

Series: Perseverance In Prayer

WILT THOU DESTROY THE RIGHTOUS WITH THE WICKED GENESIS 18

Text: Genesis 18:22

Genesis 18:22

²² *And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but **Abraham stood yet before the LORD.***

Introduction:

I want us to consider a certain society – one that cast God aside and consequently sunk into a pit of gross darkness.

Despising the Light, this society became a magnet for every kind of evil spirit. Law and order collapsed; every man was a law unto himself.

The entire society was abandoned to the devil, and no moral force remained to hinder its headlong rush into Hell.

There was no honor, decency or self-respect left among them, no reverence for life whatsoever.

Justice and kindness faded away, and the people were overcome with lust and licentiousness.

They sneered at virtue, their consciences seared and callused. They scoffed at the fear of God and mocked righteousness.

They became totally inhospitable and hostile, possessing the heart and indifference of a beast. They had no pity for the poor. All spiritual desire was extinguished and gross materialism and fleshly lusts became their gods. The people became totally shockproof, so that the vilest, bloodiest crimes were accepted as normal behavior.

This city that I'm describing is Sodom.

We know of Sodom's terrible end - and Scripture shows us that America is fast becoming another Sodom!

Today, Sodomites have come out of their closets and have become activists.

In Sodom they grew politically powerful much like today.

Sodom became the world's gay capitol, a society so vile and wicked and crazed with violence.

We find in this story one of the saddest messages ever delivered to a man.

It was a message of warning of the coming judgment of two cities; Sodom and Gomorrah.

Note:

1. THE CONDITION OF SODOM

We have already described some of the condition of these wicked cities note also:

A. Founder Settlers (Genesis 10:19-20)

Genesis 10:19-20

¹⁹ And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, unto Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha. ²⁰ **These are the sons of Ham**, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, *and* in their nations.

Remember it was Ham who sinned when he saw his father Noah naked.

Genesis 9:22

²² *And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.*

It was the decedents of Ham; the one who committed a sinful perverted deed with Noah his father who founded this wicked city.

We not only the founders but also we see that they were:

B. Full of Self

Note what is revealed to us in Ezekiel 16; and Jeremiah 23:14 :

Ezekiel 16:48-50

*⁴⁸ As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. ⁴⁹ Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, **pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness** was in her and in her daughters, **neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.** ⁵⁰ And they **were haughty, and committed abomination** before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.*

Jeremiah 23:14

*¹⁴ I have seen also in **the prophets** of Jerusalem an horrible thing: **they commit adultery, and walk in lies:** they **strengthen also the hands of evildoers**, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.*

Note in addition to the sodomy they were:

- Prideful
- Spoiled – “Fullness of Bread”
- Idle – Not working or being productive
- Didn’t care for the poor or needy
- Were Haughty
- Committed Abomination

The prophets were guilty of:

- Committing Adultery
- Dishonest
- Empower Evil Doers
- Refused to Repent or Return From Their Wickedness

There are many similarities with our nation today.

Not only do we see the Founding Settlers, and that they were Full of Self, but also note the:

C. Filth Seen

Genesis 13:13

¹³ But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

Genesis 19:1-10

¹ And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; ² And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. ³ And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. ⁴ But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: ⁵ And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. ⁶ And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, ⁷ And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. ⁸ Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of

my roof.⁹ And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.¹⁰ But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

We note not only the “Condition of Sodom” note secondly:

2. THE CRY OF THE SINFUL (VS. 20)

Genesis 18:20

²⁰ And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

This cry was a:

A. Bold and Boastful Cry

Isaiah 3:9

*⁹ The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they **declare their sin as Sodom**, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.*

They were not ashamed of their sin but rather they were boastful of it.

We note not only the “Condition of Sodom” and the Cry of the Sinful but thirdly:

3. COMMUNING WITH THE SAINT (vs. 33)

Genesis 18:33

³³ And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

Abram was made aware of what was about to happen to Sodom because Lot his nephew had picked up the tent that he had pitched toward Sodom and had become a resident of Sodom.

Note:

A. His Concern

Genesis 18:23-32

²³ And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? ²⁵ That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

²⁶ And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their

sakes. ²⁷ And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: ²⁸ Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. ²⁹ And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. ³⁰ And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. ³¹ And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. ³² And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

Note out of concern he went to the Lord, he didn't try to fix the situation himself.

We too should follow this example in going to the Lord out of concern for those around us who have been imprisoned by sin.

Not only was Abraham concerned but also we see:

B. His Consistency

He sought the Lord consistently about Lot and the destruction of Sodom.

He asked about sparing the city if 50; 45; 40; 30; 20; and 10 righteous people could be found.

Note the illustration of this in consistency in Luke 11:

Luke 11:5-10

⁵ And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? ⁷ And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. ⁸ I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. ⁹ And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

We need to be consistent in our supplication for those around us.

We note not only the “Condition of Sodom” the “Cry of the Sinful” and the Communing of the Saint but lastly:

5. THE CONDITION WE MUST SEE

We certainly respect the concern and compassion that Abraham demonstrated but I also see something troubling:

A. Limited Concern

Could Sodom have been spared if only Abraham had just communed once more?

Could America face a similar outcome?

Note what the Lord stated in Matt 11:20-24:

Matthew 11:20-24

²⁰ Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: ²¹ Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. ²³ And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it

would have remained until this day.²⁴ But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Close:

Isaiah 1:9

⁹ Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

God help us to not to stop communing and pleading too soon.