

## **104 6. SIN'S CITIES OF FIRE & DEATH.**

Now we come to a terribly sad story that reminds us of how much God hates sin, as the wicked ancient Syrian cities of Sodom & Gomorrah, were destroyed by God, through fire & brimstone from heaven, in the days of Abraham & Lot, Genesis 19:24, due to their wickedness.

The wickedness of these & the surrounding cities is now used as a warning, to those who reject the gospel & will of God; God says that it will be more bearable for Sodom & Gomorrah, on the day of judgment, than for the unsaved, Matt. 11:24.

The Lord told Abraham that he was going to destroy the cities, due to the people's constant disobedience & sin.

God had sent 3 angels to visit & check on the cities & when they arrived, Lot invited them to stay at his home, but some men from the city came demanding to be given the two visitors to abuse them & as the men tried to break into Lot's home, the angels struck them blind & led Lot & his family out of the city. As Lot's family fled, God rained down burning sulfur onto the city & everything was destroyed. The angels warned Lot & his family to not look back, but his wife (a pagan woman) did & she was turned into a pillar of salt, due to her disobedience, Genesis 19.

The next day Abraham went & looked at the cities & saw smoke rising from the land, from where earlier, he had made a plea to God, to spare the land if he could find 10 righteous people in the city, Genesis 18:23, but not any people, who loved the Lord, could be found, so the cities were destroyed.

As Abraham looked over the devastation, he was awe struck by the finality & totality of God's judgment; as everything was destroyed, nothing survived, Genesis 19:25.

Due to rebellion against God, these people were wiped from the face of the earth, Romans 6:23, 2 Thess. 1:9 & this story is a warning to everyone;

that sin must & will be punished. God is full of love & compassion, Psalm 86:15, John 3:16, but He is also Holy & just, 1 Samuel 2:2.

The Creator & Sustainer of all things will not have anything to do with sin & so rebellion cannot be allowed, 1 John 3:8.

A Holy God requires justice & His wrath used here, shows of the ultimate coming justice for the disobedient unsaved sinners.

The apostle Peter said, God condemned those cities by burning them to ashes & made them an example of what is coming for all the ungodly, 2 Peter 2:6 & by the same, the present heaven & earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment & destruction, 2 Peter 3:7.

Now this story is also one of God's mercy, as the righteous ones, Lot & his daughters, even though few, were spared, God is loving, compassionate & full of mercy, But we can't ignore His holiness, Even though it may appear at times, that the wicked go unpunished; sin & judgment are inseparable & each will be dealt with by God, in God's time. This story also represents future prophecy; as they were eating, drinking & living life their own way, without thought of God's warnings & then on the day that Lot left Sodom, it rained fire & brimstone & destroyed them all & it will be the same on the day of the 2nd coming, Luke 17:28-30.

These cities became an example of those who sit around, ignoring God's signs & who will suffer the eternal fire, in the end of days. It wasn't the sins, sex & perversions alone, which caused the pouring out of God's wrath on the cities, as the people were also full of pride & selfishness & didn't care for those in need, they were arrogant, unconcerned & didn't help the needy, Ezekiel 16:49, they rejected the truth & every opportunity to reach out to God & as such were destroyed.

The destruction of these cities should remind us of the cost of rebellion against God but should also remind us that we have a saving grace, to help us avoid such destruction, in our depraved lives, as God sent His own Son to bridge the gap between His Holiness & our depravity & Jesus paid the price for all sin, so that we could be reconciled to God.

We all fall short of God's holiness, Romans 3:23, but God made a way through Jesus' death, Romans 6:23, to pay for our sin, but continued rejection of Christ, will lead many into eternal destruction, Mark 8:38 & a wrath much more terrifying, even than what Sodom & Gomorrah faced & it is coming & is assured for all who do not call on the name of the Lord. I will add that if you are alive & breathing, regardless of your past life & sins, that it is not too late, no matter how bad, how depraved, how horrible the acts you have committed against anyone, your soul is savable, as none are too far gone to be forgiven, by a Holy loving Father, who is just waiting for you to call on Him, so that He can erase your debt to Him & humanity. You may still have earthly debts to deal with, but don't get caught in the coming firestorm, as your sins can be covered & washed away, so that your eternal life can be recovered by & for Jesus Christ & God the Father, so that you can be born again into a new & improved you, that you will learn to love & that will be loved, by God's family.

There's only one right time for turning to God in repentance, or for reaching out to others to do the same, which is right now, as we never know when disaster will strike?

Worldwide we average over 100 deaths a minute, of every day & no one knows when their minute will arrive & if it happens suddenly, there will not be time to repent, to turn away from evil & towards God & God cares about what you do, not what you were going to do, so if you are not saved, then you may be doomed; as we will all live forever, somewhere, as we are all spirits, using a body that will die, but spirits never die, they move into eternity & now it's just about location, choose your place today & choose wisely, by choosing Jesus.

Father God, my love for you causes my honesty in admitting that what many consider the greatest gift of God, outside of Love & Christ; but which I see as the deadliest & even though I understand the reason that we were given "Free Will", so that you could build a true family through faith, love & obedience, I must admit that it would be the 1st thing that I would be willing to give up, if it be your will, as it is this free will that has caused me more pain, through being lost to this worlds false loves & of which I now know, that I do not desire free will, nor the spiritual death that comes from the disobedience, that my free will tries to tempt me into, which is why I pray for & desire the life that comes from God's will for my life & pray for the day that the goodness of Your Will, shall fully be my will, forever.