

**First Southern Baptist Church - December 18, 2019**  
**Sodom and Gomorrah - Genesis 18-19 (2)**

**Introduction**

1. The emphasis is on the rescue, not the foul behavior... that is a given
2. Attempts have been made to say this is not a part of the history of Israel
  - an inserted text
3. Seen best against the backdrop of God's blessing... how does God make that blessing happen, with evil men? What does God do with men/ women who do wrong?
4. Chapter 19

**I. Two Angels to Sodom (1-3)**

1. Hospitality of Lot
2. "Know" is understood as homosexuality
  - the later law would make it a capital offense - Lev. 18:22; 20:13
  - the New Testament is appalled by it - Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9; 1 Tim. 1:10
  - see Judges 19:22-30, for a similar story of attack
3. Don't sleep in the street - he insists, which hints at the danger about to unfold
4. The special place of the "alien" in Israelite thought
  - like the orphan, or the widow... considered especially vulnerable
  - mistreatment of the sojourner was especially shameful
  - by showing this treatment, Moses is showing the depravity of the Sodomites

**II. Attack of the Sodomites (4-11)**

1. Surrounded Lot's home - prison culture, with sodomy ...no, violent sodomy (rape)
2. Note that the sodomy is prevalent throughout their city... "young and old" - "all the people from every quarter" (4)
3. Lot's negotiations:
  - A. Talks with them (6-7)
  - B. Offers his daughters (8)
    - an appalling and bizarre proposal - he sanctions rape above the hospitality to strangers
    - he has been in Sodom too long
    - he does not live in Sodom, Sodom lives in him
  - C. He does not conspire with the men of the city - but opposes them
    - is this naive?
  - D. His failure to convince them says something about his character, as well as theirs
4. Response of the citizens (9)
  - A. Who made you a judge?
    - the argument shows that he was not completely identified with the city
    - note the response of his sons-in-laws at 14. Also, note that they are not in the house, but outside with the rabble
    - are you a "know it all?"
    - "who made you a judge?" is a very common ploy of the unbeliever today
  - B. Break the door

- the gateway in the passage... in and out of the door... implies a segregation from the city
- the door separates between the “saved” and the “unsaved”

5. The angels intervene (10-11)

A. Pull Lot in

B. Strike with blindness - not as punishment... that comes later. The blindness is a defensive tool

### **III. Who do You Have? (12-14)**

1. Do you have children?
2. We will destroy this place - after this incident... he is becoming a believer - in the judgment
3. Lot exhorts S-I-Ls (14)

### **IV. Let's Go (15-16)**

1. Let's go (15)
2. Lot lingered (16) - reluctant... why?
  - saved only because of the insistence of the angels
  - so enamored by his place, and the city of Sodom that he does not want to leave
3. Brought them out

### **V. Instructions (17-22)**

1. Be diligent (17)
  - escape
  - don't look back
  - escape to the mountain, not the plain
2. The “look”
  - you either escape or you are destroyed... no neutral ground
3. Lot wants to stay at Zoar (18-22)
  - at 19 he wants to be safe in Zoar... he is afraid
  - at 30 he moves to the mountain
4. The irony of the man of the city... dying in a cave
5. The way to be saved from evil... is to come out of it

### **VI. Fire Falls (23-29)**

1. Fire and brimstone
  - fire as literal... fire as figurative
  - seen on TV as natural disaster... bitumen, petroleum and sulphur are common there... but seen in the Bible as a judgment from God... not a random happening
2. Twice the credit for the fiery judgement is given to God (24)
3. God “remembered” Lot? - no God “remembered” Abraham
  - mercy, grace... in the midst of fiery judgment

### **VII. Deceived by His Daughters (30-38)**

1. Two times deceived - by two different daughters
  - sexually exploited

2. Drink wine... twice - often the motive for drinking is not good
  - if you have to drink to do it... shows they knew that they were doing wrong
3. Two sons/ grandsons:
  - firstborn bore Moab - father of the Moabites...
    - from the word “min” meaning “from” and “ab” meaning father -meaning literally, “from their father”
  - younger bore Benammi - father of the Ammonites
    - is “son of my (paternal) kinsmen” - or “kinsman”
4. Their “thinking” has been corrupted as well
5. A shameful end to the ruler of the Sodomites
6. Contrast of the sons of Lot - through incest - Moab and Ammon
  - the son of Abraham - by promise - Isaac
  - A contrast of God’s way, and man’s way

### **Over all**

1. Mercy of God
  - to send the angels
  - attempt to rescue the S-I-Ls
  - attempt to rescue wife
  - apparently, God desires to save the whole family
  - willing to spare the entire city for 10 (chapter 18)
  - there is no righteousness in Lot... to merit his being “saved” the reason he is “saved” lies wholly in God (16)
  - the mercy of God is met with the reluctance of man... they just won’t be saved
2. Insidious influence of evil - just how evil can you become?
  - the grip of the present world on them... the citizens, and the S-I-Ls
  - Lot’s reluctance to leave
  - Lot’s ploy to save his guests... his daughters offered
3. God “remembered” his covenant with Abraham (12:3)