my view, and based on what we read in the Scriptures, they are just trying to water down the truth. As I noted in part one, this catastrophic event is mentioned by other individuals in the Bible as well; and each time that it is mentioned, it is used to issue a very severe warning to the listeners. For example, when Moses warned the Children of Israel of the curses which would befall them if they abandoned the Lord, he said the following. Notice how he mentions brimstone and burning and nothing growing:

"So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the LORD hath laid upon it; And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath: Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger?"

Deuteronomy 29:22-24, KJV

Centuries later, when pronouncing judgment against Babylon, the Prophet Isaiah likewise referred back to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, as we see by the following verse. It seems that when these Prophets -- including Moses -- mention Sodom and Gomorrah, the intent is to use the event as a clear device to convey total and complete destruction; that is, so complete, that absolutely nothing is left alive. Using the destruction of these cities is clearly a tool to impress upon the listener or reader the severity of God's coming judgment, unless they choose to repent:

"And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah."

Isaiah 13:19, KJV

In prophesying judgment against Edom -- which is now a part



of modern Jordan -- the Lord also used the Prophet Jeremiah to compare the desolation which would befall that land to the great destruction which likewise befell Sodom and Gomorrah centuries earlier, as we see by the following verse. Notice again that the emphasis is on leaving Edom totally lifeless:

"Also Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof. As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it."

Jeremiah 49:17-18, KJV

In the very next chapter, the Lord again has Jeremiah compare the coming destruction of Babylon to what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, as we see by the following verse. Once again, we are given the understanding that the judgement and destruction will be so severe, that no man will be able to abide there anymore. The place just won't be able to support any form of life:

"As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there [in Babylon], neither shall any son of man dwell therein."

Jeremiah 50:40, KJV

Turning to the Book of Amos, similar to his predecessors, we likewise find the Prophet Amos making a reference to Sodom and Gomorrah, as he -- and the Lord -- lament over the fact that Israel has not repented of her sins:

"I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."

Amos 4:11-12, KJV

Turning to the New Testament, we have already seen how the Apostle Jude referenced the tragic events which occurred to the four cities of the plain, and wrote that they were meant to serve as a sobering example to those people who would dare to engage in sexual perversions. In his second Epistle, the Apostle Peter follows the very same line of thought, and uses the destruction of the cities of the plain as a stern warning

to those people who would foolishly choose to live ungodly lives. Consider this verse:

"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow [Greek = "katastrophe"], making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;"

2 Peter 2:6, KJV

As you can see by the words which I have added and enclosed in brackets, what I find particularly interesting about this verse -- besides the fact that Peter states that the cities were reduced to ashes -- is that the word "overthrow" is derived from the Greek word "katastrophe". It is obviously very easy to see how our own English word "catastrophe" is derived from that very same word.

Finally, we come to what Jesus Himself had to say in regards to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the rest of the cities of the plain. If you study the following verses very carefully, you will realize that they all have one common thread. The sin of which Jesus is accusing these people and cities is quite simply unbelief. The Lord is saying that it will be worse for people who reject Him, than for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah who had never heard of the Savior:

"And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city."

Matthew 10:14-15, KJV

"And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee."

Matthew 11:23-24, KJV

"And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a

testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city."

Mark 6:10-11, KJV

"But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city."

Luke 10:10-12, KJV

"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife."

Luke 17:28-32, KJV

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

[wordweaver777@gmail.com](mailto:wordweaver777@gmail.com)

<https://www.billkochman.com>

DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH:  
A WARNING TO MODERN SOCIETY  
PART 3

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Definitions Of "Overthrow" And "Overthrew", The Geological Structure Of Israel And The Middle East, Excerpts From The Book "Earthquakes in the Holy Land", Jordan Rift Valley And Dead Sea Rift, Afro-Arabian Rift Zone, Formation Of The Dead Sea, Ancient City Of Lasha Means "Fissure", Destruction By Brimstone And Fire, Brimstone Is Sulfur, Sulfur Is Found By Hot Springs And Volcanic Regions, Heaven Or The Natural Sky, Effects Of Powerful Volcanic Eruptions, Sulfur Dioxide Gas, God Uses Natural Forces To Punish The World, Jesus Was Able To Control The Natural Forces Of The Earth, Urgency At Sodom, Homosexuality: Primary Message Behind Destruction Of Sodom And Gomorrah, Related Reading Resources, Queen James Bible, Serious Compromise In The Modern Church, Severe Judgment And Destruction If We Don't Repent, Judgment Begins At The House Of God, Changing Human Laws To Try To Neutralize God's Word, False Prophets In The Churches, Another Jesus And Doctrines Of Devils, Gender Confusion LGBTQ Agenda And Other Nonsense, Bible Verses Condemning Homosexuality, Homosexuals Do Not Inherit The Kingdom Of God, Repent Now!, Suggested Reading

