

# Abounding Grace Christian Church

## A Study of the Second Epistle of Peter – Part 8

### I. Exposition of Chapter Two – False Prophets and Teachers (Continued).

A. Verse 6 – “...and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;”

1. “...the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah...” – The Bible teaches us that these two cities were extremely sinful. Jude 7 describes them: “...as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” Genesis 13:13 states; “But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.” Genesis 18:20 reads; “And the LORD said, ‘Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,...’” The word “grave” means; “be heavy, weighty, burdensome”<sup>1</sup> Daniel Browning writes in the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary:

**“The unnatural lusts of the men of Sodom (Gen. 19:4–8; Jude 7) have given us the modern term ‘sodomy,’ but the city was guilty of a full spectrum of sins including pride, oppression of the poor, haughtiness, and ‘abominable things’ (Ezek. 16:49–50).”<sup>2</sup>**

2. The Scripture tells us that the Lord and two angels visited Abraham (See Genesis 18:1-2; 22; 19:1). Due to the covenant the Lord had made with Abraham, the Lord felt it right for Him to tell Abraham what He was about to do (Genesis 18:17-21). While the two angels went on to Sodom, Abraham still stood before the Lord and interceded for Sodom (Genesis 18:22-33). Abraham began by asking if there were fifty righteous, would God spare the city and eventually went down to if there were ten righteous would He spare the city. The Lord agreed to spare the city if He found ten righteous. Presumably, Abraham must have thought that there were at least ten righteous or he would have continued interceding. In the end, there were only four righteous who escaped, Lot, his wife (though she looked back and turned into a pillar of salt - Genesis 19:26) and his two daughters. His two sons-in-law refused to leave, thinking Lot was joking (Genesis 19:12-15).

3. The Bible describes the destruction Sodom and Gomorrah in the following way:

**“Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.”**  
Genesis 19:24-25

4. Many archaeologists are quite confident that they have discovered the actual city of Sodom. It was discovered eight miles northeast of the mouth of the Jordan River. The name given to the dig is Tall-el-Hammam (Mound of the Hot Springs).

**“...Tall el-Hammam contains a massive destruction and ash layer (one meter thick in some areas) distributed various locations of the Middle Bronze Age layer of the city. The site reveals extensive destruction by fire of architectural features such as roofs, dwellings, walls, fortification barriers, as well as personal items such as jewelry, tools, and pottery. In addition to these, one of the most sobering and striking features involves human remains that depict catastrophic destruction. It appears that many of the inhabitants’ bones are charred and distorted, like those pictured, and are situated in a way that indicates a violent high heat flash event that may have thrown inhabitants to the western side of their dwellings, showing that the destruction could have originated from the east.”<sup>3</sup>**

5. “...making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;” – The word “example” means; “a model of behavior as an example to be imitated or to be avoided”<sup>4</sup> As has been stated before, Peter gave these examples of judgment of sin to give warning to the false teachers he was dealing with.

**“...and if he turned to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when he condemned them to destruction, having**

<sup>1</sup> Francis Brown, Samuel Rolles Driver, and Charles Augustus Briggs, *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1977), 457.

<sup>2</sup> Daniel C. Browning Jr., “Sodom and Gomorrah,” ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1513.

<sup>3</sup> Norman Geisler & Joseph M. Holden, *The Popular Handbook of Archaeology and the Bible: Discoveries that Confirm the Reliability of Scripture*, (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2013), 217-218.

<sup>4</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 591.

**B. Verses 7-8 – “...and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)”**

1. **“...and delivered righteous Lot,...”** – The question arises, how could Lot be called righteous? First of all, in **Genesis 19**, we find Lot living in Sodom and, though he was hospitable to the two angels, he also offered his own daughters to the mob to be sexually abused by them (**Genesis 19:8**). Not only that, but after they were delivered from Sodom, his own daughters got him drunk so they could have sex with him in order to preserve their lineage (**Genesis 19:30-38**). The Biblical reason Lot is considered righteous is because of his faith in the God of Abraham. Remember, God said to Abraham; **“And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”** (**Genesis 15:6**).
2. **“...*who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked...”** – The word **“oppressed”** means; **“to exhaust by labor or suffering; to wear out”**<sup>5</sup>. The word, **“filthy”** means; **“behavior completely lacking in moral restraint, usually with the implication of sexual licentiousness”**<sup>6</sup> The word **“wicked”** means; **“lawless, unrestrained, licentious”**<sup>7</sup>.
3. **Verse 8** is parenthetical, explaining in more detail **verse 7** – **“...(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds.”** – Again, Lot is referred to as a **“righteous man”**. The word **“tormented”** means; **“to experience mental torment involving sorrow mixed with anger—‘to experience anguish, to be tormented in one’s heart.’”**<sup>8</sup> When referring to his **“righteous soul”**, we understand that Lot’s conscience was tormented by the ungodliness of Sodom. He knew their behavior was wrong. How did he know? There were no ten commandments or any of the law of Moses so he must have known intuitively (**cf. Romans 2:14-15**). Regarding the word **“...lawless...”,** or, **“unlawful”** in the King James Version, Warren Wiersbe writes:

**“Since the Law of Moses had not yet been given, the word *unlawful* cannot refer to some Jewish law. In what sense were their filthy deeds “unlawful”? They were contrary to nature (see Rom. 1:24–27). The flagrant sin of Sodom and the other cities was unnatural sex, sodomy, or homosexual behavior, a sin that is clearly condemned in Scripture (Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:24–27; 1 Cor. 6:9).”**<sup>9</sup>

**C. Verse 9 – “...then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,”**

1. **“...the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations...”** – The word **“deliver”** was already mentioned in **verse 7** regarding Lot’s deliverance from Sodom before judgment fell. This word means; **“to rescue from danger, with the implication that the danger in question is severe and acute”**<sup>10</sup> It’s clear that Peter didn’t only want to warn false teachers, he also wanted to encourage believers. Both Noah and his family and, Lot and his family were delivered even though they were in the midst of extremely evil people. Under this New Covenant believers should expect the same, if not better. We are righteous in Christ (**II Corinthians 5:21**) and we’ve been **“...delivered from the power of darkness...”** (**Colossians 1:13**). Paul asked for prayer that he might be delivered **“...from unreasonable and wicked men...”** (**II Thessalonians 3:2**) and stated that he had gone through persecutions and afflictions but **“...out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.”** (**II Timothy 3:11**). So we can believe for the same as we attempt to live godly in this life. Of course, the ultimate deliverance will occur when Christ comes again. This will also be **“...the day of judgment”** for the ungodly.

<sup>5</sup> William D. Mounce, *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 1184.

<sup>6</sup> Louw and Nida, 770.

<sup>7</sup> William D. Mounce, *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 1073.

<sup>8</sup> Louw and Nida, 317.

<sup>9</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 449.

<sup>10</sup> Louw and Nida, 240.