

FLEE THE WRATH TO COME

Luke 17:28-33 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot--they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all-- so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

The sins of Sodom were many as seen in Eze 16:49-50 *Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. (50) They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.* They were arrogant, over fed, had luxurious comfort, unconcerned and did not help the poor and needy. Sodom and Gomorrah was prosperous and abundant; they became lazy, hard hearted and addicted to chasing physical pleasure.

How does this unrighteousness and self-worship evolve from neglecting of the poor and needy to setting us on a mission of self-gratification and pleasure seeking? It starts subtly with social and moral compromise, and can end in perverted, violent addiction. It's the law of diminishing return as people become increasingly desensitized to sinful thrills that require more frequent and depraved acts to feel alive. This downward spiral affects all of us to various degrees. The Sodomites chose to continue in evil and God finally gives them over to their lust, which brings the just judgment of God's wrath resulting in their death and destruction. It's part of our sinful nature that arrogantly dishonors God. Paul writes about it in Rom. 1:21-32, and we continue to see it today because human nature has not changed.

In this story we learn that God is a personal and passionate being. He's passionate for His glory and holiness. God is perfect, and He never changes. He still hates sin with a passion because it destroys those whom He loves. God will judge sin, and there is a future wrath coming. Sodom and Gomorrah are

displayed in scripture to be examples of God's wrath against sin and ungodliness. Deut. 29:23, Zeph 2:9 and 2Pe 2:6. Ultimately, it's a picture of hell for all who don't believe in Christ. Jesus said in Mat. 10:15 that it will be worse for those who reject the Gospel after hearing it than those who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah. The world doesn't want to hear this; there is a day of reckoning where God will judge the hearts of men. Scripture tells us that God is patient, but His wrath still exists. There is a future wrath to come.

We are all guilty before God. We are reminded of the utter sinfulness of the entire human race, of the judgment to come, the fate of this world, but also of the great mercy God shows to His people even in the midst of His judgment against sin.

Outside of Christ you must bear God's wrath. However, Jesus drank the wrath of God against sin for us so that we who believe won't experience God's wrath of fire and brimstone. It's the passion of Christ that we would be saved and not swallowed by the wrath of God. Paul tells us in Rom 5:6-9 *while we were powerless and ungodly, Christ died for us so that we might be justified by his blood and saved from the wrath of God.* Gen 19 is the timeless demonstration of the wrath of God. Sodom and Gomorrah points back to you and me. The cross is a timeless demonstration of both the wrath and the love of God in one place. God is passionate for His people. Jesus is the ultimate expression of His passion to save those He loves and deliver them from the bondage of sin and ungodliness. We must be reconciled to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus said *"Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it."* Flee to Him today and don't look back.

Youth Ministry

Contact James at james@ourelement.org

<http://www.ourelement.org/connect/ministries/youth>

