

## Genesis 19:24-29 – Clouding of the Eyes

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Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: If Jesus died for every person in the world, how do you explain what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah? The truth is Jesus did not die for every single person. If he took the punishment for everyone's sins, God could not punish anyone by sending him to hell; God would be guilty of punishing 2 people for the same sin. That would make him an unjust God. But as you will see today, God truly hates some people. He hates them in a strong way...and he destroys them with intense and total vengeance. But as you always find with God, while his vengeance is great, his love for his children is greater. He loves beyond your ability to understand. And this is the subject God wants you to see today.

Our headings are: God destroyed Lot's Possessions on account of his lusts, God Destroyed Lot's Wife on account of her lusts, and God Saved Lot on Account of Christ's Life.

Our goals are: That you will clearly see the severity of God's justice on the wicked and that you will clearly see the ground of his grace to his children.

### God Destroyed Lot's Possessions on Account of his Lusts

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.

1. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah not just with fire but also with brimstone. Burning sulfur (硫磺) intensified the heat.

(And how stink it would have been with the sulfur.) Further, bitumen (沥青)... in the lime pits that surrounded Sodom would also have intensified the heat.

And consider the volume of the fire. The fire and brimstone rained down...not drizzled down (下毛毛雨).

Deuteronomy 29:23 `The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and His wrath.'

2. It was ironic that instead of rain from heavens to water the green grass that Lot coveted from his uncle Abraham, the heavens rained down fire to burn everything that he coveted. God has no other gods before his face. He is just and jealous. Lot's eyes had become cloudy and he couldn't distinguish who his God really was...so God destroyed the mirage!

3. There would have been no doubt this was the hand of God, for this was a clear bright day – after the sun had risen. Then terror fell from the sky. And this was a fully deserved judgment on the wicked.

4. The Psalmist testified to this type of severe punishment as a normal method of God's justice. And there are many other similar description of judgment in the Bible, for example, for Babylon, Moab, and Tyre's destruction.

Psalms 11:6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup.

The people had a burning lust for perversion and God gave them a burning fire for their destruction. The people wanted strange flesh, God gave them a strong fire. Their cloudy eyes caused them to fall in a pit. Jude, Jesus' own brother saw the need to remind new covenant Christians of this so they would avoid the sins of Sodom.

Jude 1:7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

These men of Sodom and Gomorrah were objects of God's hate. And a God who is holy and cannot look at sin. He must punish sin. Those who believe that God can just wish away their sin are serving a different god from the God of the Bible. Their god is an unjust god.

Psalms 5:4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.

5 The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.

From Psalm 5, you can see that God doesn't just hate the sin, he hates the sinner also.

5. The fire came also upon Admah and Zeboim also, **four cities in all**. Zoar, where Lot asked to go, which should also have been destroyed, was unfortunately saved. It became a thorn in Israel's side.

6. There was total destruction...**complete ruin...irreparable (无法修补) damages**...probably it was accompanied with an **earthquake** to overthrow everything. Many believe that this once fruitful valley remains to this day in the form of a great lake, or Dead Sea; it is called the Salt Sea. To this day it has no living creature in it. The smell of it is offensive;

things do not easily sink in it.

7. Not only does God judge, but he judges by whichever method he chooses. He used water during Noah's time, he used fire for Sodom, and he opened up the earth during Moses' time. This shows you how small man really is.

2 Peter 2:6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

8. But you must also see that God's judgment is a means by which he brings deliverance. The destruction of the wicked often means that the godly are saved. Another example is how Israel had to be judged for her prostitution to other gods so God's new Bride would be protected.

9. One final point in this first major point. Look at how Christ's work is important. In your case, you were like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah who rightly deserved punishment. So **Jesus Christ faced God's judgment in your place so you would be saved.**

Malachi 4:1 "For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble 麦茬. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. 3 You shall **trample the wicked**, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the LORD of hosts.

The context of Malachi shows that this was not the end of the world. The new Bride started working for Christ by conquering the wicked. There is no evangelism in heaven. You are called to evangelize the world now.

### **God destroyed Lot's Wife on Account of her Lusts**

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.

