

### The Arrival of the Two Angels in Sodom

#### Genesis 19:1-14

Genesis 19:1-14 - *"Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. <sup>2</sup> And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."*

*<sup>3</sup> But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.*

*<sup>4</sup> Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. <sup>5</sup> And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."*

*<sup>6</sup> So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup> and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! <sup>8</sup> See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof." <sup>9</sup> And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. <sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.*

*<sup>12</sup> Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! <sup>13</sup> For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." <sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking."*

#### Background Notes

When the angels arrived in Sodom to announce the coming judgment, they found Lot sitting in the gate of Sodom. In Bible days, the gate of the city was like the town hall. The ancient gate areas had "chambers," or spaces within the walls where the elders of the city would sit to determine the city policies and judge community affairs. So it appears that Lot had not only moved into Sodom, but he was also active in the government of Sodom.

2 Peter 2 says that Lot was a believer who was oppressed by the wicked conduct and lawlessness of the people of Sodom. So it's possible that Lot may have tried to bring reform to Sodom as he sat in the gate. This may be indicated in verse 9, when the people of Sodom said, *"This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge...."*

Obviously Lot's efforts at reform in Sodom were not successful. Why did Lot have a problem in achieving reform in Sodom? Answer: It's clear Lot didn't move into Sodom to serve God and be a missionary there. His primary reason for living in Sodom was to selfishly get all the worldly wealth and pleasure he could out of that wicked city!

You can't have it both ways. Jesus said, *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon"* (Matthew 6:24).

The two angels, appearing as men, went to Sodom for two reasons. The first was to confirm that the sins of Sodom were great, and that God was just in His judgment of Sodom. The second reason was to rescue Lot and his family, in answer to Abraham's prayers and concern.

## **Doctrinal Points**

### **1. God says that the practice of homosexuality is a sin.**

The men who surrounded Lot's house were the homosexuals of the city. Ezekiel 16 indicates that homosexuality was not the only sin of Sodom, but it is the sin for which Sodom has been known, even to this day. Jude says that homosexuality was the sin for which God judged Sodom. *"As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them... having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire"* (Jude v7).

Notice how widespread the practice of homosexuality was in the city of Sodom: *"the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house"* (v4). So the angels said: *"we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it"* (v13).

God says that the practice of homosexuality is a sin. These days there are many other views, but if **God** said it, we must agree with God. Under the Mosaic Law, homosexuality was punishable by death. In Leviticus 20:13 God said: *"If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them."*

God did not change His standards about homosexuality in the New Testament. Romans 1:26-27 says, *"For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the*

*penalty of their error which was due.*" The Bible leaves no doubt that there is a high price to pay for the sin of homosexuality.

What about the argument that homosexuality is genetic, and therefore it must be OK? And if it's not OK, then it's God's fault if someone is born with this genetic characteristic. We are **all** born with the tendency to sin. We can't pin the blame of our innate sinful nature on God! The sinful nature (that we **all** inherit) is the result of man's sin. Because sin entered the human race, we **all** struggle with sin. Some people are vulnerable to sin in one area, and others are vulnerable in another area.

Remember, being tempted is not sin, but **yielding** to the temptation is sin! If it could be proved that someone is born with a "homosexual tendency," that *tendency* or *vulnerability* is not a sin - but the **practice** of homosexuality is sin. We **all** have areas of vulnerability (whether they are "genetic" or not), and as believers we have the responsibility to resist falling prey in our areas of vulnerability.

But here's the good news! God is willing to forgive this sin - and every other sin - when a person turns to Christ. With the power of the Holy Spirit, a Christian can resist sexual temptation, whether it is heterosexual sin or homosexual sin.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says: *'Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And **such were some of you.** But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.'* [emphasis added].

Notice the past tense of the verb: "were." Some of the Christians at Corinth had been practicing homosexuals - but no longer! They had found deliverance in Christ. And notice that it doesn't say that they didn't struggle with temptation any longer. No - but they found victory in Christ. The same is true today.

And notice, further, that verse 11 does **not** say, "and such were some of you, but now you are loving, committed homosexuals in a same sex marriage." No, God says that the practice of homosexuality is a sin.

In reference to sin, (the sin of homosexuality and every other sin), believers need to have Abraham's attitude: Love the sinner but hate the sin. In Genesis 14, Abraham went out, at the risk of his own life, and rescued Lot and the other people of Sodom. Among those he rescued, there may have been a number of homosexuals. Abraham was not a "gay-basher." He rescued the homosexuals and every other type of sinner, but he didn't approve of their sin or of their sinful lifestyles. Remember, God says that the practice of homosexuality is a sin.

## **2. Believers can become desensitized to sin.**

Just look at what Lot said to the homosexual men who surrounded his house. *"So Lot went out to them... and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me*

*bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof” (v6-8).*

How can a man who is described as having a “righteous soul” (2 Peter 2), suggest such a terrible thing? The answer is that even believers can become desensitized to sin. In those days the cultural code was to protect your guests at all cost, so some Bible commentators have tended not to criticize Lot too harshly for this action. In other words, Lot was a product of his culture.

Well, that's exactly my point! Because of the culture that surrounds us, even believers can become desensitized to sin. Lot moved into Sodom, and although he was a believer, he became desensitized to sin. Lot was **way** off target! His value system was all messed up, because he had become desensitized to sin.

Just consider what you tend to tolerate now, compared to what you would have been willing to tolerate 10 or 20 years ago – the vulgarity in the sitcoms or “comedies” you watch on TV, or the sex and violence in the movies you go to, or the DVDs you watch. There's much more we could say here, but you get the point. Believers can become desensitized to sin.

## Practical Application

### Is your Christian life a joke?

Look at verse 14: *“So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.”*

Can't you hear Lot's sons-in-law saying, “Wait a minute Lot, if you say Sodom is so bad, why are **you** living here?” His own sons-in-law didn't respect him because of the inconsistency of his life and testimony. No wonder Lot's message to his family was ignored, and his warning of God's coming judgment seemed to them to be a **joke!**

Is your Christian life and testimony a joke? Sadly, this is true in the lives of many Christians. Do we claim to be believers and say we love the Lord, and that “only what is done for the Lord Jesus really counts in the end” - but then we live a selfish and materialistic lifestyle, or we do our best to get the most pleasure out of this world? If so, our Christian lives really are a “joke.” Our Christian testimonies are hollow. They carry no weight!

When we tell people that this world is under the judgment of God and that it's passing away, we'll sound like hypocrites - and even appear to be joking - if we ourselves are whole-heartedly tied up in this world! If we **really** believe that this world is under God's judgment, why isn't our lifestyle more in line with what we believe?

Read 1 John 2:15-17, and analyze your life. Is your Christian life a joke?