The Depravity of Sodom

Genesis 19:1-11
7/26/98

Introduction: In verses 1-11, God shows the reasons why He had to destroy the Sodom and the surrounding cities

**** In a day when Homosexuality is becoming socially acceptable and increasingly popular, it is vital to know what God says about it!***

What are the moral characteristics of the Sodomites?

The Sodomites had…
I. A nocturnal <u>love for the night time</u> (v.1-4a)
(When the sun goes down, the wicked rise up to do wickedness)

The Sodomites had…
II. A orgiastic coalition of numerous people coming together for a <u>joint venture in wickedness</u> (v.4)

The Sodomites had…
III. A <u>disrespect</u> for people's <u>right to privacy</u> (v.4-5a)

The Sodomites had…
IV. A lustful, <u>self-centeredness</u> which seeks to fulfill one's <u>distorted passions at all cost</u> (v.5)

The Sodomites had…
V. A <u>disregard</u> for <u>rebuke</u> (v.6-9a)
(They don't want to hear the truth about their wickedness)

The Sodomites had…
VI. A forceful, <u>violent reaction</u> against those who <u>get in the way</u> of their agenda (v.9b)

The Sodomites had…

VII. A relentless pursuit to indulge in perversion despite physical ailments (that came as a result of sexual wickedness) (v.9b-11)

Conclusion:

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT…

HOMOSEXUALITY

The Christian's attitude toward homosexuals ought to be love and pity.

1. Homosexuality is contrary to GOD'S DESIGN for SEX and MARRIAGE (Gen. 2:18-25; 4:1)

2. Homosexuality led to the DESTRUCTION of an ENTIRE SOCIETY (Gen. 19:1-29)

3. Homosexuality was a CAPITAL OFFENCE in ancient Israel and was considered an *"ABOMINATION"* by God (Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Deut. 23:17; cp. I Kings 14:24, 15:12, 22:46; II Kings 23:7; I Tim. 1:10)

4. Homosexuality is an OBSESSIVE behavior often directly associated with VICIOUSNESS and VIOLENCE toward others (Judges 19:22-30)

5. Homosexuality is the result of willfully REJECTING a Biblical KNOWLEDGE of GOD (Romans 1:18-25, 28)

6. Homosexuality is an UNNATURAL PERVERSION of sexual PASSION (Romans 1:26-27)

7. Homosexuality requites (rewards) its deviant participants with LETHAL CONSEQUENCES (guilt, bodily injury, communicable diseases and viruses, eternal condemnation) (Romans 1:27b; I Cor. 6:9-10)

8. Homosexuality is a sin that can be FORGIVEN and FORSAKEN (I Corinthians 6:9-11)

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This chapter has four sections which can be looked at as follows:

1. The Depravity of Sodom (v. 1-11)
2. The Deliverance from Sodom (v. 12-23)
3. The Destruction of Sodom (v. 24-29)
4. The Defilement from Sodom (v. 30-38)

The purpose for verses 1-11 is to provide a justifiable reason as to why God would destroy the Canaanites of Sodom and Gomorrah. This account shows us what God thinks about moral corruption (particularly, sexual corruption).

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What are the moral characteristics of the Sodomites?

Note: Certain attitudes and circumstances provide fertile ground for homosexual behavior to grow. Ezekiel 16:49-50 -

1. Pride (self-centeredness) (v. 50 - *"haughty"* = to exalt one's self)
2. Plenty of Goods (*"fullness of bread"*)
3. Plenty of Time (*"abundance of idleness"*)
4. Inconsideration of the helpless

* 5. Lack of male leadership and example (Ex: Not ten righteous people in Sodom)

The Sodomites had…

I. A nocturnal <u>love for the night time</u> (v.1-4a)
(When the sun goes down, the wicked rise up to do wickedness)

v. 1
"Two angels" – These had the appearance of men.

"Lot sat in the gate of Sodom" – "The gate of the city was the meeting place for city officials and other men to discuss current events and transact business" (Life Application note).

Those with important governmental positions sat at the gate. Lot, whose soul was "vexed" (II Pet. 2:8) because of his city's wickedness, no doubt intended to do what he could to clean up the city (he is even referred to as a "judge" – Gen. 19:9).