Continuing our discussion from part two, we have now taken a look at all of the verses in the Bible where the destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim is used as a tool to impress upon the listener or reader the idea of complete and total destruction -- leaving a place lifeless -- and to warn the listener or reader of the severity of God's judgment to come, unless the guilty parties repent of their sins. But have you ever wondered exactly how the destruction of the cities of the plain came about? Well, I have. That is why I conducted both Scriptural and Internet research, in order to try to answer this question for myself. So allow me to share some of my discoveries with you. Perhaps you will find it interesting.

You may have noticed that in many of the verses we discussed in part two where the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is mentioned or described, two words which are rather prominent are "overthrow" and "overthrew". Most of us know what these two words mean in a modern sense, but what about in a more Biblical sense? Or more specifically, given that Hebrew was the language of the Old Testament, is it possible that they may have meanings of which we are not aware, and which may offer us a hint of exactly how those cities were destroyed?

The two Hebrew words which are used in the aforementioned verses are "mahpekah" and "haphak". These two words can mean to overthrow, overturn, reverse, upturn or turn upside down. While in some cases, these words mean to overthrow a city in battle -- which is the popular definition -- please notice that some of the definitions could likewise imply an actual overturning, reversing or turning something -- perhaps even a city? -- upside down. If we consider that Israel -- and that area of the Middle East in general -- has a significant number of earthquake faults, bitumen springs or tar pits -- which Genesis refers to as "slimepits" -- and now-dormant volcanoes -- such as Mount Bental and other volcanoes on the northeastern edge of the Golan Heights -- it seems logical, in my opinion, to speculate that the complete destruction of the cities of the plain may have resulted from strong seismic activity, and/or a volcanic eruption in that general area. In fact, as I have mentioned before, there is an earthquake fault running right through the summit of the Mount of Olives.

To further enhance your understanding of the geological structure of Israel and the surrounding area, following are some excerpts taken from "Earthquakes in the Holy Land" by Bailey Willis. This report was included in the June 1928 edition of the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America:

----- Begin Quotes -----

"Palestine is a plateau, which has well-defined limits except toward the south. East of it lies the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley. North of it is the Plain of Esdralon. West of it is the Mediterranean, which is not quite full enough to flood the narrow coastal plain. The general altitude of the flat top of the plateau is between 2,000 and 2,600 feet above sea level. Jerusalem stands on a summit, a low hill, similar to many others which have at one time or another been occupied as defensible city sites . . ."

Matching the Palestine plateau, but lying east of the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley is the Transjordan plateau, a bench on the Arabian highland. The Palestine and Transjordan plateaus are completely separated by the profound trough of the Dead Sea, in which the surface of the water lies 1,200 feet below

sea level.

In both of these plateaus the geologist notes that the rocks are strata of marine limestone or sandstone, which have been uplifted without appreciable disturbance. In general the beds lie nearly as flat as when they were deposited beneath the sea. Closer inspection shows, it is true, that they have been bent and crushed along certain lines, but the compression is not the obvious thing. One would infer that a great force, a swelling perhaps, had raised the whole mass of either plateau gradually. One would not at once arrive at the conclusion that the deep-seated foundations of the regions were being crushed as in a vise and that the squeezed masses were moving in the direction of least resistance, that is vertically upward. Study of the structures has, however, led me to that conclusion, and I would attribute the earthquakes that shake Palestine to yielding within the body of the plateau or to the slipping of the whole plateau upon the shearing planes that underlie it.

North of the Palestine plateau is the lowland which stretches from west to east, from the Mediterranean to the Jordan, and comprises the Plain of Esdralon and the Valley of Jezreel. It would extend eastward beyond the Jordan, as it once did, if it had not been covered and heaped up by thick lava flows. They form the upland of Bashan, ranging northeastward along the southern slopes of Mount Sermon toward Damascus. Earthquakes impinge on the margins of the low country, Esdralon and Jezreel, but they do not originate within it. It is a non seismic zone between Palestine and northern Syria.

