



Sodom and Gomorrah and the the surrounding cities

Gen. 18:18: God's hatred of sin and love of righteousness in the world.

1. God's judicial extermination, on account of their enormous wickedness was to be held up, not to Israel only, but to all future ages of the church, as " an example to those that after should live ungodly " 2 Pet. 2:6

Gen. 18:20: (The Cry of Sodom & Gomorrah is great); Hebrew word: Zah'-ak; (fem) - the word denotes an outcry- arising from pain and sorrow, or as imploring help (Exod: 3: 5). This is a cry to heaven for vengeance on account of sin - that demanded an inquiry.

Gen. 18:21: God was going to examine fully whether the corruption of the people is - as universal and hopeless as rumored. In that case, they would have to be - exterminated; otherwise, the Lord would inflict a mitigated punishment.

Moreover, this language is used not in reference to a topographical descent from the Hebron hills to the valley of Jordan, but in the anthropomorphic - style after the manner of men.

These cities were to be made examples to all future ages of God's severity, and therefore ample proof given, that the judgement was neither rash nor excessive. (Ezek. 18:23 & Jer. 18:7)

The language seems framed to demonstrate the unchallengeable equity of the Divine procedure, and the deliberate result of wise and impartial counsel (Page 158 - JFB)

Whom was Abraham ?

Abraham's Intercession:

Abraham's circa about 2000 B.C.

The 5 cities that made up Sodom and Gomorrah (Ge. 14:1) Smith's Bible Dictionary

1. Sodom
2. Gomorrah
3. Ahmad
4. Zeboiim
5. Bela or Zoar

I want to explore the inhabitants, its leaders, their sin(s), culture, their acts against God. Did the Lord, just wipe out these cities, without giving them a chance to repent

God and Sex

Sodom: # 5467, Sed-ome' ; Root Meaning: to scorch; burnt (i.e. a volcanic or bituminous district) One of the five cities of the plain or valley of the Jordan, i.e. ...the Dead Sea basin (Gen 10:19; 13:1-13).

Location: Hebrew word Kik-ka`r for " Plain " refers to the basin of the Jordan. Tradition locates Sodom at the South end of the Dead Sea. The barren desolation in this area gives mute testimony of judgement by " fire and brimstone."

Geographical evidence in this region of salt formations, asphalt, sulfur, and petroleum support the biblical record.

Moreover, it is generally assumed that these cities were located on the sloping plains between the hills of Judea and the shore of the Dead Sea, somewhere at the southern end.

This area was also known, as the Valley of Siddim or Salt Sea (Gen 14:8) A peculiar mountain of almost pure salt identifies Sodom and its referred to as " Lot's " wife " by the local guides.

The exact site of Sodom, is not certain, but most scholars favor a locality around the South end of the Dead Sea.

Popularity: The most famous (or infamous), of these cities were Sodom and Gomorrah, which according to Gen 19 were completely destroyed by fire.

Circa: It's destruction circa 2066 B.C. coincides with biblical data for the time of Sodom's catastrophe

Government:

These cities were really city-states, each with its own “king” (Gen 14:2). Pursuant to a war with Mesopotamian kings, these cities became vassal states of Chedorlaomer, king of Elam, for a period of 12 years. In the thirteenth year, - they rebelled and found themselves at war again with Chedorlaomer, and his three allies (Gen 14: 9).

They were defeated and Lot’s family and others were captured and taken away. Abraham attacked the victorious allies, defeated them, and recovered both captives and the goods (Gen 14:13-16).

Sodomite:

One who practiced that unnatural sexual perversion which characterized ancient Sodom namely, carnal copulation between male persons (Gen 19:5).

The English term translated Sodomite in the OT, is from the Latin sodomita, derived from the Heb. seldom, Sodom.

A Hebrew word for “sodomite” derived from this root does not occur in Scripture, the Hebrew term so translated being Qadesh, which means a male temple prostitute who was attached to the heathen sanctuaries and consecrated to the impure rites of pagan worship.

The term is from a root meaning “to be set apart or consecrated,” in this case for immoral purposes.

Sodomy:

Universally prevalent (cf. Rom 1:27), was forbidden in Israel (Deut 23:17; cf. Lev 18:22; 20:13), but was present as early as Rehoboam’s reign (1Kgs 14:24).

Rehoboam; the only son of Solomon, as far as we know, by Naaman the Ammonites.

Rehoboam succeeded Solomon on the throne in 931 B.C. and reigned for 17 years till the day of his death in 913B.C. (1Kgs 11:43; 14:21, 31).

