



Lesson 15 – Destruction of Sodom

Based on Genesis 19

Fairest among the cities of the Jordan Valley was Sodom, set in a plain which was “as the garden of the Lord” in its fertility and beauty. Here the luxuriant vegetation of the tropics flourished. Here was the home of the palm tree, the olive, and the vine; and flowers shed their fragrance throughout the year. Rich harvests clothed the fields, and flocks and herds covered the encircling hills. Art and commerce contributed to enrich the proud city of the plain. The treasures of the East adorned her palaces, and the caravans of the desert brought their stores of precious things to supply her marts of trade. With little thought or labor, every want of life could be supplied, and the whole year seemed one round of festivity.

1) What did God say about Sodom?

Ezekiel 16:49-50 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of _____ was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed _____ before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

There is nothing more desired among men than riches and leisure, and yet these gave birth to the sins that brought destruction upon the cities of the plain. Their useless, idle life made them a prey to Satan’s temptations, and they defaced the image of God, and became satanic rather than divine. Idleness is the greatest curse that can fall upon man, for vice and crime follow in its train. It enfeebles the mind, perverts the understanding, and debases the soul. Satan lies in ambush, ready to destroy those who are unguarded.

2) Melchizedek blessed Abraham in the presence of all, what was it a witness for?

Genesis 14:19-20 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the _____, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

While his skill and valor were extolled, none could avoid the conviction that a divine power had made Abraham a conqueror. And his noble and unselfish spirit, so foreign to the self-seeking inhabitants of Sodom, was another evidence of the superiority of the religion which he had honored by his courage and fidelity.

God was speaking to that people by His providence, but the last ray of light was rejected as all before had been.

3) Two strangers came near the gate, where had they been previously?

Genesis 18:2,16 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, _____ stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground... ..And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward _____: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

Jesus stayed back with Abraham while the two angels went on their way to Sodom.

4) Who greeted them at the gate?

Genesis 19:1-2 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and _____ sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant’s house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the _____ all night.



They were apparently travelers coming in to tarry for the night. None could discern in those humble wayfarers the mighty heralds of divine judgment, and little dreamed the gay, careless multitude that in their treatment of these heavenly messengers that very night they would reach the climax of the guilt which doomed their proud city. But there was one man who manifested kindly attention toward the strangers and invited them to his home. Lot did not know their true character, but politeness and hospitality were habitual with him; they were a part of his religion, lessons that he had learned from the example of Abraham. Had he not cultivated a spirit of courtesy, he might have been left to perish with the rest of Sodom.

5) Was Lot worried about their safety?

Genesis 19:3 And he pressed upon them _____; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

The visitors object in this answer was twofold, to test the sincerity of Lot and also to appear ignorant of the character of the men of Sodom, as if they supposed it safe to remain in the street at night. Their answer made Lot the more determined not to leave them to the mercy of the rabble. He pressed his invitation until they yielded and accompanied him to his house.

6) Were the visitors noticed?

Genesis 19:4-5 But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, _____ 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? _____ them out unto us, that we may know them.

Lot had hoped to conceal his intention from the idlers at the gate by bringing the strangers to his home by a circuitous route; but their hesitation and delay, and his persistent urging, caused them to be observed, and before they had retired for the night, a lawless crowd gathered about the house. It was an immense company, youth and aged men alike inflamed by the vilest passions.

7) What did Lot do to try to calm the situation?

Genesis 19:6-7 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and _____ the door after him, And said, I pray you, _____, do not so wickedly.

His words were like oil upon the flames. Their rage became like the roaring of a tempest. They mocked Lot as himself a judge over them and threatened to deal worse with him than they had purposed toward his guests. making

8) Seeing Lot in grave danger, what did the angels do?

Genesis 19:10-11 But the men put forth their hand, and _____ Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with _____, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

Genesis 19:12-13 And the men 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 _____ 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 _____ it.

Had the men of Sodom not been visited with double blindness, being given up to hardness of heart, the stroke of God upon them would have caused them to fear, and to desist from their evil work. That last night was marked by no greater sins than many others before it; but mercy, so long slighted, had at last ceased its pleading. The inhabitants of Sodom had passed the limits of divine forbearance.



9) What did Lot do?

Genesis 19:14 And Lot went out, and _____ 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 _____ unto his sons in law.

They laughed at what they called his superstitious fears. His daughters were influenced by their husbands. They were well enough off where they were. They could see no evidence of danger. Everything was just as it had been. They had great possessions, and they could not believe it possible that beautiful Sodom would be destroyed.

10) When Lot got back home, what did the heavenly visitors tell him?

Genesis 19:15 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 _____ in the iniquity of the city.

Though daily distressed at beholding deeds of violence, he had no true conception of the debasing and abominable iniquity practiced in that vile city. He did not realize the terrible necessity for God's judgments to put a check on sin. Some of his children clung to Sodom, and his wife refused to depart without them. The thought of leaving those whom he held dearest on earth seemed more than he could bear. It was hard to forsake his luxurious home and all the wealth acquired by the labors of his whole life, to go forth a destitute wanderer. Stupefied with sorrow, he lingered, loath to depart.

