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The LORD Rained Down Burning Sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah

19: 23-29

The LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah DIG: How does Yeshua talk about homosexuality? In the Lord's dealings with Avraham, Lot and Sodom(18:16 to 19:29), what do you learn about His character and purposes? About judgment and mercy for the righteous living a life of compromise? Abraham's plea saved three people, whereas Lot's plea was rejected by his son-in-laws and wife. Why do you think Abraham was able to exercise more influence than Lot on the people he loved? What can you learn about Jesus' Second Coming from this section?

REFLECT: When have you hesitated to obey ADONAI because it might make you unpopular? What happened? What examples does Lot give you in trying to lead a godly life in a sinful society? Where has the Lord shown mercy in your life?



By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land (19:23). Right up until the moment of **their** destruction, **the men** and women **of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord (13:13). They** had no idea the fate that awaited **them**. As in the days of **Noah**, the door to salvation had to be shut. **Then ADONAI (God the Holy Spirit)** rained **down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah** (see a video on the geological evidence that matches the Bible's description of what happened in Sodom and

Gomorrah [click here](#)) from **out of the sky (19:24a)**. To see a video on the modern day evidence of the destruction of **Sodom and Gomorrah** by **burning sulfur** [click here](#). Jesus would say later: **The day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all (Luke 17:30)**. The LORD (**the preincarnate Messiah** visible to **Abraham** on the earth) **rained down** judgment from **the LORD (God the Father) out of the heavens (19:24b)**. This verse shows a plurality in the godhead. **Because they do not believe in the trinity, the rabbis teach that the first ADONAI refers to the angel Gabriel and the second ADONAI refers to God. Other rabbis say it is God and His heavenly court.** Both are simple ways of getting around the obvious. **Jude** tells us that **Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire (Jude 7).**

Sodom and its sister cities are located in the large oval-shaped, fertile plain just north of the Salt Sea, commonly called the Dead Sea, called simply *ha-kikkar*, or “the Disk” (Genesis 13:13). It wasn’t always salty or “dead.” Before **Ha’Shem** **rained down burning sulfur, it** was a beautiful body of water. Today **it** is still salty because of the sulfur. **It** has never recovered. Neither has **Sodom and Gomorrah**. In Biblical geography, this well-watered disk-shaped plain, said to have been located east of the highland towns of Bethel and Ai, was an area **like the garden of ADONAI, like the land of Egypt** where **Lot** moved **his** family after **his** quarrel with Abraham (**Genesis 13:10**). It is also the place where the Biblical writers set their dramatic tale of **Sodom’s** wickedness and destruction (**Genesis 19**).

In support of their position, apologists for the gay community often clam that **Yeshua** never talked about homosexuality. In doing so, they unwittingly or not, try to separate the Trinity, which is, of course, impossible. **Yeshua** was there as **fire and sulfur rained down from heave and destroyed them all**. In addition, we must never allow the Adversary and his demons to distract us from the fact that **Messiah is the Word** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ, to see link click [Af](#) - The Memra of God**) and **He** authored **Genesis**.

Thus He overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities - and also the vegetation in the land (19:25). The physical **cities** were destroyed, **the people in those cities** were destroyed and so was **all the vegetation**. Before the destruction, the plain was **well watered, like the garden of Eden (13:10)**, but it continues to be a desert to this very day. Although only **Sodom and Gomorrah** are mentioned here, **the Lord overthrew all** the cities but Bela. **They** were the cities of **Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim (14:8)**. The Greek term for **overthrew** is

katastrophei, and is where we get the English word for **catastrophe**. And to show **His** grace, the city of **Sodom** will be restored in the messianic Kingdom. It will be a saved city, and a moral city (**Ezeki'el 16:44-57**).

But Lot's wife looked back (19:26a). In the end, even **Lot's** own **wife** was unwilling to be influenced by **him**. **Jesus** used **her** as an example when **He** said: **On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife (Luke 17:31-32)! Why in heaven's name would Mrs. Lot look back? There are two reasons. First, she loved the comfortable life in Sodom. Her** body walked out, but **she** surely left **her** heart there. We all have things and people on this earth that we don't want to leave behind. But when **the Lord** comes back, leave **them** behind we will. The Bible teaches that **whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left (Luke 17:33-35). Secondly, she looked back is simply that she did not believe the LORD. He** had said leave **the city** and **don't look back. Lot** believed **the Lord** and didn't **look back**. But Mrs. **Lot** didn't believe **Him**. **She** was not a believer and didn't make it to safety. **She** was trapped and overcome by an eruption of molten materials and **became a pillar of salt (19:26)**.³²⁴ This is a snapshot of those who turn their **back** on **God** (see my commentary on **Hebrews Ci - If We Deliberately Keep on Sinning, No Sacrifice For Sins is Left**).

Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he and the Lord had been talking the previous day. **Avraham** was obviously in awe of the spectacle before **him**. This is the only section in **Genesis** where **Abraham** appears but says nothing. **He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace (19:27-28)**.

Upon seeing the columns of **smoke rising from the city**, **Avraham** can only conclude that the loss of life has been total. **He** had no way of knowing that **his nephew** and two **great-nieces** were still alive. Standing there, **he** believed that nobody had lived through the **catastrophe**. Of course, the narrator knows about the survivors and therefore we know it.³²⁵

Now it becomes clear why **Lot** was spared. **He** was delivered from this **catastrophe** because of the faithfulness of **Abraham**. **So when Elohim, the God of creation and destruction, destroyed the cities of the plain, He remembered the blood covenant that ADONAI had made with Avraham** (see **Eg - I Am the LORD, Who Brought You Out of Ur of the Chaldeans to Give You This Land**). Remembered here

does not mean that **God** forgot and then **He remembered** again. It means *to remember in the sense of taking action on behalf of*. **And He brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived (19:29)**. Thus **Abraham** saved **his** nephew for the second time; the first time by the sword (**Chapter 14**), and the second time by intercession (**Chapter 18**).

We are amazed at the mercy of **ADONAI**. From the sequence of events in **Lot's** life, it might seem that **he** was not worth saving. **Lot's** weaknesses amounted to wickedness, and yet again and again **the Lord** stayed with **him**, waited for **him**, pleaded with **him**, urged **him** and ultimately did not bring down fire from heaven until **he** was safely out of **Sodom**. Is there anything in this world so wonderful as the mercy that waits for us, follows us, guards our path, and short of making decisions for us, does everything to keep us from ruin?³²⁶