Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 18:1 - 19:29

Bible Memory Verse

Psalm 34:15 NIV

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry.

Bible Story

One day while Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day, he saw three men standing nearby. He went to them humbly and asked if he might serve them, give them something to eat, and refresh them. The three visitors graciously accepted.

> *"Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree" (Gen 18:7-8).*

The three visitors asked Abraham where his wife was. "In the tent," Abraham said. "Then the Lord said, 'I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son'" (Gen 18:10). Sarah, who was inside the tent heard this statement. "So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?'" (Gen 18:12).

The promised son is coming!

Meanwhile, the men got up to leave and the Lord turned aside to Abraham and said: "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? ...The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know" (Gen 18:17, 20-21).

Abraham was concerned about sweeping away the righteous people in the city along with the wicked. He asked the Lord if would spare the city if there were 50 righteous people in it?

There was not 50 righteous people.

Abraham pushed a little more. What about 45 righteous?

Nope. There was not 45 righteous people.

40?

There was not 40.

30?

Not 30.

What about 20? Would you spare the city for 20 righteous people?

There was not 20 righteous people.

Abraham went one step further. 10 righteous people?

There was not 10 righteous people in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The two men that were with the Lord arrived in Sodom that evening. At the city gates they encountered Abraham's nephew, Lot, who was living in the city at that time. He begged the two men to stay with him at his house that evening rather than in the city square like they had intended. They agreed.

Meanwhile, "all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house" (Gen 19:4) and demanded that Lot give them the two men who were staying with him. They wanted to harm them and do wicked things to the two men. The men of Sodom tried to force their way inside the house, "but the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door" (Gen 19:10-11).

The two men warned Lot and his family to get out of the city because they were sent to destroy the city. Lot was told to "flee for your lives, don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain" (Gen 19:17). Lot and his family fled. And as "the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens" (Gen 19:24), Lot's wife looked back. When she did so she became a pillar of salt.

"So when God destroyed the cities of the plain [Sodom and Gomorrah], he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived" (Genesis 19:29). The Lord God had "saved" Lot from judgment and destruction.

Life Application

At home you probably have a fire escape plan. You know a plan of what to do in the event of a fire. And you have all probably been taught how to behave during if there was a fire in your house and how to prevent one.

Well, Lot was in the process of being saved from a coming fire and there was no way that he could prevent it. The fire escape plan was initiated by Abraham when he tried to get the Lord to spare the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah if there were enough righteous people in it. There wasn't any. Well, maybe Lot and his family. You see they were living in the darkness, when they were supposed to be the light amidst the darkness. Instead, the darkness took them over instead of the other way around. Lot's uncle Abraham "saved" Lot, or at least asked the Lord to "save" Lot from the coming fire.

Did you know that Jesus is our fire escape plan? He "saved" us from the fire of our sin that would eventually destroy us. He asked God, His Father, our Father, to spare those who believe in Jesus, from the fire of our sins—judgment. And God did spare those believers… and He is sparing us.

Are you helping other people escape the fire? What are some ways we all can help other people have a fire escape plan?

Review Questions

1. What is the name of the two cities that the LORD was going to destroy? Sodom and Gomorrah.
2. What relatives of Abraham's lived in Sodom and Gomorrah? Lot and his family.
3. Why did the LORD intend to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? Because they were wicked.
4. Who was saved from Sodom and Gomorrah? Lot and his daughters.
5. What happened to Lot's wife, and why? She turned into a pillar of salt because she looked back at the cities.

Coloring Sheet

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