"Rose up to meet them…and…bowed" – Lot, like Abraham, immediately senses that these were righteous guests.

No one else in the city was quick to show hospitality, but Lot, being a "righteous" man (II Pet. 2:7-8) [though a somewhat immature righteous man], had a kindred spirit with these righteous visitors. There is an instant comradery between God's people.

v. 2
"My lords" – a term of respect, not necessarily of deity.

"Rise up early" – Those who live in sin are rarely p early. Lot figured that they could get out of town early and not see the wickedness of his city.

Lot was ashamed of the wickedness in the streets. Without coming out in the open about his city's sin, he sought to give reasons why they should not spend the night in the open square.

v. 3
"He pressed upon them greatly" – Lot insisted that they stay the night in his home, so they did.

v. 4
"Before they lay down" – It was now evening ("at even" – v. 1); the sun had set, and the wicked, like vampires, come out at night.

Usually night-time is when the most wickedness and trouble occurs. The evil "love darkness rather than light."

The Sodomites had…

II. A orgiastic coalition of numerous people coming together for a <u>joint venture in wickedness</u> (v.4)

"The men…old and young…all the people" – A multitude gathered together for unified evil.

A sin of such magnitude needs the strength of numbers to get the agenda accomplished.

Group sex is very common in the homosexual community.

The Sodomites had…

III. A <u>disrespect</u> for people's <u>right to privacy</u> (v.4-5a)

Morally corrupt people don't care about the rights of others; their only concern is getting what they want.

The Sodomites had…

IV. A lustful, <u>self-centeredness</u> which seeks to fulfill one's <u>distorted passions at all cost</u> (v.5)

Unlike Lot, who shows gracious hospitality, the wicked men sought out the visitors for vile purposes.

"Bring them out to <u>us</u> that <u>we</u> may know them" – Notice the selfish ambition reflected in the personal pronouns.

The word “know” does not mean to meet someone, but to have sexual relations. The same word is used of Adam and Eve (Gen. 4:25).

The Sodomites had…

V. A <u>disregard</u> for <u>rebuke</u> (v.6-9a)

(They don’t want to hear the truth about their wickedness)

v. 6

In embarrassment before his guests, Lot closes the door and tries to have a private discussion with the Sodomites.

v. 7

Lot tries to cordially and diplomatically deal with his unwanted visitors. He even [erroneously] calls them “brethren.”

“Do not so wickedly” - Homosexuality was and is a wicked sin. They won’t like Lot’s choice of words and will accuse him of judging him (v. 9).

v. 8

“How could any father give his daughters to be ravished by a mob of perverts, just to protect two strangers? Possibly Lot was scheming to save both the girls and the visitors, hoping the girls’ fiancés would rescue them or that the homosexual men would be disinterested in the girls and simply go away. Although it was the custom of the day to protect guests at any cost, this terrible suggestion reveals how deeply sin had been absorbed into Lot’s life. He had become hardened to evil acts in an evil city. Whatever Lot’s motives were, we see here an illustration of Sodom’s terrible wickedness—a wickedness so great that God had to destroy the entire city.” (Life Applic. Bible p. 38).

v. 9

The Sodomites of today call those who speak about against homosexuality “homophobic.”

It’s not a fear of homosexuals or homosexuality that drives people to stand against that sin, but a <u>hatred</u> for the sin, and a <u>love</u> for the truth.

“Stand back” – i.e. get out of our way.

They say in effect: “Lot, you don’t even belong here, you are a newcomer to our city; what gives you the right to act as judge?”

When Christians speak out against homosexuality, they are not judging; God's Word has already judged. We are simply passing on a judgment which God has already made. We are to judge righteous judgment.

The Sodomites had…

VI. A forceful, violent reaction against those who get in the way of their agenda (v.9b)

They are stampeding Lot right into the door.

The Sodomites had…

VII. A relentless pursuit to indulge in perversion despite physical ailments (that came as a result of sexual wickedness) (v.9b-11)

v. 11

The amazing thing is that although they are struck with loss of vision and are stumbling around in confusion and bewilderment, they still are trying to find the door!

AIDS has not been enough to stop homosexuality. Multitudes, though dying of AIDS, still persist in the sin that caused the disease. Sin is such a strong, binding, forceful slavemaster.

Conclusion:

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