

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #44

Genesis 19:1-13

Back in 1980, Mr. John Phillips of Moody Bible Institute, observed: “In our degenerate culture people who indulge in the vile passions of Sodom are termed “gay.” They demand their rights. They parade and demonstrate. They broadcast their shame on radio and television shows. They crusade for the elimination of all legislation that interferes with their supposed right to practice their abominations. They mayor of one great American city even went so far as to proclaim “Gay Pride Week” to honor them and give them public recognition. An anemic, brain-washed culture, that has completely lost its way morally, bows to the pressure and accedes to the demands. ...Truly if God does not punish America and the world, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah” (*Exploring Genesis*, p. 158).

In this story Lot is no hero, in fact, he chose to move near Sodom and Gomorrah because the city offered power, pleasure and wealth to those who were part of it (13:10-11). When Lot moved to this area, he knew of the cities’ reputation and he knew the men were evil (13:13), but instead of being interested in the will of God, he was interested in the enjoyment of life. By virtue of the fact that Lot sat “in the gate of Sodom” (19: 1), we may assume he was a leader in the city, perhaps a judge (19:9). In the end, Lot lost much - his reputation, his wife, his family, his money and his home, Everything he once deemed as important was wiped out at the = judgment of God.

WHEN SIN REACHES A CERTAIN LEVEL, GOD WILL SEND HIS DESTRUCTIVE JUDGMENT OF WRATH BUT BEFORE HE DOES HE WILL DELIVER THOSE COVENANTLY RELATED TO HIM BUT THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEPARATED THEMSELVES FROM WICKED THINGS WILL REGRET IT.

SCENE #1 - The reaction of Lot to the angels. 19:1-4

These angels had arrived at Abraham’s tent “in the heat of the day” (18:12), which is mid-afternoon. Since they arrive in Sodom “in the evening”, they walked that afternoon 20-25 miles in rough, rugged, mountainous terrain, which means they have been walking between 6-8 hours.

There is some discussion among commentators as to whether or not Lot immediately recognized these two as angels. Those who say he did, do so on the basis of the word “angels” (19:1) and Lot’s reaction to them, bowing and wanting them to stay and his willingness to offer his own daughters. Notice contextually that Abraham lives humbly in a tent (18:1) and Lot lives luxuriously in a beautiful nice home with a strong door and roof (19:6,8). Lot temporarily had a plush life, but that plush life is about to become one of ruins.

SCENE #2 - The reaction of the Sodomites to the angels. 19:4-5

Here is one of the most godless scenes in all of the Bible, as Dr. Davis said it is “incredible depravity”, (*Genesis*, p. 201) - homosexuality had reached such a godless level that when two men (actually angels) came to town, “all” the men, both young and old men, wanted to have sexual relationships with them. James Strahan said: “The revelers of Sodom beset his house like a swarm of demons let loose from hell” (*Hebrew Ideals In Genesis*, p. 128).

Homosexuality is one of the most vile sins in the sin categorization of God: **1)** It is a sexual sin, which puts it in a very severe category (I Corinthians 6:18); **2)** It is a sexual sin that God classifies as an abominable sin, a sin on the same level as bestiality and incest (Leviticus 18:22-23; 20:12-16). **3)** It is a sexual sin that will bring the wrath judgment of God (Genesis 19). **4)** It is a sin that brings the abandonment of God (Romans 1:28-29). **5)** It is a sin that will be prominent during the Tribulation when the Holy Spirit has been removed (Luke 17:28-30). Homosexuality is one of the vilest sins in all of the Bible and this vile sin is being flaunted and promoted right now in the U.S.

SCENE #3 - The reaction of Lot to the Sodomites. 19:6-8

This society is so vile and evil that Lot is left trying to negotiate an avoidance of the sin of homosexuality by promoting the sin of rape . As Calvin said the trade-off is evil for evil , trying to “remedy one evil by means of another” (*Genesis*, pp. 500-501).

SCENE #4 - The reaction of the Sodomites to Lot. 19:9

This culture was so depraved that any talk of doing right led the majority to riot. As Mr. Phillips said, these people of Sodom did not view their behavior as criminal, but constitutional (*Exploring Genesis*, p. 161).

SCENE #5 - The reaction of the angels to Lot and the Sodomites. 19:10-13

(Way #1) - They protected Lot. 19:10

It is important to see that the first thing the angels do to protect Lot is to remove him from the hostile, godless environment.

(Way #2) - They blinded the Sodomites. 19:11

When God is at work, threats mean nothing. These men were so lust crazed that even in their blinded condition; they were still trying to find the door that can fulfill their godless appetites.

(Way #3) - They warned of the judgment. 19:12-13

It is interesting that God does not warn the wicked, for they had reached their moment of doom. But he did warn Lot. Lot knew the judgment of God was about to come.

There is little doubt that if God does not soon send His judgment He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah. Our society has lost its moral bearings. The vile sin of homosexuality is dominating the world, but soon it will doom the world. The real question for us is this - how does the reality of God’s soon judgment affect us? Does it make us a better witness? Does it change us at all?