

September 17th, 2017
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: The Days of Noah
Sermon #4 Title: Sodom and Tomorrow
Sermon #4 Text: (Ezekiel 16:49-50)

At the end of the 19th century two French writers went to visit the well-known French scientist, Pierre Berthelot. Berthelot was a kind of scientific prophet. He forecast some of the weapons of mass destruction which would appear in the next century.

He said to the writers, "We have only begun to list the alphabet of destruction."

Silence fell over the meeting. Then the elder of the two writers said quietly, "I think before that time comes, God will come like a great gatekeeper with his keys dangling at his waist and say, Gentlemen, it's closing time."

This morning we return briefly to our original text in the gospel of Luke where Jesus told us that we had better know and understand our Biblical history in particular pertaining to the Days of Lot.

- Now Biblically speaking, the days of Lot are a lesson and a message to both those who are saved, as well as those who are not!

- For those who are saved, we learn about the days of Lot because culturally speaking, the culture of the city of Sodom and Gomorrah, will be the culture of humanity when the Lord calls us to His side.

- For those who are lost, it was one time in history that the Lord gave us a live demonstration of what hell is . . . and that it is to come . . .

2 verses of scripture

2 Peter 2:6 – "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

Jude 1:7 – "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

In other words, what happened at Sodom and Gomorrah is simple, the Lord reached down scooped up a bucket full of hell, and dumped it on the city.

*Note – Now all of that being said, the scriptures hold up the story of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah as examples both for the saved to discern the times, and for the lost to see their judgment.

- And so we look . . .

Luke 17:28-30 – "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

*Note – It is important to note here that the Lord didn't rain down fire and brimstone from heaven on them, BECAUSE they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. – Those weren't the **reasons** that the Lord sentenced Sodom, but that was their **routine** when He did.

When we piece together the picture of the culture of Sodom and Gomorrah that brought about their fatal punishment from the Lord, the picture is of a very dark and degenerate society.

- We're going to put three pieces of scripture together to learn what we can, NOT about Sodom and Gomorrah per se, but about "the days of Lot."

- Now without question, Sodom and Gomorrah received the punishment that came as a result of the culture of the time of Lot's life.

Genesis 13:13 – "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."

Genesis 18:20-21 – "And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know."

Ezekiel 16:49-50 – "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good."

Now without doubt or debate, the Lord to the prophet Ezekiel explains to us in straightforward language the entirety of Sodom and Gomorrah's crimes against the King.

- For far too many people Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for one reason, and one reason alone, and that is fundamentally not true.

- In fact the sins that Sodom is famous for were merely the final petals on the bloom. – The sins that Sodom were famous for were the final fruit of a deeply depraved root.

- this morning we only look at two of the things on the list . .

I. Foolish Morale – "Pride"

"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride."

- it is the word "Gaw-on", and it speaks of Majesty, Excellency, mixed with Arrogancy –

- as one Hebrew dictionary puts – "an undue warrenting of high status."

*Note – Now take note of the fact that without question, it is the Mother sin, pride is the sin behind all other sins.

- it was the sin that made Lucifer, God's chief angel, into the devil, Hell's #1 prisoner.

Ezekiel 28:17 – speaking directly to Lucifer himself, the Lord God through the prophet tells him, - "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee."

- In Haney's terms, it is "the presumption of being worthy of some kind of admiration, or the expectation to be worthy of admiration."

*Note – It that satanic spirit that saturated the society! – Being admired, being praised, being an elite kind of person, or class was the engine that drove the society of Sodom.

- Satisfying their desire for eminence was the driving force in their hearts and minds.

*Note – It is the most detested sin by the heart of God . . .

Many people like to speak of the abomination of Sodom, well when you do, be sure and get it all in there, get it right . . .

Proverbs 16:5 – “Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD . . .” The first iniquity that the Lord spells out for us is the sin of pride!

Note two things about this “foolish morale” of these people. It comes to a fever pitch on the night that the men of Sodom attempted to rape and assault the angels of God.”

