

GENESIS II

THE NEXT CHAPTERS OF GOD'S RELENTLESS PLAN

Part 3: Sodom & Gomorrah

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Key Verse from Genesis 18 & 19:

"Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous, that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me." – Genesis 18:20-21

God's Judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah is not:

A commercial for Open Theism

A statement on Geographical Retribution Theory

Condemnation of a particular sin, but a commentary on the cost of all sin

The Power of a Few Words

"...and their sin so grievous..." – Genesis 18:20

God has standards, and evil does not go unpunished

"For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it" – Genesis 18:32

God has compassion

"...Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city." – Genesis 19:1

Proximity to evil draws like a magnet (see *Psalms 1*)

"But he insisted..." – Genesis 19:3

Subtle complicity corrupts the entire soul

...all the men, from every part of the city of Sodom — both young and old — surrounded the house. – Genesis 19:4

Sin is epidemic, viral, and often learned

"No, my friends, don't do this wicked thing..." – Genesis 19:7

There is too much Sodom in Lot

"Look, I have two daughters..." – Genesis 19:8

Evil is a slippery slope, and making peace with evil has long term consequences

“Get out of our way...” – Genesis 19:9

Proximity undermines influence

“Hurry, take your wife and your daughters...or you will be swept away when the city is punished...” – Genesis 19:15

God is merciful to undeserving people

When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand...led them safely...for the Lord was merciful to them. – Genesis 19:16

God is merciful in the face of stupidity!

“Flee...don’t look back...don’t stop...” – Genesis 19:18

A good plan for leaving evil behind

“Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small.” – Genesis 19:20

A common question: how close can I stay to sin without losing God’s mercy?

Then the Lord rained down burning Sulphur on Sodom and Gomorrah.
– Genesis 19:24

God has limits

But Lot’s wife looked back... – Genesis 19:26

She wanted what she had more than what God wanted for her

Remember Lot’s wife!

“Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.” – Luke 17:32

So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe... – Genesis 19:29

A righteous prayer can save lives

Small Group Questions

- 1) Why do you think people struggle with God’s judgment?
- 2) How do you balance the danger of Lot’s proximity to sin with the need to be close to people who are far from God?
- 3) In what ways have your parent(s)’ poor decisions affected your life? How can you change that story in your own life and family by making God-honoring decisions?
- 4) Lot tries to stay close to the location of his sinful choices. Why do people do that? Where do you need to put distance between you and your old life?
- 5) Read Luke 17:32. What is Jesus teaching us about our attraction to our old way of life?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?