

## “Purged” - Genesis 19:12-26

Ask - “Have you ever been to or seen a place that was destroyed by a natural disaster?”

Background - After renaming Abraham and Sarah, and establishing circumcision as the sign of the covenant He’d made with them, God sent 3 visitors to Abraham. They promised that Isaac would be born to the aged couple in about a year’s time. They also foretold the coming destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

“Here’s Your Warning” - Genesis 19:12-14

(v12-13) *Read verses 1-11 for context.* What did the 2 angelic men instruct Lot to do? What family members did Lot have in Sodom? What was about to happen to the city and why?

(v14) When Lot spoke to his sons-in-law, did they take him seriously? Has anyone ever thought you were joking even though you were telling the truth? Share your story.

THE ANGELS TOLD LOT TO GATHER HIS FAMILY AND FLEE FROM SODOM IMMEDIATELY, AS IT WAS ABOUT TO BE DESTROYED. HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTERS HEEDED THE DIRE WARNING, BUT HIS SONS-IN-LAW THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE.

“Make Your Escape” - Genesis 19:15-22

(v15-16) When did Lot, his wife, and daughters leave the city? Did they go on their own or were they escorted? What does their hesitance imply?

(v17) After bringing them safely out of Sodom, what instructions did the angels give to Lot and his family? Where did they tell them to flee?

(v18-19) Did Lot readily abide by the angels’ directions? What was the basis of his objection?

(v20) What did Lot request as an alternative destination for escape? How is this town described?

(v21-22) Did the angels grant Lot’s request? What did they say to him? What was this town called and what does the name mean? (*answer: Zoar - “small or insignificant”*)

LOT AND HIS FAMILY HESITATED, BUT THE ANGELS LED THEM OUT OF TOWN. THEY ORIGINALLY TOLD LOT TO FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS, BUT

ALLOWED HIM TO ESCAPE TO THE SMALL TOWN OF ZOAR INSTEAD.

“Find Your Refuge” - Genesis 19:23-26

(v23-25) When did Lot arrive at Zoar? What happened when he arrived? What all was destroyed by the fire?

(v26) What happened to Lot's wife and why? Why was looking back forbidden? Discuss.

WHEN LOT MADE IT TO ZOAR, GOD DESTROYED SODOM, GOMORRAH, AND THE ENTIRE AREA. LOT'S WIFE LOOKED BACK AT THE CITY AND WAS TURNED INTO A PILLAR OF SALT.

Application - Lot's sons-in-law did not take him seriously and chose not to leave the city despite his warning. Even Lot and his family were hesitant to leave in the face of imminent danger and had to be drug out of town by the hand. After this, he didn't want to flee to a far place, but rather remain nearby. Whatsmore, his wife looked back at Sodom even though she had been expressly told not to. All of this resistance reveals the strong affection that these folks had for the sinfulness of the wicked city. Sodom and Gomorroah had a powerful influence over them. They struggled to let it go. How difficult is it for you to give up sinful behaviors?