

• *God's wrath outpoured*

1. Society can deteriorate until the judgement of God becomes inevitable and unstoppable

• *Widespread homosexual practice – a sign of the nearness of God's judgement*

2. It is tragic when the children of God get caught up in the world's judgement

• *If the Christian partakes of the world's sins he will partake of the world's judgement*

• *Abraham did more for Sodom out of it than Lot did in it*

• *Lot's spiritual decline began when he decided he wanted to be rich*

The story of the destruction and annihilation of Sodom and Gomorrah and its surrounding areas is the second great example of the outpoured wrath of God in the Bible – the first being the story of the flood.

1. **Society can deteriorate until the judgement of God becomes inevitable and unstoppable.** God will often leave a society in its sins for a while, without destroying it. But eventually a society may become so bad that God resolves to act.

Widespread homosexual practices in a culture is a sign of the nearness of judgement upon that culture. God's judgement on Sodom was getting slowly nearer and nearer. Sodom and Gomorrah are about to be punished because of their sinful and wicked ways. God allows sin to go unjudged for a long time. It is a mistake that Christians sometimes make when they imagine that the righteous will be immediately blessed and that the wicked will be immediately punished. It often does not work that way. God's rewards are often delayed and God's judgements are often delayed. Sodom had been tolerated by God but now it is getting towards the end of its history. God is going to wipe it out of existence. Practising homosexuality is referred to elsewhere in the Bible in addition to Genesis 19 ^{☐1}. It is portrayed always as a great evil. Romans chapter 1 lists different stages in the decay of a nation. When a country turns from natural sin to unnatural sin, and tolerates homosexual practices, God's judgement is not far away. Luke 17:28–30 lets us know that this is how it will be towards the end of the world.

2. **It is tragic when the children of God get caught up in the world's judgement.** Angels come to judge the city and to warn Lot and then to pour out God's judgement upon it ^{☐1}. Lot is sitting in the gateway of the city. He now is very much at home in Sodom and feels that he is a prominent citizen there. The 'gateway' was the place where important people did their business.

We are warned in Scripture that it is possible to get involved in the world's sins but when we do, we get involved in the world's judgement. Paul warns against '*immorality . . . impurity . . . greed . . . filthiness...*' and says '*Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience*' ^{☐1}. '*Therefore, he says 'do not be partakers of them*' ^{☐2}. If the Christian partakes of the world's sins he will partake of the world's judgement. He will be 'hurt' by the second death ^{☐3}.

Lot is not doing much good in Sodom. He does not have a powerful testimony in Sodom. Abraham did more for Sodom out of it than Lot did in it. Abraham had once helped Sodom when he rescued his nephew from the kings of the east ^{☐1}. He had prayed for Sodom ^{☐2}. God asked Abraham to intercede for Sodom, yet He did not ask Lot to intercede for it.

Lot greets the 'men' politely and invites them to his home ^{☐1}. They want to spend the night outside ^{☐2} but Lot knows this will be dangerous ^{☐3}. At night time the male population of the city gather around the house ^{☐4}.

Lot had steadily declined in spirituality. It all began when he decided he wanted to be rich. In Genesis 13:1–13 we read of a time of dispute between Abraham's and Lot's employees. Lot decided he wanted the richer and more luxurious part of the country, but he chose to live near Sodom (13:12), without regard for the spiritual danger involved.

^{☐1} see Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Judges 19; Romans 1:26, 27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 1 Timothy 1:9–10

^{☐1} 19:1a

^{☐1} Ephes. 5:3–4, 6

^{☐2} Ephes. 5:7

^{☐3} Rev 2:11

^{☐1} Genesis 14:1–24

^{☐2} Genesis 18:16–33

^{☐1} 19:1b–

2a

^{☐2} 19:2b

^{☐3} 19:3

^{☐4} 19:4

• *Most Christians who move home to another country in order to get rich lose their spirituality*

• *Sodom – an unsafe city*

• *A compromiser is never a good witness*

3. Lot is rescued despite all of his compromising ways

• *Lot did not lose his salvation but he lost just about everything else*

A little later we find him living in Sodom ^{□1}. He had fully settled down in a wicked city, and was feeling quite at home there. Sometimes people want to move to a richer country. But often they are moving into spiritual danger when they are ambitious in that way. Most Christians who move home to another country in order to get rich lose their spirituality. They focus on getting rich but find it hard to enter the kingdom of God. Abraham had a tent. Lot had a house ^{□2}. Abraham was living for a heavenly city; Lot was living for an earthly city.

The streets of Sodom were not safe at night and Lot knew it. Soon it becomes clear that a man was not safe in his home either. The male population of the city arrived and soon were banging on Lot's door. They want to abuse the new arrivals in town ^{□1}.

They are persistent and shameless. Lot's pleas do no good ^{□1}. Lot has no influence with these people at all ^{□2}. He may have gone to Sodom with the idea that he would be a good witness to God in the city, but it had not worked out that way at all. A compromiser is never a good witness.

3. Lot is rescued despite all of his compromising ways. 'God knows how to rescue the godly' says 2 Peter 2:9, having just said 'God rescued Lot, a righteous man' ^{□1}. If Peter had not said it we might not have thought that Lot was righteous at all!

So Lot was saved – but he was 'saved by fire' ^{□1}. He did not lose his salvation but he lost just about everything else. He lost his usefulness, his honour, his happiness. He lost his wife. His children were a disgrace to him. Being 'saved through fire' is a terrible thing. Better to get out of 'Sodom' fast. If Lot had got out of the city earlier and started living for God, he could have been restored. The way of forgiveness and restoration stays open for a long time, but then one day the angels of judgement come, and we start reaping what we have sown. God rescued 'righteous Lot' but it would have been better if he had never been there in the first place.

□1 14:12
□2 19:3

□1 19:4–5

□1 19:6–8
□2 19:9

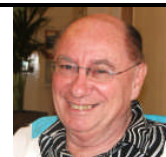
□1 2:7

□1 1
Corinthians 3:15



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Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His *Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)* books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.



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