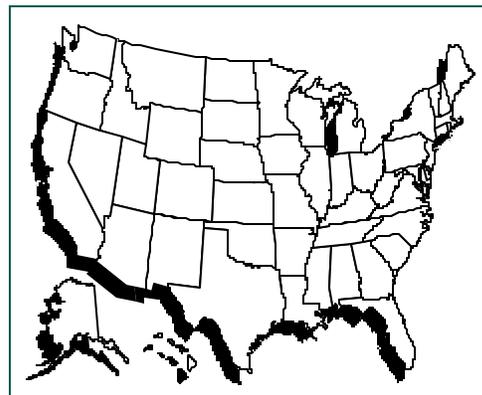


Sodom & Gomorrah

Genesis 18-19

We know that every person has a reputation. But did you know that some cities or areas of a country also have a reputation? The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah also had a reputation, and it was a very bad reputation which was well deserved. Let's see if you can match the place and its reputation.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ! | Bible Belt of the US - | - Seattle, WA |
| ! | Gambling city in the US - | - Arkansas, |
| ! | City where you go if you want to be in the movies - | Tennessee |
| ! | States with hillbillies - | - Salt Lake City, UT |
| ! | State with lots of retired people - | - Las Vegas, |
| ! | New Age religion centered here- | Nevada or Atlantic City, NJ |
| ! | Bigamists (men who have two wives) live here - | - San Francisco, CA |
| ! | City full of gay people - | - Florida or Arizona |
| | | - the Southeastern section of the United States |
| | | - Hollywood or Los Angeles, CA |



Prayer

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare,
Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not say thee nay.

With my burden I begin:
Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,
Set my conscience free from guilt. Amen.

The Story - Genesis 18:16-19:29

Genesis 18:16 Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. {17} And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, {18} "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? {19} "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

{20} And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is

great, and because their sin is very grave, {21} "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

{22} Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. {23} And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? {24} "Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? {25} "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the



righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

{26} So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

{27} Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: {28} "Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?"

So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it."

{29} And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?"

So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty."

{30} Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?"

So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

{31} And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?"

So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty."

{32} Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?"

And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

{33} So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Genesis 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. {2} And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way."

And they said, "No, but we will spend the

night in the open square."

{3} But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. {4} Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. {5} And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."

{6} So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, {7} and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! {8} "See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

{9} And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

{10} But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. {11} And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

{12} Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city; take them out of this place! {13} "For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

{14} So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

{15} When the morning dawned, the

angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."

{16} And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. {17} So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

{18} Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my Lord! {19} Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. {20} See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." {21} And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not

overthrow this city for which you have spoken. {22} "Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

{23} The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. {24} Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. {25} So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. {26} But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

{27} And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. {28} Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.

{29} And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.

Outer Aim - God answered Abraham's faithful prayer and showed mercy to Lot by rescuing him from wicked people.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer these questions about the story.

1. Why did the angels go to Sodom?
2. Why did Lot invite them to stay with him?
3. What were the men of the city trying to do?
4. Why didn't Lot's sons-in-law go with the rest of Lot's family?
5. Lot was afraid to go to the mountains when he escaped. What did he ask instead?
6. What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah?
7. What was the reputation of the city of Sodom?
8. What do we also learn to do from Abraham's prayer?
9. What sin did Lot's wife commit that caused her to be turned into a pillar of salt?

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up each of these passages in your Bible. Explain how each of them applies to the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Then explain how each of them applies to you.

Psalm 34:7-8

Luke 11:28

John 3:16

II Timothy 1:8-9

II Timothy 4:18

Titus 3:3-7

Inner Aim - God shows mercy to us by rescuing us from Satan and this sinful world.

Your Turn - Unscramble the words from the the Bible passage 1 Timothy 2:3-4 and put the letters in the box. Then use the numbered boxes to make the Bible passage from Luke 17:32 at the bottom.

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Hymn - TLH 414 v 1, 2, 6

The man is ever blest
 Who shuns the sinners' ways,
 Among their counsels never
 stands,
 Nor takes the scorners' place,

But makes the Law of God
 His study and delight
 Amid the labors of the day
 And watches of the night.

He knows, and He approves,
 The way the righteous go;
 But sinners and their works
 shall meet
 A dreadful overthrow.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, We are sorry that we don't listen to You the way we should. Please help us to remember to come to You in prayer, and remind us that You always hear and answer our prayers. Thank You also for taking care of us all the time. Thank You for protecting us from danger. Most of all, thank You for saving us from our sins so we will go to heaven. Amen.