----- End Quotes -----

It is due to a major fault system which runs between the two aforementioned plateaus, that the Jordan River Valley, or Jordan Rift Valley, exists. This major fault system -- which is known as the Dead Sea Rift -- is believed by geologists to be the result of a convergence between two tectonic plates; the African Plate, and the Arabian plate. Thus, this region is referred to as the Afro-Arabian rift zone. The Dead Sea Rift is believed to be a continuation of the East African Rift, which passes through the Red Sea, then through the Gulf of Aqaba -- which is also known as the Gulf of Elat -- and then northward to the Dead Sea. From that point, geologists believe that rift faulting joins the Dead Sea to the Jordan

River Valley and Lake Kinneret -- which is also known as the Sea of Galilee -- further north. Beyond that point -- that is, in Lebanon -- the Dead Sea Rift splays out into a series of north-northeast directional faults.

While Mount Everest continues to contend for being the highest point on the Earth, and the Marianas Trench in the western Pacific Ocean holds the claim for being the deepest point in our oceans, the Dead Sea Rift is believed to be one of the deepest, if not the deepest, continental depression on the entire Earth's surface. It is not surprising then that the surface of the Dead Sea is 1,292 feet, or 394 meters, below sea level. As its name implies, it is the separation of the Dead Sea Rift which is believed to have resulted in the formation of the Dead Sea, as well as the other major basin in the area, that is, the Gulf of Elat. The Dead Sea Rift is easily visible from the air.

While the Dead Sea Rift is the major geological fault in the area, just as a bolt of lightning possesses a series of what we might refer to as minor tendrils, so too, the limestone and sandstone plateau upon which the nation of Israel sits, is permeated with many fractures and fissures; some of which are undoubtedly the result of shifts in the Dead Sea Rift itself. Some of these secondary cracks are visible on the surface, while others are not.

Earlier in this series, I mentioned the city of Lasha. Given the information I have just shared with you, you will find it interesting to know that in Hebrew, this word actually means "fissure". Furthermore, we are told that the destruction upon these four cities came by "brimstone and fire". Exactly what is brimstone? Derived from the Hebrew word "gophriyth", it is sulfur, plain and simple. Furthermore, the Wikipedia website notes that sulfur "is the fifth most common element by mass in the Earth. Elemental sulfur can be found near hot springs and volcanic regions in many parts of the world." So our next question is this: When Moses writes that it "rained upon" the cities "out of heaven" so that everything was destroyed, even what grew upon the ground, what does he mean? Does he really mean that "brimstone and fire" fell from God's actual abode -- in other words, Heaven -- or does he mean that "brimstone and fire" somehow fell from the sky? Are you starting to get the picture of where I am leading with this thought?

It might interest you to know that except for two verses in the entire Old Testament, in all other places -- meaning 398 times -- the Hebrew words "shamayim" and "shameh" are used to refer to both the natural sky above us, as well as the abode of God. In other words, they are interchangeable.

Having said that, as I stated a moment ago, it makes perfect sense to me, that given the general geological structure of that area of the world, either very powerful seismic activity and/or a major volcanic eruption, could have rained down fire and brimstone upon those four cities, thus obliterating them and killing everyone within. Please don't forget that some volcanic eruptions are so powerful, that they can shoot lava as much as two thousand feet up into the air. Furthermore, a powerful enough eruption can send large boulders flying miles away from the actual cone. Last, but not least, volcanoes are accompanied by strong seismic activity, dangerous lava flows, and the release of huge amounts of sulfur dioxide, which is a very toxic gas which can kill a person rather quickly if they are exposed to enough of it.

Just to give you an idea of how strong such gas can be -- it smells like rotten eggs, by the way -- where I live, there is a chain of active volcanoes located a few hundred miles to the north of us. While it doesn't happen all that often, on some occasions, when the ocean air currents shift so that the wind is coming down from the north, we can actually smell the sulfur dioxide in the air, the sky becomes somewhat hazy, and people are warned to remain in their homes, particularly if they suffer from respiratory problems. As I write this series in May of 2018, that is precisely why people are currently being evacuated from some areas of the island of Hawaii as the Kilauea volcano continues to erupt. It isn't just because of the lava flows. It's because of the sulfur dioxide clouds.

