



Genesis 19:17-38

TRAGEDY ACCORDING TO GOD

One could object that it is not worthy of God to wield the sword. Is God not good, long-suffering and all-powerful love? A counter-question could go something like this: Is it not a bit arrogant to presume that our contemporary sensibilities about what is compatible with God's love are so much healthier than those of God's people throughout the whole history of Judaism and Christianity? ...One could further argue that in a world of violence it would not be worthy of God not to wield the sword; if God were not angry at injustice and deception and did not make the final end to violence God would not be worthy of our worship. ...I suggest imagining that you are delivering a lecture in a war zone. Among your listeners are people whose cities and villages have been first plundered, then burned and leveled to the ground, whose daughters and sisters have been raped, whose fathers and brothers have had their throats slit... Soon you would discover that it takes the quiet of a suburban home for the birth of the thesis that human nonviolence corresponds to God's refusal to judge. In a scorched land, soaked in the blood of the innocent, it will invariably die. And as one watches it die, one will do well to reflect about many other pleasant captivities of the liberal mind.

—Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion & Embrace*

Genesis 18-19 form one story in the life of Abraham (and Lot) with the events in these two chapters occurring in the span of 48 hours.

- A **Miraculous Birth of Isaac Revealed** (18:1-15)
 - B Abraham's Visitors Look Toward Sodom (18:16)
 - C Yahweh Considers Judgment on Sodom (18:17-21)
 - D Abraham Intercedes for Sodom (18:22-33)
 - E Angels Visit Lot in Sodom (19:1-3)
 - F **Sodom's Great Sin against Yahweh** (19:4-14)
 - E Angels Rescue Lot from Sodom (19:15-16)
 - D Lot Pleads for Zoar (19:17-22)
 - C Yahweh Executes Judgment on Sodom (19:23-26)
 - B Abraham Looks Toward Sodom (19:27-29)
- A **Incestuous Births of Moab and Ammon Revealed** (19:30-38)

A DIVIDED HEART LEADS TO...

- _____.
- _____.

If He rescued righteous Lot, distressed by the depraved behavior of the immoral (for as that righteous man lived among them day by day, his righteous soul was tormented by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment. —2 Peter 2:7-9

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. —Matthew 6:24

Lot tries to be a blessing but instead appears as a bungler and buffoon. He fails as a host, as a citizen, as a husband, as a father.

—Bruce Waltke

Seven Rules for Self-Discovery:

1. What I want most.
2. What I think about most.
3. How I use my money.
4. What I do with leisure time.
5. The company I enjoy.
6. Whom I admire.
7. What I laugh at. (A.W. Tozer)

What we focus on comes to control our thoughts, our actions, and indeed, our very lives. Whatever we focus on actually wires our neurons. —Kare Anderson

The heart is the eye of the soul. The affections turn the man in a certain direction, and where the affections go, the eye is turned. —Charles H. Spurgeon

Not even brimstone will make a pilgrim of him: he must have his little Sodom again if life is to be supportable. —Derek Kidner

GOD'S JUDGMENT IS...

- _____.
- _____.

"It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed." —Luke 17:28-30

In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. —Jude 7

THE WORLD'S INFLUENCE IS...

- _____.
- _____.

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." —1 Cor. 15:33

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. —Romans 12:2

Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to make his life secure will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. —Luke 17:32-33

The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. —1 John 2:17

EVEN IN JUDGMENT, GOD'S GRACE SHINES THROUGH.

- God _____ Abraham.
- God _____ Lot and his family.
- God _____ all those who call on His name.

As the inhabitants of an ancient Middle Eastern city...went about their daily business one day about 3,600 years ago, they had no idea an unseen icy space rock was speeding toward them at about 38,000 mph. Flashing through the atmosphere, the rock exploded in a massive fireball about 2.5 miles above the ground. The blast was around 1,000x more powerful than the Hiroshima atomic bomb. The city dwellers were blinded instantly. Air temperatures rapidly rose above 3,600°F. Clothing and wood burst into flames... Pottery began to melt. Immediately, the entire city was on fire.

—Christopher R. Moore

Lot was able to take his daughters out of Sodom, but he was not able to take Sodom out of his daughters... The story of Lot and his family should provide a sobering reminder that all of our decisions are significant, even that of where we live. Our moral environment significantly influences our lives.

—John J. Davis

Her backward look was far more than momentary because the destruction of the cities did not begin until Lot and his daughters were safe in Zoar. Evidently she refused all encouragements to leave and lingered far behind. There were no angels to grasp her unwilling hand as the deathly rain rushed toward her. —R. Kent Hughes

Because of his worldliness, he lost his testimony, his wife, his sons-in-law, his friends, his property, his character, his life's work, and nearly his life. And the depraved behavior of his daughters shows that they had been influenced by Sodom's vile standards.

—William MacDonald