

GENESIS 19 vs 1

For millennia, the primary record of Sodom and Gomorrah was found in the Bible; although the roman historian Josephus clearly wrote of the 5 cities in the plain. Recent research and publication of the massive library of Ebla tablets reveals not only the 5 cities of the plain are identified along with Abraham and Jerusalem and many other biblical names, but also helps us to identify what happened:

¹ And two angels came to Sodom at evening; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: Sodom and Gomorrah

when Lot saw them, he arose to meet them; and bowed with his face toward the ground;

² And he said, Now, behold, my lords, turn into your servant's house, and spend the night, wash your feet, then arise early and go your way. They said, No! We will spend the night in the street / were these heavenly visitors testing Lot?

³ But he urged them strongly; so, they turned in, and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

⁴ But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both old and young, all people from every quarter:

⁵ and calling to Lot, they said to him, Where are the people who came to you this night? bring them out to us, that we may know them / they were not just going to have a friendly chat.

⁶ Lot, going out to them at the doorway, shut the door behind him,

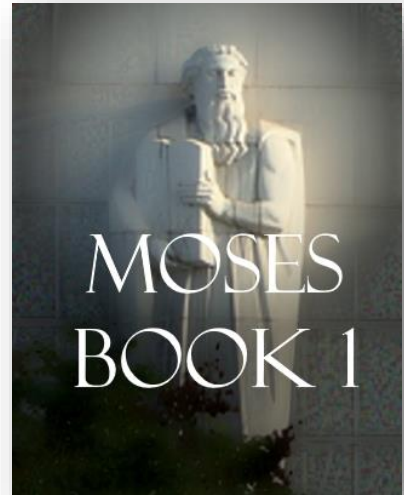
⁷ and said, Brethren, please do **not act wickedly.**

⁸ Now behold, I have two daughters who have **not known people; let me bring them out, please do to them as you see fit: only to these people do nothing; for they came under the shelter of my roof.**

⁹ But they said, Stand back.

And they said again, This one came to us a foreigner, and already he wants to be a judge: we will deal with him worse than them. And they pressed against Lot with force, and nearly broke the door / the old-timers resented Lot's intervention;

¹⁰ but the men inside / the 2 citizens of heaven... reached out their hand and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.



GENESIS 19 vs 1

¹¹ And the men who were at the door of the house, they struck with blindness, both small and great: so that they tired themselves groping for the door.

¹² And the men said to Lot, Who else is here beside you? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and anyone you have in the city bring out of this place:

¹³ for we will destroy this place, because there is distressing outcry before the LORD; and the LORD sent us to destroy it.

¹⁴ And Lot went out, and spoke to his sons-in-law who married his *other* daughters, and said, Arise, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed to his sons-in-law as if he was joking.

¹⁵ And when the morning arose, the angels urged Lot, saying, Arise, take your wife and two daughters, who are here; lest you be swept up in the punishment of the city.

¹⁶ But he hesitated / which is not a wise thing to do, when the Lord sends an urgent message,

so the men seized his hand, and the hand of his wife, and the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being compassionate to him: and brought him out, setting him outside the city.

¹⁷ And it happened, when they brought them outside / they had done their part in the rescue effort,

that one said, **Escape for your life**; do **not** look behind you... do **not** stay in all the plain; to the mountain escape, lest you be swept away.

¹⁸ And Lot said to them, Oh, **no**, my lords / Lot is going to negotiate with the rescue team:

¹⁹ Now behold, your servant has found grace in your sight, and you have magnified your mercy, which you showed me in saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil overtake me, and I die:

²⁰ Now behold, this town is near to flee there, and it is small: please let me escape there, isn't it small? and so save my life.

²¹ And he said to him, See, I accept your request, and will **not** overthrow this town about which you have spoken.

²² Hurry, escape there; for I cannot do anything until you arrive there; the name of the city was called Zoar.

²³ The sun was risen over the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

²⁴ Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire...

from the LORD out of heaven;

GENESIS 19 vs 1

²⁵ He overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and whatever grew on the ground.

²⁶ But looking behind, his wife became a pillar of salt.

²⁷ And rising early in the morning, Abraham went to the place where he stood before the LORD:

²⁸ and looking toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all surface and land of the plain, and beheld, and mark this,

the smoke of the country ascended like the smoke of a furnace.

²⁹ And it happened when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot from the midst of the disaster,

when He overthrew the cities where Lot lived.

In *Mere Christianity*, Macmillan ©1952 C.S. Lewis asks, If we do not believe in the Law of nature, then why should we be so anxious to make excuses for not having behaved decently? We tend to minimize and dismiss our little errors and mistakes; we even argue with God. Lewis suggests we might reconsider that after a million years of practicing and perfecting those little mistakes, they might not appear so little, right?



In *The Book of Jasher* / mentioned twice in the OT; an ancient Hebrew manuscript dated 70AD: printed in 1613 with the consent of the prestigious Jewish Consistory of Rabbins at Venice; here we read excerpts:

Chapter 18:

11. In those days all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah and of the five cities were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord; they provoked the Lord with their abominations, and increase acting abominably and scornfully before the Lord, and their wickedness and crimes in those days were great before the Lord.

12. And they had in their land a very extensive valley, about half a day's walk, and in it there were fountains of water and a great deal of herbage surrounding the water.

13. And all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah went there four times in the year, with their wives and children and all belonging to them, and they rejoiced there with timbrels and dances.

14. And in the time of rejoicing they would all rise and lay hold of their neighbors' wives, and some, the virgin daughters of their neighbors, and they enjoyed them, and each man saw his wife and daughter in the hands of his neighbor and did not say a word.

15. And they did so from morning to night, and they afterward returned home each man to his house and each woman to her tent; so, they always did four times in the year.