In short, if we stop to consider that the Lord often used the natural forces of the Earth to punish people in the Bible -- such as the Genesis Flood, earthquakes, plagues, droughts, fires, insects, snakes, etc. -- this possibility should not seem so far-fetched to us. Let me also remind you that Jesus was able to control the natural forces of the Earth in the Gospels, such as when He stilled the wind and waves on the Sea of Galilee. Now, if Jesus could do that while in a human body, just think of what those two Angels may have been able to do when it came time to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and the



other cities of the plain. One other point worth noting, is that it apparently happened rather quickly, and possibly without any warning to the people of those wicked cities. We can detect a certain atmosphere of haste when the two Angels lead Lot and his family out of Sodom. There seemed to be an urgency to the matter.

Having now discussed the "how" factor, let us return to our main message regarding the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. As I have already made clear, there should be no doubt that the primary reason why the cities of the plain were utterly destroyed, was because they were deeply engaged in all manner of sexual perversions, beginning with homosexuality. This, in my view, is the primary message behind the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the other two cities of Zeboiim and Admah.

If you are one who still holds doubts regarding this issue, and if you think that God simply turns a blind eye to such sexual deviations which are contrary to the natural laws He established regarding human sexuality, then I encourage you to read some of the other articles which are listed at the end of this series. I suggest that you begin with "Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!".

The reason why I suggest you read the aforementioned article first, is because, to my knowledge, in it I discuss every verse in the Bible where homosexuality is described as a sin against God. In fact, there are a few verses discussed which some of you may not even realize are even talking about the homosexual lifestyle, because of the way in which they have been translated. This is particularly true in the case of the New Testament. In addition, I believe that it is in that article where I explain how the supporters of the gay and lesbian agenda try to distort the meaning of some of those verses, in order to justify their own sinful lifestyle. In fact, as you will learn -- if you do not already know it -- said individuals have already published a Bible in which they publish their distortions which seek to neutralize the truth of God's Word regarding this issue.

As we discussed in part two, serious compromise can already be found in the Lord's modern Church, insofar as the gay and lesbian lifestyle is concerned. As an older, longtime Christian who has preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ for

many years now, I am astounded by the degree to which the Church has fallen into sin, materialism and worldliness. As many of my fellow brethren have likewise stated, the modern Church has little, if any, resemblance to the Lord's Church of the First Century. But surely, the notion that gays and lesbians can not only lead congregations, but also give a blessing to such ungodly, unnatural unions, defies belief. I can't even begin to imagine the level of deception which must be in play in order for people to become so deceived.

As we have seen, the primary theme of Sodom and Gomorrah is severe judgment and severe destruction, in the absence of true repentance. It is God's warning to us all that we place ourselves in extreme danger, and in serious trouble, when we blatantly defy His holy Laws, including His laws regarding acceptable sexual conduct. This, of course, includes God's own Church; for as the Apostle Peter wrote in his first Epistle:

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

1 Peter 4:17, KJV

Tragically, some of these modern churches and denominations have already become so deceived, that they cannot even see the handwriting on the wall. They are so deceived that they can't even see that what they view as compassion, acceptance and inclusivity for the gay and lesbian community, is in reality a sickening compromise with the world. They have in fact trampled God's Word underfoot. As I point out in "When Sin is No Longer a Sin", it was bad enough when politicians and judges began to change human laws so that what God deems a sin is no longer considered a sin or something abnormal by human standards. But for some of the churches to now be doing basically the same thing, by embracing the gay and lesbian lifestyle, is just something which many of us never expected to happen. In fact, I have mentioned before how a few years ago, I would have never believed that same-sex "marriage" would be legalized nationwide. But oh how fast the enemy has moved! Liberal, renegade judges had their way, and here we are!

Some, but not all, modern churches have lost their way. They are no longer beacons of the truth of God's Word. By openly

defying what is plainly written in the Scriptures regarding this sinful lifestyle, and by perverting the meaning of the Scriptures in order to justify it, those denominations and churches have in effect become false prophets who preach another gospel, another Jesus, and doctrines of devils which have no foundation in Biblical truth. How can they expect to escape God's judgments? And it must come sooner or later, or else God's Word is no longer true. I am reminded of verses such as the following, and there are many more:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Isaiah 5:20, KJV

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try [test] the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1, KJV

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him . . . For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2 Corinthians 11:4, 13-15, KJV

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:"

1 John 1:6, KJV

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

Romans 16:17, KJV

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up

into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"  
Ephesians 4:14-15, KJV

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Galatians 1:6-9, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"  
1 Timothy 4:1-2, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."

