

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

We live in a time where the world pushes for political correctness.

In fact, I was reading an article a few days ago about a school board in

Alberta, Canada who has ordered a Christian school to:

CEASE reading or studying “any Scripture that is considered to be offensive to particular individuals.” Targeted Biblical verses include those which speak

against homosexuality, fornication, adultery, idolatry, and witchcraft. The

Battle River School Division in Alberta, Canada, directed Cornerstone

Christian Academy to refrain from teaching on any Biblical Scriptures which

the board has determined violates Alberta’s “human rights” legislation.

We as believers are not commanded to practice political correctness but to

adhere to biblical authority. This is why we raise the bible at the start of

every study – there are no buts...

It doesn’t matter what society deems as acceptable or what the government

allows – what matters is what the Word of God dictates to us.

In tonight's study, I want you to focus on the life of Abraham and the life of Lot.

I want you to see the contrasts between the priorities in their lives and how it affects the decisions that make.

Let's pray....

[Gen 18:16-22 NKJV] 16 Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. 17 And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, 18 "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." 20 And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, 21 "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know." 22 Then

the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD.

So last week, we left off with these three visitors announcing to Abraham and Sarah that within a year, Isaac would be born to them.

One of the visitors was the Lord Himself – this was the manifestation of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament.

The other two of the visitors were angels and we will continue to see them in our text today.

So, in these opening verses, the Lord gives Abraham a revelation of what He is about to do to Sodom and Gomorrah.

But, the reason that the Lord reveals it to Abraham is the key – the only reason that God is going to reveal this to Abraham is because He knew Abraham's character. He knew that Abraham would abide by His statutes and He knew that Abraham would share what the Lord had revealed to Him to his children.

So even back here in Genesis, we get a glimpse of the importance of ministering to others. Of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So when the Holy Spirit reveals something to us, whether it is thru our reading our bibles every day, through prayer or by coming on Sunday or Wednesday night – the reason it has been revealed to us is so that you we share it with others.

We must remember that the great commission is addressed to everyone here – not just me or a few.

Why is God going to judge Sodom and Gomorrah???

Because the outcry against them was great and their sin is very grave.

[Eze 16:49-50 NKJV] 49 "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. 50 "And they were haughty (which means that they were arrogant) and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw [fit].

So the Lord is going to send these two angels to scope out Sodom and Gomorrah so that they can verify what God already knows – because God is All Knowing. By sending the angels – **God demonstrates to us that all His judgments are just.**

We must remember that our God is holy – therefore, He must judge sin, but He is also merciful and full of grace – however, there comes a time when God's grace comes to an end and He must judge. This is what has happened to Sodom and Gomorrah.

[Gen 18:23-33 NKJV] 23 And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 "Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare [it] for the fifty righteous that were in it? 25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" 26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." 27 Then Abraham answered and said,

"Indeed now, I who [am but] dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: 28 "Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for [lack of] five?" So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy [it]." 29 And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I will not do [it] for the sake of forty." 30 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not do [it] if I find thirty there." 31 And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not destroy [it] for the sake of twenty." 32 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy [it] for the sake of ten." 33 So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

That was the question the Abraham asked the Lord.

**[Psa 19:9 NKJV] 9 The fear of the LORD [is] clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD [are] true [and] righteous altogether.**

50,45,40,30,20,10 and after each occasion, the Lord responds to Abraham in the same way – “I will not destroy it for the sake of whatever number Abraham gave Him until Abraham got to 10 and then the conversation ends..

That is how wicked the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah had become – 10 righteous people would not be found in the cities.

Abraham is interceding here for Sodom because he knows that his nephew Lot resides there along with his wife, at least four daughters-two of which are married. This is why he doesn't continue to go down after 10.

But, what we will find out in the next chapter is that God didn't stop at 10, because when He saved Lot and his family from destruction, God stooped all the way down to four.

[Gen 19:1-3 NKJV] 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.

Back in Genesis 13, we see that Lot made the decision to move his family and their animals to the plains of the Jordan and he pitches his tent near Sodom – even though the people of Sodom were very wicked.

In the following chapter, when we read about Abraham having to rescue Lot who was taken prisoner, we find that Lot was now living in Sodom.

