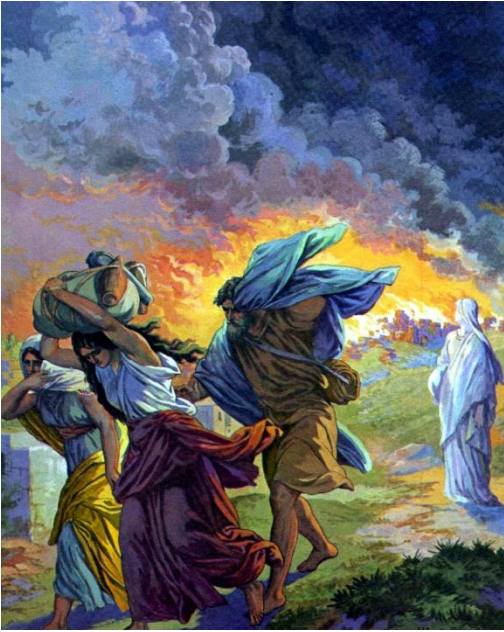


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 4



THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM

Scripture Text: Genesis 19:1-29

Today we study a continuation of last week's lesson in which Sodom's destruction was forecast. God punishes sin, and He protects His people. It is a mistake to raise children in sinful surroundings. We must obey God in all circumstances. Then He will answer prayer.

There is little in the record of Lot to justify God's remembering him, but because of the overflow of Abraham's life, Lot was saved, and he was brought out of Sodom safely. There is one assurance to which a Christian can look to when he is saved. He can contribute to the community in which he lives by the overflow of righteousness from his life. Everyone either raises or lowers the moral and spiritual standards of the home, church, or community in which he is a part.

MEMORY VERSE: Remember Lot's wife.

—Luke 17:32

DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Isaiah 1:1-20** A call to repentance.

Tue.—**Ezekiel 16:44-59** Sodom, classic example of sin.

Wed.—**Luke 17:24-37** The end will be as the days of Lot.

Thu.—**Romans 1:18-32** Sin deserves God's wrath.

Fri.—**2 Peter 2:4-17** The righteous judgments of God.

Devotional Reading: Ezekiel 18:20-32 God's fair judgments.

Flee Temptation

Genesis 19:1-3 **There came two angels to Sodom**—are not these the two "men" who visited Abraham in company with the Lord and who **went toward Sodom?** (**Genesis 18:22.**) **Lot sat in the gate**—a public and official gathering place. He was well known in Sodom. **Lot . . . rose up . . . bowed himself**—showed respect and hospitality. **He pressed upon them**—urged them—**they . . . entered into his house; and he made them a feast**— maybe not as yet realizing they were not ordinary men.

Lot's mistake was in choosing to live in a wicked place. Some of his children were lost with Sodom. Unless we flee temptation and abstain from all appearance of evil, we cannot ask God to protect us from sin's painful influences. It was Abraham whom God remembered and answered, not Lot.

These lessons should have an alarming effect upon us now. The signs in our land indicate an approach toward the spiritual and moral degradation of Sodom. We cannot hope for our land to wake up and turn to God. The lost do not save themselves. Sodom's hope lay in the presence of but ten righteous and the prayers of one. The task of turning the tide in our land rests upon those who know God. What can we do? (1) Live sanctified lives. (2) Carry a burden and pray much. (3) Spread the Gospel of Christ everywhere. (4) Teach and train the children to live godly. (5) Combat evil forces by every possible means.

This Fellow Came in to Sojourn

Genesis 19:4-11 **Before they lay down**—they lost no time—**the men of Sodom, compassed the house round**—formed a mob. **Old and young . . . from every quarter**—they represented the whole city, not realizing they were demonstrating what the angels came to learn. **Where are the men . . . ? bring them out**—degraded,

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sinful, and brutal mistreatment was planned. When Lot pled with them to **do not so wickedly**, they threatened him. **This one . . . came in to sojourn**—an outsider living there temporarily—yet was trying to **judge**, or command, them. They **pressed sore** upon Lot **and came near to break the door**. Lot was in danger. The people were wicked and violent in their degenerate condition. The power of sin had a terrible hold upon them. But God was watching. Abraham had prayed for Lot. Lot was still righteous, but very foolish and unwise (**2 Peter 2:7-8**). **The men** (angels) **. . . pulled Lot into the house . . . shut to the door . . . smote the men . . . with blindness**, so they could not **find the door**. This was a miracle and an evidence that they were not natural humans. They were supernatural. They were angels. They used God's power.

When God's Word and the Holy Spirit are brought before sinners, it calls for action. People will either be sarcastic, ridicule, and threaten, or they will receive that which they represent. The saint does not answer the sinner on his level; this only leads to quarreling. Truth and holiness are his weapons and are **mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds** (**2 Corinthians 10:4**). Lot was humanly no match for the mob, but God's power used by the angels put them to defeat. To show this kind of attitude toward God's messengers always brings spiritual blindness. God's true messengers are His Word and His Spirit.

As One That Mocked

Genesis 19:12-23 **The men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any . . . son in law . . . sons . . . daughters . . . bring them out.** They were searching for the righteous—those ten or more—for all who would believe and obey. **We will destroy this place . . . the cry of them is . . . great before . . . the Lord**—God was stirred. **Lot . . . spake unto his sons in law . . . Up, get you out . . . the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked**—they did not believe him, thought he was fooling. In the morning **the angels hastened Lot . . . take thy wife, and thy two daughters**—FOUR, not ten. **While he lingered**—in no hurry to leave though destruction was so near. Hurry out of sin while there is still time! **The men laid hold upon his hand** and the hands of the others—great urgency. The Lord showed great mercy unto them. They **set him without the city. He said, Escape . . . look not behind thee**—don't look back. God's commands are to be obeyed. Yet through all this, Lot desired to bargain with God, to work some of his own will into God's plan.

Why did Lot's sons-in-law not believe him? It would appear his previous life had been lacking in concern for his family. Possibly, he was partly responsible for their present condition. It pays to live at all times so that we can draw upon God's strength in times of crisis. It pays to so live that our family has confidence in our words.

The Awful Penalty of Sin

Genesis 19:24-29 **Then the Lord rained upon Sodom . . . brimstone and fire**—the awful penalty of sin—DEATH. The cities, people, everything all destroyed. God means what He says. **But his wife looked back.** When leaving sin, the future is bright and good; sin has nothing worth looking back to. See **Luke 9:62. She became a pillar of salt**—again, the penalty of sin. God told us to remember this. **Abraham got up early**—his concern was great and real—to **where he stood before the Lord**—where the day before he had prayed for Sodom to be spared. **Looked toward . . . the smoke . . . went up as the smoke of a furnace**—a tragic sight, the result of sin. Was Abraham's prayer ignored? No, God heard and granted even more than asked. **God remembered Abraham.** Ten righteous were not found, but He **sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow.** His goodness and mercy are everlasting.

Does the punishment of Lot's wife seem too severe? We must learn that sin is exceedingly sinful. Remember that these things happened unto them for our examples (**1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Peter 2:6**). They are important because of that of which they are types.