11) In mercy to him, what did the visitors do?

Genesis 19:16-17 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his _____, and upon the hand of his _____, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him _____ 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.

In all the cities of the plain, even ten righteous persons had not been found; but in answer to the patriarch's prayer, the one man who feared God was snatched from destruction. Hesitancy or delay now would be fatal. To cast one lingering look upon the devoted city, to tarry for one moment from regret to leave so beautiful a home, would have cost their life. The storm of divine judgment was only waiting that these poor fugitives might make their escape.

12) Did Lot do exactly what he was told?

Genesis 19:18-20 And Lot said unto them, Oh, _____, 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 _____ 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 _____ thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

13) Did God hearken unto him?

Genesis 19:21-23 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not _____ 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. The _____ was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

14) What does the Biblical Record tell us?

Genesis 19:24-26 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah _____ and _____ 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 _____.



One of the fugitives ventured to cast a look backward to the doomed city, and she became a monument of God's judgment. If Lot himself had manifested no hesitancy to obey the angels' warning, but had earnestly fled toward the mountains, without one word of pleading or remonstrance, his wife also would have made her escape. The influence of his example would have saved her from the sin that sealed her doom. But his hesitancy and delay caused her to lightly regard the divine warning. While her body was upon the plain, her heart clung to Sodom, and she perished with it. She rebelled against God because His judgments involved her possessions and her children in the ruin. Although so greatly favored in being called out from the wicked city, she felt that she was severely dealt with, because the wealth that it had taken years to accumulate must be left to destruction. Instead of thankfully accepting deliverance, she presumptuously looked back to desire the life of those who had rejected the divine warning.

The flames that consumed the cities of the plain shed their warning light down even to our time. We are taught the fearful and solemn lesson that while God's mercy bears long with the transgressor, there is a limit beyond which men may not go on in sin. When that limit is reached, then the offers of mercy are withdrawn, and the ministration of judgment begins.

15) What did Jesus tell John to write down?

Revelation 2:4-5 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast _____ thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and _____, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

16) What has God always been pleading before His people?

Malachi 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto _____, and I will return unto _____, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

If the erring one persistently refuses to heed the voice that calls him with pitying, tender love, he will at last be left in darkness. The heart that has long slighted God's mercy, becomes hardened in sin, and is no longer susceptible to the influence of the grace of God. Fearful will be the doom of that soul.

17) What will God have no choice but to say?

Hosea 4:17 Ephraim is joined to idols: let him _____.

18) What has the world done to God's Law?

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of _____.

Infidelity prevails in many of the churches in our land; not infidelity in its broadest sense, an open denial of the Bible, but an infidelity that is robed in the garb of Christianity, while it is undermining faith in the Bible as a revelation from God. Fervent devotion and vital piety have given place to hollow formalism. As the result, apostasy and sensualism prevail.

19) What will the end times be like?

Luke 17:28,30 Likewise also as it was in the days of _____; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;... .. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is _____.

20) What warning are we given?

Luke 21:34-36 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you _____ . For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted _____ to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

21) What was the command to Lot?

Genesis 19:17 ... Escape for thy _____; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.



22) And to the disciples?

Luke 21:20-21 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea _____ to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

There was a coming out, a decided separation from the wicked, an escape for life. So, it was in the days of Noah; so, with Lot; so, with the disciples prior to the destruction of Jerusalem; and so, it will be in the last days. Again, the voice of God is heard in a message of warning, bidding His people separate themselves from the prevailing iniquity.

23) What is the call for today's people?

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come _____ of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

On the night prior to their destruction, the cities of the plain rioted in pleasure and derided the fears and warnings of the messenger of God; but those scoffers perished in the flames; that very night the door of mercy was forever closed to the wicked, careless inhabitants of Sodom. God will not always be mocked; He will not long be trifled with.

24) What is going to happen?

Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land _____: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

25) What are God's promises for the faithful?

Psalms 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall _____ under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalms 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy _____ and buckler.

Psalms 91:16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my _____.

Lot dwelt but a short time in Zoar. Iniquity prevailed there as in Sodom, and he feared to remain, lest the city should be destroyed. Not long after, Zoar was consumed, as God had purposed. Lot made his way to the mountains, and abode in a cave, stripped of all for which he had dared to subject his family to the influences of a wicked city. But the curse of Sodom followed him even here. The sinful conduct of his daughters was the result of the evil associations of that vile place. Its moral corruption had become so interwoven with their character that they could not distinguish between good and evil. Lot's only posterity, the Moabites and Ammonites, were vile, idolatrous tribes, rebels against God and bitter enemies of His people.

Can you see God won't suffer sin forever?

Would you like God to be called the friend of God?

When is the time to do what you know is right?