

E2E: Part 19b

Genesis 19

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1. At our core, we are spiritual beings built to worship. If God isn't at the center, it is the nature of humanity that we will put something or someone in God's place. This is where the core issue at Sodom & Gomorrah lies.
2. Within Sodom & Gomorrah there was a total disregard for God's standard of righteousness. (Ezekiel 16:49-50)
3. The messengers of God arrive in the cities to look for good, but the sin in these cities is so great it virtually screams to Heaven for retribution. (Genesis 18:20)
4. A nation falls when people exchange the Truth of God for the lie that mankind is his own god; that they should worship and serve themselves. (Romans 1:25)
5. Because man abandons God, God abandons man. He permits people who persist in rebellion to go deeper in their sin, He is merely taking His hand off and allowing the willful rejection to produce its ugly results. (Romans 1:26-28)
6. When Lot goes to get his own family before the city is destroyed, none will believe or follow him. He has impressive political power and influence, but in his own home his spiritual influence is non-existent. (Genesis 19:12-14)
7. The basis of God saving Lot is the Lord's compassion, not because he deserves rescue. (Genesis 19:15)
8. This is the gospel issue – Jesus says He is the way, the truth, and it's His way that leads to life. If you abandon His way and standards, it leads to your destruction.
9. The abandonment referred to in Romans 1 is not eternal abandonment. As long as we are alive, God provides opportunity for forgiveness.

HEBREW WORDS

Tow'ebah, (to-ay-baw'); something disgusting (morally), - (as noun) an abhorrence :—abominable, abomination

Prassō (pras'-so) to *perform repeatedly* or *habitually*

QUOTES

“...the Sodomites saw the young men to be of beautiful countenance and this to an extraordinary degree, they set about to do violence and outrage to their youthful beauty.”

- **Flavius Josephus** — *Antiquities of the Jews 1:199-202*

“Bring them out to us that we may know them”, [is] using a Hebrew word meaning ‘intimate knowing.’ They were demanding homosexual relations with these men.”

-**Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum**

Now this country is then so sadly burnt up, that nobody cares to come to it... It was of old a most happy land, both for the fruits it bore and the riches of its cities, although it be now all burnt up. It is related how for the impiety of its inhabitants, it was burnt by lightning; in consequence of which there are still the remainders of that divine fire; and the shadows of the five cities are still to be seen... — Josephus **book 4, chapter 8**

“Desires for things God has forbidden are a reflection of how sin has distorted me, not how God has made me.”

- **Sam Allberry**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe how you have or do go about defining what is right and wrong? Is it a consensus of others, your family, or friends? Is it the current legal or moral standards of your society or culture? Is it God? Is it you?
2. Is there something or someone that you have allowed to be in God's rightful place in your life? Is there something you are holding onto that you know God wants you to entrust to Him? Pray that God would give you the desire to move toward Him, show you what He wants you to do, and actually take steps of obedience in that direction.
3. When you encounter people that engage in sinful activities, do you have compassion for them? Remember, God waited patiently for at least 23 years, allowing Sodom & Gomorrah time where they could choose to repent before He withdrew His gracious protection. Why? Because He loved them and truly wanted them to come into a relationship with their Creator.
If you have a hard time having similar compassion for those who haven't yet responded to God's love and patience, please start praying regularly that he would transform your heart to reflect his heart more clearly.