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**Lot In The Gate (Gen. 19:1-3)**

*1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. 2 And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." 3 But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.*

- These events all seem to take place in the same day.
- I notice that the holy God does not go to Sodom Himself, and that is probably a good thing!
- The gates of the city served important purposes.
- Why was Lot in the gates?
  - Offering hospitality.
  - Fearful for their sakes?
  - Was he acting as a judge or leader?
- Where would the angels be safer?
- Like Abraham, he serves them a feast. Why unleavened bread?

**Widespread Evil (Gen. 19:4-5)**

*4 Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to*

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*Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally.”*

- One of the interesting things that we are going to see in this story is a frequent use of the ideas of in and out.
- The men are completely given over to unnatural sex. Anyone that comes in to the city immediately seems to become a target of their lust. Moses wants us to know that the entire city is caught up in this: all classes and conditions of people.
- This sin is one of the main reasons, although not the only reason, why God scheduled these cities for destruction.

### **Lot’s Offer (Gen. 19:6-8)**

*6 So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, 7 and said, “Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! 8 See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof.”*

- Now Lot does something very wrong. He makes a choice between his obligation of hospitality and his obligation to his family.
- Lot refers to these very wicked people as his “brothers.”

### **Blindness (Gen. 19:9-11)**

*9 And they said, “Stand back!” Then they said, “This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.” So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. 10 But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. 11 And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.*

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- They prefer the men, and they also resent Lot’s telling them what to do. Peter says Lot “*tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds...*” (2 Peter 2:8)
- Sin always hardens us over time.
- In Psalm 1, David says that we start out receiving the counsel of the ungodly, then we progress to standing in the path of sinners, and then finally we end up in the seat of the scornful. We violently reject any attempt at being corrected, and that’s the point to which Sodom had progressed.
- As the crowd is ready to break the door, the angels reveal their supernatural identity and power for the first time. They strike the men with blindness.
- Notice the complete lack of repentance. Their physical blindness is just a picture of the spiritual blindness they already possessed.

**A Message Of Judgment (Gen. 19:12-14)**

*12 Then the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! 13 For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.” 14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.*

- The angels don’t need any more investigations!
- Notice the kindness of God, that He is willing to spare people for Lot’s sake.
- When Lot brings the news of judgment and the offer of deliverance to his sons-in-law, it seems like a joke to them. Worldly people think sin and the idea of a holy God is a joke.

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- The Bible says “...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” (See 2 Peter 3:3-4) So this pattern will continue.
- Even when the message of judgment is combined with an offer of escape, people do not want to be told that their works are evil. Even Jesus said, “The world... hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.” (John 7:7)

**Get Up And Flee! (Gen. 19:15-17)**

15 When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, “Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.” 16 And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.”

18 Then Lot said to them, “Please, no, my lords! 19 Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. 20 See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.”

21 And he said to him, “See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. 22 Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

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- Did Lot's heart simply grow too attached to Sodom?
- Notice how patient the angels are with Lot's behavior.
- The angel seems to have actually reduced the judgment by not destroying the city that became known as Zoar, which meant it was little. (Previously called Bela.)
- Notice also God's protection: perhaps the most amazing and touching thing in this passage is that the angel says he cannot do anything until Lot is safe!

### **The Destruction Of The Cities (Gen. 19:23-29)**

*23 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. 24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*

*27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. 28 Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace. 29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.*

- How did the destruction occur?
- The famous question about Lot's wife is whether she was really turned into salt. Perhaps what is intended is that was coated over with salt and chemicals.
- Jesus used Lot's wife as an example of going back and clinging to the world when the news of impending judgment tells us we should flee: *"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back.*

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*Remember Lot's wife.*" (Luke 17:31–32)

- Notice again that Lot was saved because God remembered Abraham, His covenant friend.

### **Lessons From The Cities Of The Plain**

These cities were destroyed because of unnatural sin and other deeds of wickedness, oppressing the poor and strangers. In this they are contrasted with Abraham and with what God would later command in the Torah.

*"Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit."* (Ezekiel 16:49-50)

God specifically warns us that the judgment of Sodom is meant to be an example to those who would live wickedly in the future. And it's also meant to be an encouragement to us, that God is able to deliver us from temptation and preserve us from judgment even when the wicked are being destroyed:

*[For if God] delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. (2 Peter 2:7-10a)*

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