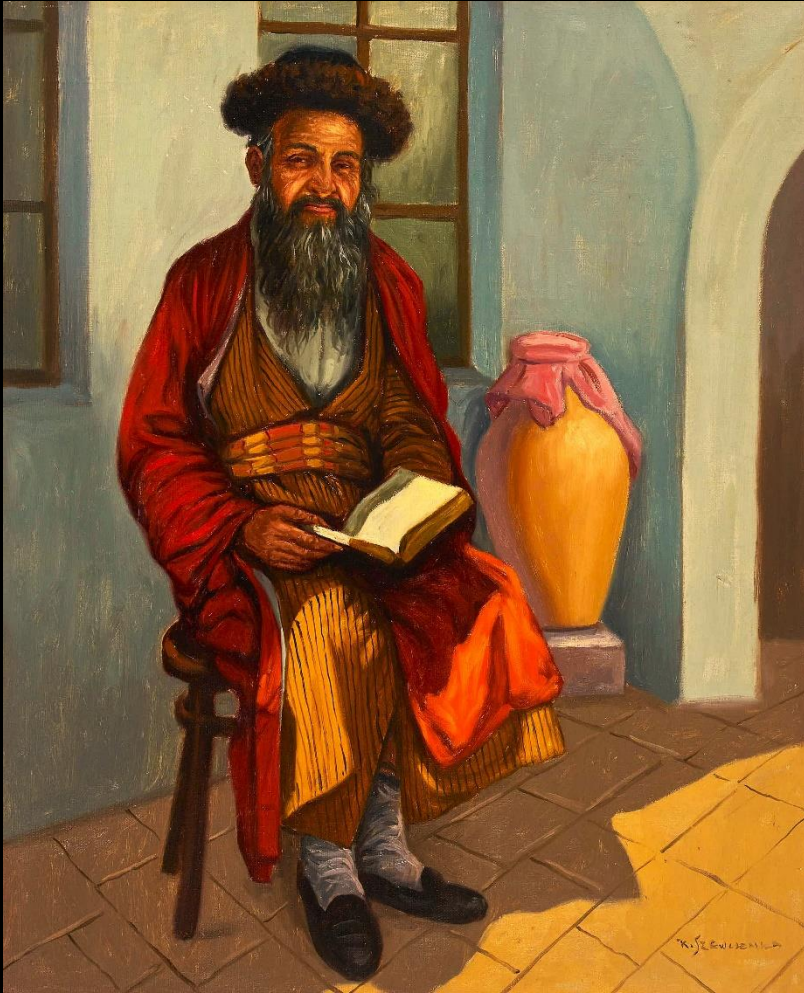


# Torah Studies

# Genesis: In the Beginning



## The Destruction of Sodom

### Genesis 18-19

Quiet Prayer – Konstanty Szewczenko

Torah Studies

Delighting in God's Word

## Torah Studies

## Delighting in God's Word

- Psalm 119:29-32 (NKJV)

29 Remove from me the way of lying,  
And grant me Your law graciously.

30 I have chosen the way of truth;  
Your judgments I have laid before me.

# Torah Studies

# Delighting in God's Word

- Psalm 119:29-32 (NKJV)

31 I cling to Your testimonies;

O Lord, do not put me to shame!

32 I will run the course of Your commandments,

For You shall enlarge my heart.

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

## Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

## Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:
- In **Genesis 13**, Abram and Lot separated to make room for their large flocks and herds.
- Abram stayed in the highlands of Canaan while Lot went down into the well-watered Jordan valley.

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

## Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:
- In **Genesis 14**, Abram and his men had to rescue Lot when he was taken captive by foreign invaders.

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

## Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:
- After this, God firmly established His covenant with Abram (now Abraham).
- He gave him a few unconditional promises plus the sign of circumcision for him and his descendants.



# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

Outline

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

## Outline

- I. The Lord Appears to Abraham 18:1-15
- II. Abraham Intercedes for Sodom 18:16-33
- III. God Destroys Sodom 19:1-29
- IV. Lot and His Daughters 19:30-38

I. The Lord Appears to Abraham

18:1-15

## I. The Lord Appears to Abraham

18:1-15

- 18:1-2 three men One was the LORD, i.e., *Yahweh*
- The other two were angels (See 19:1).
- Despite his bowing, it is not clear that Abraham immediately recognized his visitor as God.