16. And when a stranger came into their cities and brought goods which he had purchased with a view to sell there, the people of these cities would assemble, men, women and children, young and old, and go to the man and take his goods by force, giving a little to each man until there was an end to all the goods of the owner which he had brought into the land.

17. And if the owner of the goods argued, asking, what have you done to me? they would approach him one by one, and each would show the little he took and taunt him, saying, I only took that little which you gave me. And when he heard this from all of them, he would arise and go from them bitter and in sorrow; then they all would arise and go after him, and drive him out of the city with great noise and tumult.

Verses 18 – 43 is a detailed story about a stranger on a journey passing through the city... and Hadda, a wicked citizen, skilled to do evil... met up with him; even the corrupt judge of Sodom gets involved.

Chapter 19:

Verse 1 – 6 describes perverse humor toward unsuspecting strangers... leading to death's door.

7. And when men heard all... that the people of the cities of Sodom did, they refrained from coming there.

8. When a poor man came to their land, they would give him silver and gold, and cause a proclamation in the whole city not to give him a morsel of bread to eat. Then at his death all the people of the city would come and take their silver and gold which they had given to him.

9. And those who could recognize the silver or gold which they had given him took it back, and at his death they also stripped him of his garments, and they would fight about them, and whoever prevailed over his neighbor took them.

11. And in the course of time, Sarah sent Eliezer to Sodom, to see Lot and inquire after his welfare.

12. And Eliezer went to Sodom, and he met a man of Sodom fighting with a stranger, and the man of Sodom stripped the poor man of all his clothes and went away.

13. And this poor man cried to Eliezer and begged his favor on account of what the man of Sodom had done to him.

14. And Eliezer said to him, why did you act thus to the poor man who came to your land?

15. And the man of Sodom answered Eliezer, saying, is this man your brother? Or have the people of Sodom made you a judge this day... that you speak for this man?

16. And Eliezer struggled with the man of Sodom on account of the poor man,

and when Eliezer approached to recover the poor man's clothes from the man of Sodom, he hurried and with a stone struck Eliezer in the forehead.

GENESIS 19 vs 1

17. And the blood flowed copiously from Eliezer's forehead; and when the man saw the blood, he caught hold of Eliezer, saying, give me my hire... for having rid you of this bad blood... that was in your forehead, for such is the custom and the law in our land.

18. And Eliezer said to him, you wounded me, and am I to pay you your hire? So, Eliezer would not listen to the words of the man of Sodom.

19. And the man laid hold of Eliezer and brought him to the judge of Sodom for judgment.

20. And the man spoke to the judge, saying, I beseech you, my lord, thus has this man done, for I smote him with a stone... that the blood flowed from his forehead, and he is unwilling to give me my hire.

21. And the judge said to Eliezer, this man speaks truth to you, give him his hire; for this is the custom of our land; and Eliezer heard the words of the judge and he lifted up a stone and smote the judge, and the stone struck on his forehead... and the blood flowed copiously from the forehead of the judge; and Eliezer said, if this is the custom in your land, then you give to this man what I should have given him, for this has been your decision, you decreed it.

22. And Eliezer left the man of Sodom with the judge, and he went away.

23. And when the kings of Elam had made war with the kings of Sodom, the kings of Elam captured all the property of Sodom, and they took Lot captive, with his property, and when it was told to Abraham he went and made war with the kings of Elam, and he recovered from their hands all the property of Lot as well as the property of Sodom / this event is recorded in [Genesis 14](#).

Verses 24-34 is about a daughter of Lot who stealthily helps another poor man who came to Sodom... who was left starving to death in the street, and she provided bread and water... and she was taken before the judge for transgressing their law. (It reminds me of the recent lawsuits in the news, in Florida)

35. And the people of Sodom and Gomorrah assembled and kindled a fire in the street of the city, and they took the woman and cast her into the fire and she was burned to ashes. / like loveless roman crusaders

Verses 36-42 a similar incident took place with a poor man passing through the city who just asked for a drink of water, and a young woman got bread and water for the man. The citizens disapproved and took her to the judge who sentenced her to death for this act, because she transgressed the law.

And they drenched her in honey, and placed her next to a swarm of bees which stung her so that her whole body swelled / no different than the violent days of loveless roman inquisitors, right?

43. And the young woman cried out on account of the bees, but no one took notice of her or pitied her, and her cries ascended to heaven.

44. And the Lord was provoked at this, and at all the works of the cities of Sodom... and sent for two of the angels that had come to Abraham's house, to destroy Sodom and its cities / this event is recorded in [Genesis 18:20](#).

GENESIS 19 vs 1

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Sodom and its neighboring cities... in their careless prosperity had become callous toward the needy... and completely rotten to the core; their entire legal system had become a crooked, corrupted game to play; and everyone... young and old alike had become participants - pawns in their daily joke, leading to a lifestyle of lawlessness.



So, they were very much like our society has become today.

You know, when God stops talking... when His word no longer resonates throughout the general public, then it is definitely time to get ready.

Check out: [Sodom and Gomorrah](#); by Ross Patterson |

[The Physical Ashen Remains of Sodom And Gomorrah](#) | [Amazing Evidence for the Red Sea Crossing](#)

Having called and taught His 12 disciples, then sending them out, Jesus said, *Truly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment, than for that city...* [Matthew 10:15](#). Then it seems He kept teaching the multitude who gathered from around Galilee, and even chided those cities as He prepared and sent 70 more 2 by 2... into those nearby communities. Jesus said a second time, *Truly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment, than for you...* [Matthew 11:24](#).

Jesus said, *It will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah on Judgment Day -- for those who never heard the good news of God's word: for those who never heard of the wonderful works of Messiah... it will be more tolerable... on Judgment Day.*