Genesis 19:7 & 9 – “And (Lot) said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. . . And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.”

*Note – On that tense and terrible evening, these wicked men came to sexually assault the angels from the Lord, and Lot made a useless attempt to intervene . . . and when he did, the spirit and pride burst forth from their hearts like the noon-day sun.

A. In their Foolish Morale they were Unjudgeable

1.) Lot had not only called them to stop he called their behavior – “Wicked” – and their response was the battle cry of godless humans everywhere – Who are you to Judge Us!?

*Note – Who are you to call our behavior Wicked! – The spirit of their hearts burst with the claim – “You Can’t Call us Wicked!”

*Note – We will not be judged by you, we will not be judged!

- It was a society with the attitude that said, “no one, can tell anyone, they are doing wrong!”

- Now we may not have stark raving blind people foaming at the mouth attempting to beat down doors for their own gratification yet . . . we do have some sanitized, civilized, and normalized accepted voices saying what the men of Sodom said.

- A few years ago, one leftwing Progressive that identified himself as a Christian, (Marcus Borg- a popular writer among Christian progressives) stated that many had run from the Conservative reading of the scriptures, because the Bible was “oppressive and hurtful” to their being.

The famous actor Brad Pitt who grew up in a conservative Bible believing church, and sang in the church choir said he “left religion behind” because it “inhibited him, and was oppressive.”

- George Soros, the Open Society Foundation has ascribed to his professor Karl Popper’s ideology that “there is no final arbiter of truth”

- Now men do not have to be foaming at the mouth to live like they are Unjudgeable.

B. In Their Foolish Morale they were Unsparing

1.) the last part of Genesis 19:9 – “now will we deal worse with thee, than with them”

- We will PUNISH you for Judging Us! We will punish you for calling our behavior Wicked!

- It is the premise of pride to punish those who dare to declare them as wrong and sinful.

- This has been the behavior of Proud men all throughout history – punish the voices of conviction – the voices that rebuke sin!

- It's what caused Cain to kill Able
- Jeremiah was put into stocks
- Isaiah was sawn asunder
- Zechariah was slain
- John the Baptist Beheaded
- Jesus was Crucified
- Stephen was Stoned
- Paul was beheaded
- Peter was crucified like Jesus

Satan doesn't have a righteous leg to stand on – he has no argument, no rationale, no justification, no point of order, no legal or moral grounds . . . so the predominant spirit he works with is to SILENCE the voices.

- Punish those who call Sin, Sin!

*Note – In July of this year, Michael Brown, a messianic Jew and conservative writer published cited a news article for the AFA about a Tech Mogul Tim Gill, who is an LGBTQ activist, in the article he writes – “Tim Gill, the foremost LGBT political donor, says in his own words: “We're going into the hardest states in the country,” he declares. “We're going to punish the wicked” – by which he means Christian conservatives.” – of which the writer of the original article denied, saying “the wicked” is anyone who stands in the way of the homosexual agenda.

*Note – In 2015, Kim Davis the county clerk of Rowan County Kentucky went to jail for 6 days because she refused to sign marriage licenses for a homosexual wedding. When the state stepped in, changed the law, so she didn't have to sign the marriage license, granting the license without her signature . . . she got out of jail, but it didn't end. . . . she is currently being

sued by the couple because they demand that she sign off on their license, and she pay all of their attorney fees . . . as Matt Staver the lawyer for her defense cites in his motion, - “to “punish Davis financially for refusing to violate her deeply held religious convictions...” and “to reduce religious rights to a secondary role behind homosexual rights.”

*Note – Now hear the battle cry of Sodom against preacher Lot again – “we will deal worse with thee, than with them.”

C. In their Foolish Morale they were Unrelenting

*Note – Here is a note of irony – and proof of the insanity of depravity – While they were continuing their ranting and pursuit, verse 11 of Genesis 19 says, “And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.”

- that word for “wearied themselves” means they tired themselves out trying to find the door – AFTER the angels STRUCK THEM BLIND.

