



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

## #37 – The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

### Genesis 19:1-29

#### PICTURES NEEDED

- 37-2 The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
- 37-3 Angels speaking to Abraham

#### REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What was God's promise to Abraham? How did Abraham respond to God? What did God do to show this was a lasting covenant?
- **The Big Question Review:** Why did Abraham believe God's promise? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Romans 4:20-21  
Abraham was fully persuaded that God was able to do what he promised.

*<sup>20</sup>(Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.)*

At this point in our study in Genesis, Abraham was ninety-nine years old and God still had not given him a son to fulfill the promise. However, God appeared to Abraham again and restated what he had said before.

### Genesis 17:1-8

*"I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."*

*<sup>4</sup>As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. <sup>8</sup>The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."*

Why did God change Abram's name? God changed Abraham's name from Abram, which means "exalted father," to Abraham, which means "father of many." God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah. Both names mean "princess" which underscores Sarah's role in being the mother of nations and kings.

**(Picture 37-3)** Later God appeared again to Abraham along with two angels and promised him that within a year Sarah would have a son. Sarah was in the tent listening to what the Lord had to say. As Sarah was past childbearing age and could no longer have children, she thought the promise of a child was a joke and so she laughed. God questioned Sarah as to why she laughed and she denied laughing.

Why was it fruitless for Sarah to deny laughing? God knew what Sarah had done and she should have been honest instead of trying to hide her lack of faith from God.

As these three visitors prepared to leave, the Lord revealed to Abraham what he was about to do to Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom and Gomorrah were the towns in the plain of the Jordan River where Abraham's nephew Lot had chosen to live. The people in those towns were very wicked and did things that grieved the heart of God.

What kinds of things grieve God's heart? Anything that is against the natural order of God's design hurts God's creation and grieves his heart. God created a man to be married to a woman and for them to live rightly as husband and wife. Men who want to be with men or women who want to be with women are acting against God's design. God said that his design was good and going against it brings harm and a breakdown of the order of his creation. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah had so given themselves over to evil there was no longer order and goodness in their lives and so God had determined to destroy their cities.

Abraham actually pleaded with God not to destroy the cities; why would Abraham have been able to do that? Because Abraham had a relationship with God, he could approach him with his requests so Abraham pleaded with the Lord for the people in Sodom and Gomorrah. God listened to Abraham and promised not to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if ten righteous people could be found there.

What makes a person righteous? Believing in and trusting God is what made Abraham righteous, and what was true for Abraham is true for all people. If there had been just ten people in Sodom and Gomorrah who believed in and trusted God then he would not have destroyed the cities.

There obviously weren't ten righteous people in the city, because God destroyed the cities. However, God did send two angels to Sodom to rescue righteous Lot and his family out of the city. Then he rained down burning sulfur which destroyed both the cities and the entire plain. Only Lot and his daughters safely escaped. **(Picture 37-2)**

When the angels told Lot and his family to flee the city they said not to look back. Lot's wife, however, disobeyed their instructions and looked back. When she did that she was turned into a pillar of salt.

What can we learn from Lot's wife? Disobeying God's instructions is never a good idea. Although we won't be turned into a pillar of salt, disobeying God allows evil to get a foothold in our lives.

Why did God destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of the great evil that the people were engaged in.

Why did God rescue Lot and his family? He rescued Lot and his family because Abraham asked him to spare the righteous.

2 Peter 2:9-10a says, *The Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. 10This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.*

What are our times like now? We, like Lot, live in a time when people have rejected God's authority and are doing what they want instead of following the natural order of God's good design.

How should we respond to people who reject God? Because we have a relationship with God like Abraham did we can intercede (pray) for those who don't believe in and trust God. We need to have compassion for the lost and care about the condition of our society. We need to pray that people would recognize their unrighteousness and want to be made right and put their faith in the one, true God who can make them right. God is long-suffering but he won't withhold his judgment forever. Evil grieves God and in the end it will be judged.

## LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Why was God going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? What did Abraham ask of God? Why did God listen to Abraham? What did God do for Lot?
- **Thought Questions:** Why does believing in and trusting God make us righteous? Why can't we be righteous apart from putting our faith in God? Why does evil grieve God? How can we impact our society for good?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that he is both the source and object of our faith. Thank him that he desires to have a relationship with us and make us right through the gift of his Son. Pray that your faith would please him and that you would be a blessing and benefit to those around you as you share his love and truth with others.
- **The Big Question: What does God do for the righteous?**  
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: 2 Peter 2:9-10a**  
God rescues those who do what is right.

*The Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. 10This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.*

Question: What does God know how to do? What does that mean? What will he do to the unrighteous?

## ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group.

What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.
- ★ **Activity Page: Maze**  
Instructions: Follow the angels to find the way out of the city.
- ★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.  
**God rescues those who do what is right.**

- **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.
- **Craft 1:** A Pillar of Salt  
As a reminder that God rescued Lot but his wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she disobeyed God’s command and looked back, complete the coloring sheet of Sodom and Gomorrah and then cover Lot’s wife with salt.  
Materials: cover stock paper, glue, crayons or colored pencils, salt.  
Preparation: Run off craft 37 on cover stock paper.  
Instructions:
  1. Color in Lot and his daughters.
  2. Paint glue over Lot’s wife and then sprinkle salt on top of her. (Do this over a plate to collect the excess salt.)
- **Craft 2:** Lot’s Wife  
As a reminder that Lot’s wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she disobeyed God’s command and looked back, make Lot’s wife out of white play dough.  
Materials: Small paper plates, white play dough  
Preparation: Make up a batch of white play dough.  
Instructions: Have the children form statues of Lot’s wife out of play dough and stand them on the plates.
- **Game:** Don’t Look Back  
As a reminder that Lot’s wife disobeyed God’s command and looked back to Sodom, play “Don’t Look Back.”  
Instructions: Play a variation of “Red Light, Green Light” where instead of moving forward toward the child who is “it”, the children walk backwards away from the child.

## JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.