

There's more to the story (Sodom and Gomorrah) (Genesis 18:20-19:29)

The Land Inheritance

- In Genesis 13:14-16 God promised Abram that the land that is currently occupied by the ungodly would someday be his and his descendant's inheritance. This has been fulfilled in part, but never fully. This promise is consummated in the new Heaven and new earth. Abraham is the father of faith and all those who are justified by faith as was Abraham are his descendants.
 - Romans 9:6-9 But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; ⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham's ^[d]descendants, but: "^[e]through Isaac your ^[d]descendants will be named." ⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as ^[d]descendants. ⁹ For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son."
 - Galatians 3:6-14 Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. ⁷ Therefore, ^[k]be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. ⁸ The Scripture, foreseeing that God ^[u]would justify the ^[m]Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying*, "All the nations will be blessed in you." ⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with ^[u]Abraham, the believer.¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of ^[o]the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them." ¹¹ Now that no one is justified ^[u]by ^[a]the Law before God is evident; for, "^[u]The righteous man shall live by faith." ¹² ^[s]However, the Law is not ^[u]of faith; on the contrary, "He who practices them shall live ^[u]by them." ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a ^[v]tree"— ¹⁴ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might ^[w]come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Righteousness required to escape wrath Only those who were considered righteous would escape the wrath of God upon Sodom and Gomorrah. The same is true in regard to escaping the wrath of God poured out immutably and eternally on the Last Day. Righteousness is the standard to enter the new Heaven and new earth (Matthew 5:48). No one is righteous in their own merits and works (Is 64:6)(Romans 3:10). Through faith alone, the believer is declared righteous as they are covered in the imputed righteousness of Christ and will escape the wrath to come on the Last Day.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- Isaiah 61:10 will rejoice greatly in the Lord, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- Romans 5:1,9 Therefore, having been justified by faith, ^[a]we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified ^[e]by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.
- 1 Thess 1:10 and to wait for His Son from ^[h]heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
- John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not ^[a]obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

By nature we are deserving of wrath (Ephesians 2:3)

The elect have not been destined to wrath, but to obtain salvation (1 Thess 5:9)

The ungodly are storing up wrath for themselves (Romans 2:5)

The wrath of God

- Revelation 6:16-17 and they *said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the ^[h]presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?
- Revelation 19:14-16 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will ^[a]rule

them with a rod of iron; and He treads the **l**wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Two angels Two angels are mentioned as going to the city of Sodom which will be destroyed (**Gen 19:1**). Angels are mentioned in multiple places in conjunction and in association of the day of wrath.

- **Matt 13:36-42** Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the **l**tares of the field.” ³⁷ And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, ³⁸ and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil *one*; ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the **l**end of the age; and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the **l**end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom **l**all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴² and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- **2 Thess 1:5-10** *This is* a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. ⁶ **l**For after all it is *only* just **l**for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted **l**and to us as well **l**when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with **l**His mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes to be glorified **l**in His **l**saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.
- **Rev 14:14-19** Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like [l]a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the [m]temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “[n]Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth [o]is ripe.” ¹⁶ Then He who sat on the cloud [p]swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped. ¹⁷ And another angel came out of the [q]temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “[r]Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters [s]from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.” ¹⁹ So the angel [t]swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.

The righteous are removed, then wrath via fire and brimstone.

- **Rev 14:10** he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed **l**in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and **l**brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.
- **Rev 19:20** And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs **l**in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with **l**brimstone
- **Rev 20:11-15** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose **l**presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and **l**books were opened; and another **l**book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the **l**books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if **l**anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- **Rev 21:8** But for the cowardly and **l**unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and **l**brimstone, which is the second death.
- **Psalm 11:6** Upon the wicked He will rain **l**snare; Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.
- **2 Thess 1:5-10**-see above

Smoke ascended like a furnace The smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace just as it is described in **Rev 14:9-11** to describe the torment of the unrighteous in eternal punishment in hell.

- **Revelation 14:9-11** Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed ^(a) in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and ^(b) brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and ^(c) whoever receives the mark of his name."

God remembered Abraham Abraham's family was saved. This foreshadows the promise made to Abraham in the Abrahamic covenant. All who believe in faith like Abraham are the descendants of Abraham by faith and are saved from the wrath to come.

Verses on Sodom and Gomorrah

- **2 Peter 2:6**: and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter.
- **Luke 17:28-30** It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.
- **Jude 7** just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.
- **Genesis 18:25** "Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?.....YES.

2 Peter 3:7-13 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.⁸ But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and ^(a) its works will be ^(b) burned up.¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

One day God's wrath will be revealed upon all ungodliness and those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. When He comes on the Last Day, He is looking for righteousness. Those who are unrighteous will face the immutable eternal wrath of God that will be poured out. All those who are descendants from Abraham by faith are covered in the righteousness of Christ and will be spared from the wrath of God because Christ satisfied the wrath of the Father upon the cross. It is faith in Him that we are declared righteous and will escape the wrath to come and enter into the consummation of the land that was promised to Abraham and his descendants where righteous dwells.

There's more to the story!!!