1. According to Jewish history, Lot's wife's name was Adith and was from the land of Sodom. While we cannot verify her nationality, it is believable. **Lot's children were ungodly.** They married wicked men. **Lot's wife was full of lust in her eyes, showing her unbelief.** She had cloudy eyes. You can see her unbelief and her lust for things when Jesus warned people not to be like she – and stop to get anything in their house when they would see the Romans coming to invade Jerusalem.

Luke 17:32 "Remember Lot's wife.

She loved her "stuff too much." Jesus warned his disciples many times to be weary of wealth. Men can care more for things that is appropriate. Remember the rich young ruler?

Matthew 12:22 – The young man went away sorrowful because he had great wealth.

2. But because Lot's wife did not obey the angel but looked back in lust for her possessions, she became an erect pillar for perpetual **remembrance of disobedience** to God – a pillar of metallic-salt.

3. What Lot's wife should have done was to press on...not look back in regret...not stop in the plains...but head to the mountains of God. This is what you are spiritually called to do.

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended 领会理解; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

You must learn to keep your eyes on the cross set before you...look toward the hills...from where our help comes...

Psalms 121:1 A Song of Ascents. I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help?  
2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

4. And can you imagine what a lesson Abraham must have learned who prayed for the 10 righteous people in Sodom? He assumed there would be at least 10 people there. There was 1. And that 1 was not particularly faithful.

### **God Saved Lot on Account of Christ's Life**

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.

1. Abraham rose early the next morning to go to the place where he had talked to Jesus the day before and intercede for Sodom and the surrounding cities. **Why did he go to that spot again?** We don't

know for sure, but it seemed that Abraham have developed some doubts about whether there were really 10 godly people in Sodom.

2. And what did Abraham see through his cloudy eyes? He saw smoke and destruction in the direction of Sodom. He must have realized quickly that the cities did not have 10 godly people and that Christ was destroying them. His heart must have sunk. He would have thought that surely his nephew whom he loved was destroyed in God's judgment – and justly so.
3. There is an important lesson here. If you are earnestly interceding for someone, in the day of their death or on the Day of Judgment, **you must be content to see them perish**. For God is glorified even in their destruction. Emotionally, this is tough to accept...but that is only because you might think that man is better than he is and doesn't deserve to spend eternity in hell. Doctrinally, you know that God is glorified either way – through salvation or through judgment.
4. But then comes V29. **God remembered Abraham** – covenant head. But this was not “remembering” as in simply having recollection. **This is a “remembering” in the sense of “remembering to do”** something for someone. For example, you might say: Remember me when you get rich. Or you might say: Remember me when go to Canada. (That means, remember me to send me back some money.) So because God remembered Abraham (to do good for him), God saved Lot out of Sodom. **But why would God care about Abraham to do something for him?** God cared about Abraham, not because Abraham was good, but because of the Christ that would come through Abraham – the one in whom Abraham believed. **So Lot was saved on the basis of the coming Christ**. No doubt Abraham would be blessed when he saw God's kindness to Lot and remain faithful to God...and secure the Line of Promise. This is another reminder that **Lot deserved nothing**. He was not saved because of his goodness, but because of the goodness of God.
5. Obviously then, this was a reminder to you that you are not saved on account of your sins. You are saved on account of Christ taking the punishment for your sins.

### **Conclusion:**

Lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life... make the eyes cloudy. These sins brought troubles to Lot and destruction to his wife. Lot lost everything he owned and Lot's wife's lust for worldly things left her as a perpetual warning to those who loved things more than they loved God. But God remembered Abraham who believed in Jesus. So God kindness to Abraham and saved his nephew. And a happy Abraham would be faithful to God and labor to preserve the Line of Promise through which Jesus would come.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Those who are tempted by worldly things and idolize them will find that those things will not truly and permanently satisfy them. Yes, worldly possessions can give a kind of joy, but they are only temporary and will be destroyed. But if you continue to receive the fullness of Christ's work – his life and his death for you, that will bring you true joy. Isn't this was you want to teach your children most of all – warn them against the lust for temporary joys? Isn't this a reason to tell your non-believing friends and family about Christ so they might be rescued from their inordinate 超过适当限度的 obsession 迷住 with fame and fortune? I hope you will endeavor 努力 to do this.

Finally, your goodness, your possessions, your power, and your prestige 威望 in this world in no way bring any merit for your salvation. Only if you surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ and recognize and believe that he died on the cross for your sins are you set saved. If you want to be saved, call to him with your mouth and heart for his salvation.