

Do Not Love the World: The Destruction of Sodom
Genesis 19

We've seen evil before in Genesis; we'll see it again. But Sodom's evil, and God's ferocious judgment, reverberates through history to today. Genesis 19 is a warning: Don't get attached to the world – it will infect your life, and jeopardize your future.

What was Sodom's sin?

Rampant sexual immorality, especially homosexuality

Corruption breeds corruption

The wicked seek to corrupt others; Lot is stained

The blindness of sin

Men of Sodom physically blinded; Lot's future sons-in law think he's joking

Holding on to a dying world

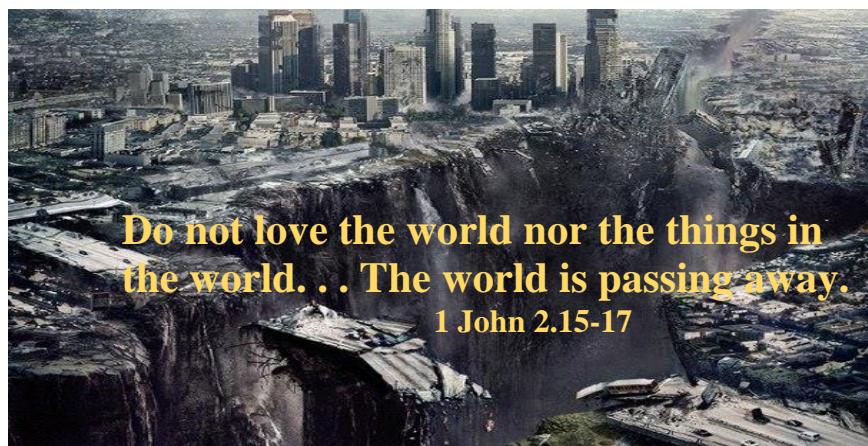
Dragging Lot out of Sodom; saving Zoar; Lot's wife looks back

God remembers the righteous when judging the wicked

Abraham looks down; Lot saved

The stench of sin lives on

Lot drunk; incestuous children; Israel's future enemies



Digging Deeper

1. The story of the destruction of Sodom is well-known, but most Christians have never read the biblical narrative. Read Genesis 19. What stands out to you? What parts of the story make you feel the most uncomfortable? What do you think of Lot? Does he seem like he is described in 2 Peter 2.7-8? After reading the entire chapter, what is your overall feeling?
2. Sodom has become synonymous with homosexual debauchery down through the centuries, but some scholars have suggested that the sin of Sodom was a lack of hospitality, and rudeness to strangers. Is being inhospitable a 'grave sin' (18.20)? What did the *men* of Sodom want? (19.4-5)? What does their rejection of Lot's daughters show (19.8-9)?
3. 1 Cor. 15.33 reads, *Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals*. Assuming that Lot tried to be moral, and raise his children with morals, what do his actions, and the actions of his daughters, prove? How had Lot compromised his morals? What does his sons-in-law's reaction show (19.14)? Even when sin is ravaging our lives, it still has a hold on us. How does this show itself in Gen. 19? How does it show itself today?
4. As the angels *physically drag* Lot and his family out of Sodom, the biblical narrator adds this phrase: *for the compassion of the Lord was upon him* (19.16). In the middle of a cesspool of evil, with utter destruction just around the corner, God's compassion is on display! How is God's compassion displayed in your life? In our country? In our world?
5. The story of Lot and Sodom vividly displays the dangers of us growing comfortable with, and attached to, the world. It infects our thinking, and corrupts our actions. What should our attitude be toward worldliness? What do passages like 2 Cor. 6.14-18 and 1 John 2.15-17 suggest? Does the church of Jesus Christ demonstrate this viewpoint today? If we have compromised with the world, how? How can we improve?