

Genesis – Sodom and Gomorrah Gen. 18:16-19:29

Thesis: To learn from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah so that we can live holy lives.

Introduction:

- A. From the first time that we read of Sodom and Gomorrah, we read that they were wicked cities.
 - 1. After Abraham and Lot separated from each other, Lot chose to go towards Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - 2. This is the first time that we read anything about these cities, and it is wicked.
 - 3. **Gen. 13:10-12** - And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. { 11 } Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. { 12 } Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.
 - 4. Due to the fact that God points out that these cities had not yet been destroyed, we understand that this was well known throughout history.
 - 5. In fact, throughout the Bible, there is nothing good said about these two cities.

- B. Today, we will learn from their wickedness and notice some valuable lessons from them.

I. Notice a recap of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah.

- A. God tells Abraham what He intends to do with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (**18:16-33**).
 - 1. When God tells Abraham that He is going to destroy the cities, Abraham begins to plead for the life of Lot.
 - a. Abraham begins with fifty righteous souls.
 - b. He goes from 50 to 45 to 30 to 20 to 10.
 - b. Finally, God says that He will save the city if there is but 10 righteous souls in it.
 - 2. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were so wicked that not even ten righteous men could be found in them (**18:16-33**).
- B. God then sends two angels into the city (**19:1-11**).
 - 1. These men come and stay at the house of Lot (**19:1-4**).
 - 2. The people of the city treat these two angels very badly, which shows the great wickedness of the city (**19:5-11**).
- C. God destroys the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities because of their wickedness (**19:12-29**).
 - 1. The angels tell Lot to get his family out of the city (**19:12-14**).

2. The angels finally grab Lot and bring him out of the city so that he can escape (19:15-22).
3. God sends fire and brimstone upon the city to destroy it (19:23-29).

II. In the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, we see the progression of sin.

A. Lot started away from Sodom and Gomorrah, but he had soon moved into the cities.

1. Notice the progression of Lot.
 - a. Gen. 13:12 - Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.
 - b. Gen. 14:12 - They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.
 - c. Gen. 19:1 - 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. Lot got closer and closer to Sodom.
 - a. Before he realized it, he had moved into this wicked city.
 - b. Lot had gone from living with Abraham, the friend of God (Js. 2:24), to living in the most wicked city to ever exist.

B. Evil companions can corrupt good morals.

1. You may look at this story and say that Lot remained righteous even though he was surrounded by ungodliness (and he was - II Pet. 2:7-8).
 - a. It may seem that he was unaffected by living in Sodom.
 - 1) However, some of Lot's family was destroyed when God destroyed Sodom.
 - 2) His sons-in-law were destroyed (19:12-14).
 - 3) His wife was also turned into a pillar of salt (19:26).
 - b. The point is that the city had an effect on Lot's family.
2. Today, we have to realize the fact that evil companions will destroy good morals.
 - a. I Cor. 15:33 - Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."
 - b. Part of our problem with sin is that we try and get as close to it as we can.
 - 1) Teenagers, as well as adults, will often ask the question, "How far can I go without committing sin?"
 - a) This is a terrible question to ask.
 - b) It assumes that we are moving towards something that is terrible.
 - c) It is about like asking how close we can get to a fire and not get burned (the only way to find out is to get burned).
 - d) Before we realize it, we are destroyed by the sin; and those whom we love are affected by our sin.

- 2) Instead, we should be asking, “*What must I do to remain pure?*”
3. This is also why we should pray that God will not lead us into temptation (**Mt. 6:13**).

III. In Sodom and Gomorrah, we see two great cities that are destroyed because of their wickedness.

A. There is nothing that is good said about Sodom and Gomorrah throughout the Bible.

1. The first time we read of Sodom and Gomorrah, it is in the context of the boundary of the land of Canaan (**Gen. 10:19**).
2. In fact, the first thing of importance that we have written about Sodom and Gomorrah is that God destroyed them.
 - a. Lot had made a decision to go towards the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - b. **Gen. 13:10** - And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.
3. Sodom was destroyed because they were wicked.

B. Just as Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of their wickedness, those who are wicked today will also be destroyed.

1. There will come a time when the wicked are destroyed.
2. This day will be when Christ returns to judge the world.
 - a. **II Thes. 1:8-9** - in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. {9} These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
 - b. **Heb. 10:26-31** - For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, {27} but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. {28} Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. {29} Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? {30} For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine; I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” {31} It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Conclusion:

- A. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of their wickedness toward God.
- B. Today, the same will happen to those who are wicked.