

Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 19:1-3

- 1 “bowed himself”- humility and hospitality go hand in hand
- 2 “spend the night”- Lot is both hospitable and knows the dangers of the night in Sodom
- 3 “made them a feast”- like Abraham, the guests are given a meal

Genesis 19:4-11

- 4 An exhaustive description of the men present- every last man is rank with sin (18:32)
- 5 “we may know them”- Hebrew idiom for sexual relations, in this case homosexual
- 8 Lot’s idea of exchanging heterosexual rape of his daughters for the homosexual rape of his visitors may be the lesser of two evils in his mind, but is still greatly misguided.
- 11 The visitors (angels) strike the Sodomites blind, giving Lot time before the final judgment

Genesis 19:12-22

- 12-13 The angels give Lot the opportunity to bring out his family and reveal YHWH’s will to him
- 14 Sons-in-law- they were betrothed to Lot’s virgin daughters
“seemed...to be jesting”- *Luther: The nearer the world is to destruction, the smugger it is.*
- 15 “swept away”- recalling God’s judgment through the Great Flood
- 16 “he lingered”- Lot had a difficult time trusting the angels and leaving his possessions
“YHWH being merciful to him”- Extra mercy was required for this man slow in faith
- 17 “Escape to the hills”- heading East of the city
- 18-20 Lot is VERY difficult to deal with!
Why the fuss over a little city? The Hebrew “zoar” means “tiny place,” as a small city the sin there would be less great... or so Lot’s thinking goes.

Genesis 19:23-29

- 23 this verse and 19:22 indicate that Lot and his family arrived in Zoar before the punishment
- 24 “YHWH rained from YHWH FROM heaven.”- TLSB- the Son of God, speaking with Abraham (18:22-23) rains down from His Father in Heaven
Sulfur and fire- perhaps burning brimstone or pitch falling from the sky, some try to naturalize this event too much. It is a work of God no matter what form it precisely took
- 25 “and all the valley”- Admah and Zeboiim (14:2) were also destroyed
- 26 Lot’s wife lags behind and disobeys the command and becomes a pillar of salt
- 29 This verse gives us the rationale for why God was so patient with the fussy Lot- Abraham!

Genesis 19:30-38

- 30 Lot argued for the city, God granted it, and now he runs off to the hills where God had originally planned.
 - 31 “there is not a man on earth”- an exaggeration based on fear and crisis.
“not a man on earth to come/go into us”- they have a very crass view of sexual relations
 - 32 an incestuous scheme no doubt shaped by an upbringing in Sodom
 - 33-35 eerily reminiscent of Noah becoming drunk and Ham “seeing his father’s nakedness”
 - 37 Moab- sounds like Hebrew “from father”
 - 38 Ben-ammi- Hebrew means “son of my people”
- Neither daughter is remotely ashamed of the incestuous acts committed with their drunken father, they even name their children after such a deception and incest.

Moabites- Deut 2:9- YHWH orders Israel not to touch Moabite territory because of Lot. Numbers 25, the men of Israel commit acts of sexual immorality with Moabite women. Judges sees much struggle between Moab and Israel. Ruth was from Moab. Mentioned often in Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Ammonites- worshippers of Molech- the detestable god of child sacrifice. Deut 2:19- YHWH commands Israel not to touch their land for it is Lot's inheritance. They are the main protagonist in Judges 11.