Both Asa (1Kgs 15:12) and Jehoshaphat (22:46) temporarily removed the Sodomites, but by Josiah’s time they were found in the temple itself (II Kgs 23:7).

The feminine form, qedesha:

signifies a - “prostitute” or “harlot” (Gen 38:2;

Hosea: 4:14).

The English term “**homosexual**” is used in 1 Cor 6:9 by RSV and NASB, and in - 1 Tim 1:10 (NASB) to translate Greek word; **arsenokoitai**, male bed partners.

The twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, were most intimately associated as cities of gross sin (Gen 18:20; Mt 10:15).

Condemnation of Sodom is shared by the city of Gomorrah:
(Gen: 18;20; II Pet 2:6; Jude 7).

Gomorrah: # 6017, Amorah;

a (ruined) heap direct information on this city is very scant and can be arrived at mainly through its association with the cities which “ were joined together in the vale of Siddim” near the Dead Sea.

These cities of inequity were only a few miles from Hebron, the home of Abraham, and from Jerusalem, the home of **Melchizedek**; yet so vile, their sins reached heaven.

It had been only 400 years since the Flood, almost within the memory of men then living.

Yet men had forgotten the lesson of that cataclysmic destruction of the race.

And God “rained fire and brimstone” on these two cities, to refresh men’s memories, and to warn of, the wrath of God that awaits wicked men; and maybe, to serve as a token of the earth’s final doom in a holocaust of fire (II Pet 2:5, 6; 3:7, 10).

Jesus likened the time of His Return to the days of the flood.

Both were periods of unspeakable wickedness.

Today, on a scale never before known in history, with greed, brutality, beastliness and criminal instincts, in demons, in the high places of earth, it does not require much imagination to see the end toward which we are heading, however much good men and statesmen may try to avert it.

Unless there comes a world-movement of Repentance, the Day of Doom may not be far off.

Bela or Zoar;

meaning "small" or "insignificance" in Hebrew (a "little one" as Lot called it), was a city east of Jordan in the vale of Siddim, which later became the Dead Sea.

Zoar, was spared at Lot's plea, as his place of refuge (Gen 19:20-23). In (Gen 14: 8) Zoar, had been previously been called Bela.

Zoar, was surrounded by a tropical climate and the waters coming down from the mountains of Moab, Zoar, was a flourishing oasis where the balsam, indigo, and date trees bloomed luxuriantly.

Zoar: The lone survivor, of the 5 cities; was, the small town of Zoar, which apparently was located at some distance from Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lot and his daughters lodged there temporarily after leaving Sodom and before they fled to the hills behind the city (Gen 19:20-30).

These cities are also called the Pentapolis (Five Cities), as per the aforementioned verses, Zoar, was still visible at the South end.

Foot Notes:

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible; Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia; Smith's - Bible Dictionary; Halley's Bible Handbook; Jamison, Fauset and Brown Commentary; Nave's Topical Bible; Vines's Expository Dictionary Of Old and New Testament Words;

Supporting Evidence:

The Bible is a dictionary onto itself.

I will submit for your perusal and consideration, the following evidence in support of the information, that I have submitted to you, as the accounts for Sodom and Gomorrah as related by **the Bible (KJV)**.

The Hebrew Old Testament was so meticulously preserved through the remaining centuries that when the Dead Sea Scrolls (c. 150 B.C.) were discovered in 1948 and subsequently compared with existing Hebrew manuscripts of A.D. 900-1000, they were almost identical.

Thus, was confirmed the dependability of our English Old Testament, which had been based mainly on the Masoretic manuscripts of that century.

Archer writes:

Do we have any objective evidence that errors of transmission have not been permitted by God to corrupt and pervert His revelation?

Yes, we have, for a careful study of the variants ... of the various earliest manuscripts reveals, that none of them affects a single doctrine of Scripture.

Foot Notes:

Among the major extant Hebrew manuscripts of this period are: Cairo Codex - (A.D. 895); Leningrad Codex of Prophets (916); Aleppo Codex (930); - Leningrad Old Testament (entire Old Testament) (1008).

Archer, PP. 18-19

The Forgiveness of any and all Sins:

Friends, while this study focused on Sodom and Gomorrah, Homosexuality, is a sin like any other sin, I.E. Adultery, Murder, Stealing, Robbery, abusing the orphans, ...

So, what must any of us do to get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have everlasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In Jesus' Mighty Name !