- Even after they were “Struck blind by God” – they continued with their degenerate demands, and depraved assault” – the entire time with the attitude, “Who are you to judge us!”

*Note – When Pride had its maximum grip, and free-flowing madness, the judging hand of God received no change from their behavior.

- In fact when you go look at Genesis 19, there is the possibility that they were looking for the door deep into the night, wearing themselves out. – It was morning before the angels led Lot out of the city.

- I want to tell you something about someone that has crossed the line in which the Lord will no longer deal with them . . . when they get to that point they will fight Him all the way to hell, and they'll do it with passion.

*Note – Now all of what I’ve just said was the spirit of that one simple word that the Lord detailed in Ezekiel 16:49 – “Pride”

II. Fulfilled Materialism

*Note – The second thing that the Lord details in the sin of Sodom is their fulfilled Materialism. – They had the epitome of the American Dream.

A. Wealthy Living - Fulness of Bread

1.) Sodom was one of the most luscious and fertile plains in the land, and by the providence of God it was abundantly fruitful.

a.) Genesis 13:10 – it was “even as the garden of the Lord . . .”

*Note – It was a smorgasbord of agricultural abundance. Supply of food and abundance was never a worry.

2.) Note the word “fulness” – it is the only time in the Old Testament that word is used, and it means to be satiated.

It had all a body could wish when it came to food.

3.) Genesis 13:10 – also tells us that it was a “well-watered plain”

All of that means is that on those days, Prosperity was the Theme of the County! – Wealth was the standard of living for the Proud!

*Note – Now preacher – what is wrong with that? Does the Bible condemn wealth? – Not at all, but it does come with a great warning.

- 1st Timothy 6:9-10 – “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

- Matthew 19:24 – “And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”

*Note – Why? Because sinful man tends to respond to wealth by deciding that he has no need for the Lord.

- Now their primary problem wasn’t that they had wealth, but what they did with it, how they responded to it . . .

B. Wasted Time - Abundance of Idleness

1.) That’s about as plain as the English language can make it.

*Note – They had wealthied their way into spending most of their time “at ease.” – And it wasn’t an “ease” spent with the Lord.

*Note – Over and over throughout the Bible the Lord confronts and condemns a people who use their “idleness” to gratify and satisfy themselves.

Isaiah 22:12-14 – the Lord rebuked Judah very harshly saying, “And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth: And behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die. And it was revealed in mine ears by the LORD of hosts, Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you till ye die, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.”

*Note – The Lord had called them to repent, and they said, “We don’t have time for that . . . we only live once”

Amos 6:3-6 – the Lord declared a Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, saying, “Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near; That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves

upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David; That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.”

One more for good measure – In Luke 12:19-20 Jesus told the story of a rich farmer, who just kept getting blessed, and he just decided he’d build bigger barns, and just spend the rest of his life indulging and enjoying self – “And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

In their Wealth, they Wasted their time, and their lives on the desires of their flesh!

This was Society Sanctioned Materialism – Anyone who was Anyone, loved and desire these things that Sodom desired!

Foolish Morale and Fulfilled Materialism were just the first two things on the list that the Lord outlined as wickedness, and grievous sin and exceeding great in iniquity!

Conclusion – But we need to conclude this with three final thoughts:

- Sodom was not the darkest that ever happened – they were merely an example of classic depravity at its best . . .

- vs 48 – “As I live saith the Lord God, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters...” – As the Lord said to Israel under judgment.

- Sodom was not the last to ever happen – Luke 17:29 “so shall it be in the day the Son of man is revealed.”

- Sodom was not the worst to ever happen – Matthew 11:23- 24 – “And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”

*Note – One thing about Sodom that was greater than the days of Jesus – had they seen Him, they would have repented.

- Had they known, what we know – they would have repented.

- Now where does that leave you?

Now listen – I read an old proverb this week, not a Biblical one but it’s true none-the-less – “When the chess match is over, both the king and the pawn go back in the box” – None are too good or high to go in the box when the match is over.

- The Bible says Sodom was destroyed for Pride, but even they would have humbly repented if they had seen and known about Jesus.