Hebrews 13:9, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many

shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

2 Peter 2:1-2, KJV

The previous verses perfectly describe what has happened in so many of the churches today, and it isn't limited to just embracing the gay and lesbian lifestyle. But what about the secular, unbelieving world? Or as the Apostle Peter wrote "what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

Quite frankly, I think we may already have our answer, and the warning of Sodom and Gomorrah is it. How can it not be utter and total destruction at some point, given the level of defiance that exists in the world today? The more I see and read each day regarding gender identity issues, gender confusion, non-binary labels, parents confusing their own children, gay parades in which perverts openly flaunt their sins, misguided doctors who are more than willing to change a person's outward sexual appearance if the price is right, school officials and teachers who promote this liberal crap and force it on our young children, and other such nonsense, the more I become fully convinced that this world has gone utterly mad. It is purposely poking God in the eye, and just begging Him to judge it.

This LGBTQ garbage is on top of all of the other forms of defiance against God which are now on display, and which I so often talk about in my articles, such as abortion on demand, widespread satanism in the entertainment industry, kicking God out of government, homes, schools, churches and the public square, etc. This world seems to be hellbent on destruction, and that is what it may eventually get. It is slowly becoming a global Sodom and Gomorrah in which every sexual perversion may eventually become the norm.

But what about you? Have you foolishly or ignorantly fallen into this dangerous and sinful lifestyle? If you have, do you even know what God's Word has to say about it? If not, let me share the following verses with you, because they are both for you, and about you, and you need to take them very seriously:

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile

thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion. Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you: (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;) That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you. For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people. Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God."

Leviticus 18:22-30, KJV

"If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."

Leviticus 20:13, KJV

"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God."

Deuteronomy 22:5, KJV

"He that is wounded in the stones [testicles], or hath his privy member [penis] cut off, shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD."

Deuteronomy 23:1, KJV

"There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel."

Deuteronomy 23:17, KJV

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God

gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"

Romans 1:24-28, KJV

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind [homosexuals],"

1 Corinthians 6:9, KJV

"Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, [homosexuals] for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;"

1 Timothy 1:9-10, KJV

Please notice that 1 Corinthians 6:9 specifically says that homosexuals -- abusers of themselves with mankind, from the Koine Greek word "arsenokoites" -- "shall not inherit the kingdom of God". Thus, if you are a committed gay or lesbian who has no intentions of ever changing your sinful lifestyle, that verse plainly states that you won't inherit the Kingdom of God. In short, you cannot be truly saved, and engage in homosexuality at the same time. If you believe otherwise, and if your church teaches otherwise, then you are both terribly deceived. That verse is God's Word, and not just my words. I am merely telling you what the Bible says. So you really need to repent of your sin, and you need to do it now; because you just never know when you may depart out of this current life. The people of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim certainly were not expecting it, and look what happened to them. Gone in a flash! Do you really want to take that chance? Do you really want to leave this life without being saved? Consider these verses, and repent:

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

Acts 17:30-31, KJV

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

Romans 13:11, KJV

"(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"

2 Corinthians 6:2, KJV

"Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

Hebrews 4:7, KJV

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

Hebrews 9:27, KJV

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

James 4:14, KJV

With these verses, I will bring another article to a close. I trust that it has been an inspiration, and a blessing in your life. If you have enjoyed reading this article, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, I encourage you to study the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to



this article, and which are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server:

Beholding the Evil and the Good  
Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?  
Free Will and Personal Choice  
God's Mercy, Judgment and Fallen Angels  
Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement  
Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!  
Remember Lot's Wife: What Was Her Fate?  
The Fruits of Disobedience  
The Gay and Lesbian Agenda: To the Point!  
The Judgment of Angels, Demons and Men  
When Sin is No Longer a Sin

Written by the WordWeaver

[wordweaver777@gmail.com](mailto:wordweaver777@gmail.com)

<https://www.billkochman.com>