Here at the beginning of Chapter 19, we find Lot sitting at the gate of Sodom. We know that he already lives in Sodom.

Sitting at the gate of a city was reserved for judges or influential people of a city. That is where all the decisions were made.

This is the progression of a believer who gives into the temptation of a sin.

At first, we see the sin and we decide to move a little closer – not quite partaking of sin but you're playing with it. Then, you give into the sin and eventually you fully embrace the sin.

Lot recognized these believers as angels (since we see him bow before them).

And notice how it appears that he is somehow rushing them as he tells the angels that they should go to his house and wash up and rest so that they can leave early in the morning. Kind of like when my inlaws come and visit.

Lot is also fully aware of how wicked the people were in Sodom and Gomorrah.

This is why he was adamant about them staying at his house instead of spending the night in the open square. We see this in verse 2

Lot knew what the people of Sodom were capable of, yet he still resided in Sodom.

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 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]."

This is how wicked the people were – all the men of the city were there outside Lot's house asking Lot to bring the angels out so that they may know them carnally.

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."

This is what living in sin does to you. It clouds your judgment.

He is calling a mob of crazed homosexuals who are desiring to rape these two angels – brethren.

And then Lot does the unthinkable by offering two of his daughters to the angry mob.

They say that the way to cook frogs is to put them in a pot with water and slowly turn up the heat.

Slowly they will become desensitized to the heat little by little until they are in a full boil.

Lot has been so desensitized to the sin of Sodom that he no longer is shocked by their wickedness. It is just another normal night living in Sodom. This is what the world does to us church, they attempt to desensitize us to sin. I remember when it was a big deal when they would show two males or two females kiss on TV. Now it happens all the time and it no longer has the same effect on us because we are like the frogs.

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.

Verse 9 is an important verse because what this reveals is that Lot had lost his testimony. The people of Sodom turn on him because now all of a sudden he is bringing out there sin – demonstrating that he never spoke out against it before.

You hypocrite! That is what they are telling Lot – who are you to judge.

Sound familiar???

You hang out with us, you've become like us, how do you think you can be a judge over us?

That is why our testimony is so important church.

The angels then blind the people – yet it didn't stop them from coming after them.

[Gen 19:12-14 NKJV] 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.**

This is another reason why your testimony is so important. Lot is trying to warn his sons-in-law and they think that he is joking??? Why?

Because when Lot decided to live among the people of Sodom and be like them – he has lost all credibility.

Notice the difference with Noah and his family. They saw that Noah walked with God and all his sons and all his daughters-in-law followed him into the ark.

The same thing happens today? My children see my walk. When they start seeing glaring differences between my words and my walk – I too will lose all credibility.

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."

The angels give the warning to Lot to hurry and we see in verse 16, that he lingers. Meaning that he was hesitant in going – he didn't want to lose what he had.

The angels have to drag them out by the hand...

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. 23 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

Even though the angels had commanded Lot to flee into the mountains – Lot was a city boy and asked if he could stay in Zoar. Once again, he is seeking his own will and not the Lords.

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.

Judgment has come upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

The land that was green like the garden of Eden has been transformed into an arid wasteland.

The angels commanded them not to look back, yet Lot's wife looked back and she was turned into a pillar of salt.

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus warns us "Remember Lot's wife" (17:32)

For the believer, it means to go back to the world that we once lived in.

Some people claim that those were the good old times.

To go back to our Sodom.

We should always be looking forward to the things that God is going to do in our lives. Not looking back at our old life that we left behind.

[Gen 19:27-38 NKJV] 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. 30 Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave. 31 Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father [is] old, and [there is] no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth. 32 "Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father." 33 So they made their

father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. 34 It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, "Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in [and] lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father." 35 Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. 36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. 37 The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he [is] the father of the Moabites to this day. 38 And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he [is] the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

The end of the chapter is just as unbelievable as the beginning. Lot's daughters, despite seeing God's judgment, they didn't look to God to resolve their problems. They rely on their own immoral and irrational decision and they get there father drunk and they lay with him.

We must remember that it was Lot's decision to reside in Sodom and therefore they educated them in the ways of Sodom.

The Ammonites and the Moabites will be a constant foe for the children of Israel for hundreds of years to come.

May we be more like Abraham than Lot.

May God give us wisdom. Amen

Let's pray...