# I. The Lord Appears to Abraham

18:1-15

- 18:3 O Lord This word (*Adon*) shows respect but does not have to be used only for God.
- In v.12 Sarah uses the same term for Abraham.
- Even modern Hebrew still uses it as we might say “sir,” or in Spanish “señor.”

## I. The Lord Appears to Abraham

18:1-15

- 18:4-8 Abraham offered typical hospitality to his guests with this treatment.
- 18:9-12 Now God gives Abraham a specific promise of a son.
- Sarah is listening in and laughs inwardly, not out loud.

## I. The Lord Appears to Abraham

18:1-15

- 18:13-15 **Yahweh** reveals that He knows Sarah's thoughts and heard her inward laughter.
- Sarah's **laughter** seems prompted by unbelief.
- She pops out of the tent, evidently flustered, to deny that she laughed at all.

# I. The Lord Appears to Abraham

18:1-15

- 18:13-15 Is anything too hard for the LORD?
- This is a great reminder for us.
- We know God is powerful, but we lose sight of that when it comes to our own prayers.



## II. Abraham Intercedes for Sodom 18:16-33

## II. Abraham Intercedes for Sodom 18:16-33

- 18:16-19 God revealed things to Abraham that He didn't reveal to everyone.
- All the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him
- This is a reminder of God's covenant promises.

## II. Abraham Intercedes for Sodom 18:16-33

- 18:20 the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah
- The terrible sins of Sodom and Gomorrah "cried out to heaven" for punishment.
- In 4:10, God said something similar to Cain about the voice of Abel's blood.

## II. Abraham Intercedes for Sodom 18:16-33

- On the wickedness of Sodom
- Genesis 13:13

Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.

## II. Abraham Intercedes for Sodom 18:16-33

- 18:21 Of course God knows everything, and He was fully aware of the evil in Sodom.
- Likely, His justice moved Him to demonstrate that He was in full possession of the facts.
- In the end only the two angels will physically go there.

## II. Abraham Intercedes for Sodom 18:16-33

- 18:22 The LORD stayed with Abraham.
- 18:23 Abraham shows concern for other people – as in 13:8-9 when he gave Lot first choice.

## II. Abraham Intercedes for Sodom 18:16-33

- 18:24-25 Of course God will do what is just.
- Ezekiel 33:11

Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

## II. Abraham Intercedes for Sodom 18:16-33

- 18:26-33 As we'll see, not even ten righteous people could be found in Sodom.
- Abraham goes home until early the next morning.
- Later, he will come out and from a place up in the hills where he lived and see the destruction.



### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- Genesis 13:12

Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- **Genesis 14:12** [When the kings conquered Sodom]

They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- **19:1 The two angels** The same two who visited Abraham are now identified as angels
- **Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom** This was the center of public activity.
- Lot was now one of Sodom's leading citizens.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- 19:2-3 Lot, like Abraham, wants to show hospitality to the angels.
- He probably had a clue what would happen if they spent the night outside.
- First mention of unleavened bread in the Bible.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- 19:4-5 The text makes clear this was not some wacky fringe group.
- The whole city was given over to this kind of sin.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- 19:6-8 Lot's offering his daughters is explained (though not justified) by the demands of hospitality.
- A host was obligated to protect his guests at all cost.
- Further, a (probably useless) biblical case can be made that his offer was in fact for a lesser sin.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- 19:9-14 Lot's sons-in-law Lot's daughters were really what we would call engaged (or betrothed).
- But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.
- They were native Sodomites and unable to imagine that anything could be wrong.



### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- 19:15-16 He lingered Fortunately, God's mercy overcame Lot's procrastination.
- 19:17-19 Lot says he can't go to the hills, but he'll end up there.
- Perhaps his love for his life in Sodom made him hesitant to leave.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- 19:20-22 Zoar = "tiny place."
- For I can do nothing until you arrive there.
- Remember the Lord's discussion with Abraham.
- God would not destroy the righteous with the wicked.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- 19:23-26 Lot's wife was trailing behind him with her heart still in Sodom.
- She looked back and died.
- Jesus used this event as a warning to others.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- Luke 17:32-33

32 Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29

- 19:27-29 The overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah is used as a warning elsewhere in the Bible.
- It comes up no fewer than 12 times by 9 different authors in later books.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

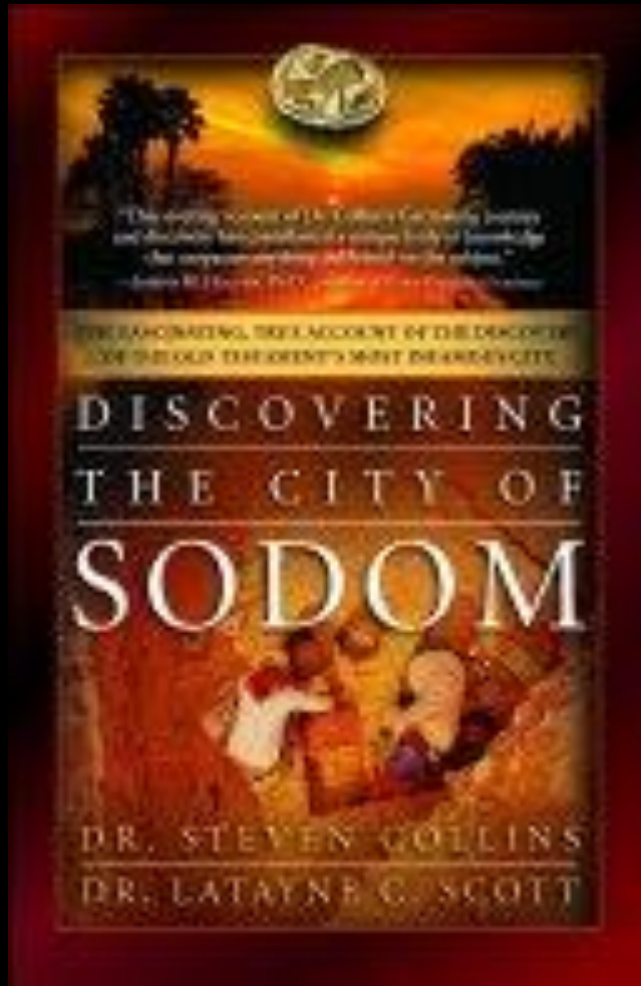
19:1-29

- For example, Jude 1:7

Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which ... indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

### III. God Destroys Sodom

19:1-29



Discovering the City of Sodom  
Book and Interview on YouTube: Socrates in the City  
Eric Metaxas with Steven Collins

## IV. Lot and His Daughters

19:30-38



## IV. Lot and His Daughters

19:30-38

- 19:30 He was afraid to live in Zoar
- So, Lot ends up in the hills where the angels initially told him to go.
- We also see how Lot's daughters were tainted by life in Sodom which their parents seemed to cling to.

## IV. Lot and His Daughters

19:30-38

- 19:31-38 The Moabites and the Ammonites never amounted to much.
- In Numbers 25, Moabite women will lead the Israelites astray into both immorality and idolatry.
- Ruth the Moabite will be a later exception.

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

Conclusion

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

Conclusion

- God's Ability and Our Faith

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

## Conclusion

- God's Ability and Our Faith
- Genesis 18:14

Is anything too hard for the Lord?

# The Destruction of Sodom

Genesis 18-19

Conclusion

- God's Ability and Our Faith
- Jeremiah 32:17

Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

Conclusion

- Love for the World

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

## Conclusion

- Love for the World
- Lot's wife, and maybe even Lot himself, seemed a little too tied to the life they had in Sodom.
- John warns us about this in his first letter.



# The Destruction of Sodom

Genesis 18-19

Conclusion

- Love for the World

- 1 John 2:15-16

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

## Conclusion

- The Certainty of Future Judgment

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

## Conclusion

- The Certainty of Future Judgment
- 2 Peter 2:6-10

6 If by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;  
7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day ...

# The Destruction of Sodom

## Genesis 18-19

## Conclusion

- The Certainty of Future Judgment
- 2 Peter 2:6-10

... he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

# Torah Studies

# Genesis: In the Beginning



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Next Week:  
The Birth of Isaac  
Genesis 20-21