



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

## #37 – The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

### Genesis 19:1-29

#### PICTURES NEEDED

- 37-1 Angels and Lot
- 37-2 The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

#### 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.)*

## LESSON CONTENT

NOTE: This lesson contains mature material. The level 3 lesson is different.

When God created the world and all that is in it he designed it good, to function in certain ways. Since creation, how have people responded to God? We have seen through this study in Genesis that from the beginning of human history people have rebelled against God and his good design and have wanted to do things their own way.

What has been the impact of man's rebellion on God's good creation? Continual sin brings great evil and causes harm to God's creation. Although God is long-suffering he only puts up with man's rebellion for so long.

In this lesson we will see what God did to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom and Gomorrah were a lot like our country is today. Instead of following God's good design of sex within marriage between a man and a woman, the people perverted sex and did whatever they wanted. What is the impact of not following God's design for marriage? Not following God's good design destroys marriages and families, which are the building block of a good and stable society.

Things were so bad in Sodom and Gomorrah that God determined to destroy the cities. Abraham had pleaded with God to save the cities if 10 righteous men were found. There obviously weren't ten righteous men but God did send two angels to rescue Abraham's nephew Lot before the cities were destroyed.

### **Genesis 19:1-11 (picture 37-1)**

*<sup>1</sup> The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. <sup>2</sup> "My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning."*

*"No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square."*

*<sup>3</sup> But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. <sup>4</sup> Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. <sup>5</sup> They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."*

*<sup>6</sup> Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him <sup>7</sup> and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. <sup>8</sup> Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof."*

*<sup>9</sup> "Get out of our way," they replied. And they said, "This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.*

*<sup>10</sup> But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door.*

*<sup>11</sup> Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.*

What did the men of the city want to do to the two visitors? They wanted to harm and abuse them.

How did Lot respond to the men of the city? He tried to negotiate with them and offered his daughters instead. It shows how depraved everyone was.

According to ancient hospitality, when Lot invited the two angels into his house he was obligated to protect them in every situation. Lot couldn't protect the angels. The angels had to protect him.

### **Genesis 19:12-22**

*<sup>12</sup> The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, <sup>13</sup> because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."*

*<sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.*

*<sup>15</sup> With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."*

*<sup>16</sup> When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. <sup>17</sup> As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"*

*<sup>18</sup> But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please! <sup>19</sup> Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die. <sup>20</sup> Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared."*

*<sup>21</sup> He said to him, "Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. <sup>22</sup> But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it." (That is why the town was called Zoar.)*

Why do you think Lot's sons-in-law thought he was joking about God destroying the city? They didn't have any respect for him. Lot wasn't seen by them as being a moral leader so they didn't follow what he said.

Why do you think Lot hesitated when the angels told him to hurry? He was afraid for what he was about to lose. His whole life was going to change. We often want to stay where we are, no matter how bad it is, rather than move on into what is unknown.

Why do you think God didn't want them to look back at the city? God may have been testing their obedience to him. They were leaving a city that had rebelled against God and where the people were doing awful things. God may have been testing their hearts to

reveal what was there, if they would look to and trust him or look back at the sinful city they had left.

### **Genesis 19:23-29 (picture 37-2)**

*<sup>23</sup> By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. <sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of the heavens. <sup>25</sup> Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. <sup>26</sup> But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.*

*<sup>27</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. <sup>28</sup> He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.*

*<sup>29</sup> So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.*

What happened to Lot’s wife? She was turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back at the city. This, like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, is an example to us of the destruction that happens in our lives when we disobey God.

Why did God destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah but spare Lot? God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of the great evil that the people were engaged in. He rescued Lot and his family because Abraham asked him to spare the righteous. Lot and his family were the only ones who were found righteous. His son-in-laws would have also been spared if they had believed Lot.

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. <sup>10</sup>This 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 did God determine to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? How were Lot and his family rescued? What happened to Lot's wife? Why? How did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?
- **Thought Questions:** Why does God hate evil? What is the impact of evil on a society? Why isn't it easy to do what is right in an evil society? When a society as a whole is following evil what can make it right again? What usually happens to a society that is given over to evil?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that his way is right and good. Pray for our country that God's hand would be on it and the eyes of people would be open to see him and the destruction that is occurring because of a rejection of God and his truth. Pray that you would be faithful to speak God's truth and live it out so others can see the benefit of God's ways.
- **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.

Theme: God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their great evil.

1. God sent two angels to rescue Lot and his family and lead them out of the city.
2. Lot and his family were told to not look back but Lot's wife disobeyed and was turned into a pillar of salt.
3. Burning sulfur rained down on and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

- ★ **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.
- Further Understanding: Bible Study Skills  
Instructions:
  1. Read the whole passage below to the students as they read along in their Bibles or on the discussion notes.
  2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
  3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.
  4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

## **2 Peter 2:4-10a The wicked will be destroyed.**

*<sup>4</sup>For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; <sup>5</sup>if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; <sup>6</sup>if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; <sup>7</sup>and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men <sup>8</sup>(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— <sup>9</sup>if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. <sup>10</sup>This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.*

## **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.

### **Digging Deeper: Journal Focus – Genesis, chapters 19-21**

Reading 1: Genesis 19:30-38 Lot's daughters take matters into their own hands.

NOTE: In this passage Lot's daughters took matters into their own hands and did what was wrong to do. They did what the people in Sodom and Gomorrah would have done. The children that were born to them became the ancestors of nations that did what was evil and were bitter enemies of Abraham's descendants. What was wrong with what Lot's daughters did? What does this tell you about them? What should they have done in that situation?

Reading 2: Genesis 20 Abraham lies about Sarah.

Why did Abraham not tell the truth about Sarah being his wife? What does that show about Abraham? Why is a half truth the same as a lie?

Reading 3: Genesis 21:1-7 Isaac is born.

What is noteworthy about the birth of Isaac? What can you learn from that?

Reading 4: Genesis 21:8-21 Hagar and Ishmael are sent away.

What did Sarah ask Abraham to do with Hagar? What does that show you about Sarah? What did God promise Abraham concerning Ishmael? What did God do for Hagar and Ishmael? What does that show you about God?

Reading 5: Genesis 21:22-34 Abraham makes a treaty with Abimelech.

What was the problem between Abraham and Abimelech? How did they solve it? What can you learn from that?

Reading 6: 2 Peter 2:1-12 The wicked will be destroyed.

What do false teachers do? In the past what did God do to those who promoted evil? What is he able to do for the righteous? Why do we all deserve death? What has God given to us that we don't deserve? What can you learn from this?