

OLD TESTAMENT STORIES FOR **PERILOUS¹ TIMES**

2 Timothy 3:1-5

SODOM AND GOMORRAH: DEPRAVED CITIES OF THE PLAIN

INTRODUCTION

Bible scholars believe that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, along with other areas of the plain, were located at the southern end of the Dead Sea, now covered with water. These two cities were cesspools of evil. Their names will forever be associated with the most horrific forms of gross and shameless behavior. Four hundred years had passed since the flood. God's catastrophic annihilation of the human race was now only a faint memory. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah would be a graphic illustration of God's wrath toward the wicked and a powerful reminder of the earth's final doom in a raging inferno (2 Peter 2:4-9), Revelation 8:5, 7; 9:17, 18; 16:8).

THEME SCRIPTURE

And the LORD said, 'Because the outcry against 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 outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know' (Genesis 18:20, 21).

¹ PERILOUS - Greek *chapelos* reducing strength: difficult, dangerous, furious, fierce, savage.

SECTION I - The Son of Promise

READ Genesis 18:1-15.

1. Who appeared to Abraham in a vision by the terebinth trees² of Mamre³ as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day (vv. 1, 2a)?

_____ 4

2. How did Abraham reverently respond to the three heavenly men (vv. 2b-8)? _____

_____ 5

3. What promise did the Lord come to reaffirm to Abraham and Sarah (vv. 9, 10)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

READ Genesis 15:1-6.

How did the LORD reveal Himself to Abraham (v. 1a)? _____

How did the LORD refer to Himself (v. 1b)? _____

What was Abraham's grievous problem (vv. 2, 3)? _____

² terebinth trees: strong and hardy trees, an oak grove, not mentioned in the King James.

³ Mamre - Hebrew *Alon Mamre* vigor: fatness, strength; an Amorite who allied himself with Abraham.

⁴ LORD - Hebrew *YHWH* Self-Existent or Eternal name of God: JEHOVAH, the Existing One; Jesus Christ the LORD of the Old Testament.

⁵ my Lord - Hebrew *Adonai*: the Lord used as a proper name for God only where God is submissively and reverently addressed.

What was the LORD's promise to Abraham and how did He reveal it to him (vv. 4, 5)? _____

How did Abraham receive the promise (v. 6)? _____

4. What was Abraham and Sarah's obstacle regarding the promise? Why did Sarah laugh (Genesis 18:11, 12)?

5. How did the LORD respond to Sarah's laughing? What was her reply? What were the LORD's last words to her (vv. 13-15)?

PERSONAL

What has the LORD promised you through His Word? _____

How have you demonstrated unbelief regarding that promise? _____

How has the LORD revealed Himself through His Word and reaffirmed His promise to you? _____

How has He brought the promise to pass? _____

SECTION II - Abraham Intercedes for Sodom

READ Genesis 18:16-33.

1. What did Abraham and his heavenly guests proceed to do (v. 16)? _____

2. What did the LORD reveal concerning Abraham's character (vv. 17-19)? _____

3. What did the LORD determine to do because of the depravity of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (vv. 20, 21)?

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The two men turned and went toward Sodom but Abraham still stood before the LORD.

4. What was Abraham's supplication to the LORD (v. 23)? _____

5. DESCRIBE Abraham's relentless intercession regarding the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, step by step.

vv. 24-26 _____

vv. 27, 28 _____

v. 29 _____

v. 30 _____

⁶ outcry - Hebrew *zaak* shriek: cry of distress, clamor.

⁷ great - Hebrew *rab* abundant: in quantity, size, age, number rank.

v. 31 _____

v. 32 _____

What was the LORD's reply to each of Abraham's plea? _____

6. When the LORD was finished speaking with Abraham what did they each do (v. 33)? _____

PERSONAL

DESCRIBE how relentless you are when interceding for the lost and perishing? _____

STOP and PRAY right now for your hometown, your country and the world.

SECTION III – Sodom's Depravity

READ Genesis 19:1-11.

1. Lot was sitting in the evening at the gate⁸ of Sodom when the two angels arrived. DESCRIBE Lot's hospitality toward the angels in detail (vv. 1-3).

⁸ gate: the main gate of a city where the elders conducted all the commercial and legal transactions; a place for the towns' people to assemble for public deliberations, to read the Law and proclamations, and to gather news.

2. Before the angels lay down who surrounded the house? Be specific. What was their wicked and depraved demand (vv. 4, 5)?

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3. Knowing their vile ways, what horrific thing was Lot willing to do to appease the lustful, perverted mob (vv. 6-8)?

4. Lust cannot be satisfied. How did the men of the city violently respond to Lot's debase offer (v. 9)?

5. How did the angels defend Lot and his family (vv. 10, 11)? _____

⁹ know: know them intimately. Notice verse 8 to see the entire cities intention to commit sodomy against the angels.

LOOK DEEPER

What do the following Scriptures exhort concerning lust?

Ephesians 4:22, 23 _____

II Timothy 2:22 _____

Titus 2:12 _____

James 1:14 _____

James 4:1-3 _____

I Peter 2:11 _____

Jude 1:18 _____

Revelation 22:14, 15 _____

PERSONAL

How have you surrendered to evil when faced with a wicked situation? _____

How has the Lord delivered? _____

SECTION IV - Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed

READ Genesis 19:12-29.

1. What did the angels command Lot to do? Why (vv. 12-14)? _____

What was the reaction of Lot's sons-in-law? _____

2. What happened when the morning dawned (v. 15)? _____

3. When Lot *lingered*,¹⁰ what were the angels forced to do in order to save their lives? What did they command (vv. 16, 17)?

¹⁰ *lingered* - Hebrew *mahah* to question or hesitate: to be reluctant, delay.

4. Though the angels were sparing Lot and his family's lives from the destruction of Sodom, how did Lot reveal his distrust in their guidance (vv. 18-20)?

5. By granting Lot's request, the angel would not destroy the little city of Zoar¹¹. Why was the judgment delayed (vv. 21, 22)?

6. DESCRIBE the destruction that occurred by the hand of God (vv. 23-25). _____

7. Despite the angel's strong warning in verse 17, what did Lot's wife do and what was the consequence (v. 26)?

PERSONAL

What have you done in direct opposition to the LORD's warnings? What consequences have you suffered?

¹¹ Zoar - Hebrew *Zoar* insignificant: one of the five cities slated for destruction by God, spared for Lot's place of refuge. A city at the southeast end of the Dead Sea.

8. What did Abraham see when he went early to the place where he had stood¹² before the LORD (vv. 27, 28)?

9. God remembered Abraham's faithful intercession. What was the result (v. 29)? _____

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE out the THEME SCRIPTURE.

_____ (Genesis 18:20, 21).

... *God remembered Abraham* ...

Genesis 19:29

¹² stood - Hebrew *amad* to stand: abide (behind), continue, dwell, endure.

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