

BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

www.bibleradio.org.au

A1795 <u>BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT</u>: ~ Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

The Lord again appeared to Abraham but this time as a man. Abraham actually saw three visitors but soon realised that he was welcoming the Lord Himself among angels. After the men had eaten, two of the three visitors left Abraham to visit the city of Sodom, where Lot lived. The Lord made it clear to Abraham that the wickedness of that city had been brought to God's notice for action. God was going to destroy it and the other nearby cities for the great evil they were continually committing. Abraham courageously came close to the Lord and humbly asked if He would destroy the righteous with the wicked.

Abraham said, "Should not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Abraham then asked if God would destroy the city if there were 50 righteous people living there. The Lord said He would spare the city for their sakes. Abraham continued to ask for lower and lower numbers that God would save the city for, and each time God agreed to spare the city. When Abraham asked about saving the city for a scenario of only 10 righteous people living in Sodom, God still agreed not to destroy the city. At this point, Abraham thought he knew 10 righteous people in the city: Lot, his wife, his 2 sons mentioned in another chapter, 2 unmarried daughters, 2 married daughters and their husbands. But Abraham also knew that he could leave the matter in God's hands. In the end, there turned out to be only one righteous person in Sodom, who was Lot, and God delivered Lot from destruction. This is the first recorded intercessory prayer in the Bible and it shows that God would rather people repent of their wickedness than have to destroy them. We should not tire of interceding on behalf of even one soul, as God will not tire of listening to us.

DRAMA - <u>The Bible In Living Sound</u>.

This *Bible Adventure* covers the 18th and 19th chapters of Genesis. Lot and his wife were reluctant to leave their comfortable home and rich lifestyle in Sodom on the morning of Sodom's destruction. When told to flee to the mountains, he requested that they flee to the small city of Zoar at the bottom end of the Dead Sea. This was granted by God's mercy and once Lot was there, this city was spared. But all the other cities of the plain were destroyed.

While rushing urgently towards Zoar, Lot's wife turned her face towards the city she was leaving and disobeyed the angels by looking back. Immediately, Lot's wife lost her life and turned into a pillar of salt, becoming an historical example of the consequences of disobedience: when commanded by God to obey, always remember Lot's wife!

Lot and his daughters arrived in Zoar and then great fire and brimstone (which is burning sulphur) fell from heaven onto Sodom, Gomorrah and all the surrounding cities on the plain. Everything and everyone in those places were destroyed and the smoke rose back up to heaven for many days later. Lot became afraid to live in the city itself and so he and his daughters decided to live in a deep cave up in the mountains. Ever since the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for their wicked ways, these cities have became a by-word that symbolises wickedness, sexual perversions and worldliness. The names have also become an example of how God punishes the ungodly. And as one famous preacher said, "If God doesn't punish America (and other ungodly nations too) for their many sins, He'll have to apologise to Sodom and Gomorrah." Sadly, people aren't heeding this warning and time will run out for turning to the Lord for salvation, just as it did for the people watching Noah's Ark.

How can parents teach their children God's view of sex and marriage? The Scripture is clear. In Ephesians, Chapter 5, it says: ""But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you. ... For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous ... has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

In Galatians, Chapter 6, it says: "Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. You will reap exactly what you plant. If you plant in the field of your natural desires, from it you will gather the harvest of death; if you plant in the field of the Spirit, from the Spirit you will gather the harvest of eternal life."

Speaking of the Lord Jesus in Hebrews, Chapter 4, it says: "This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

If you are in a sexual relationship with a man or a woman, or even a child that's not approved by God's requirement for marriage between a husband and wife, there is still time to repent or stop this unacceptable behaviour. There is still time to change your ways and make things right with God and those who need to know God's standards for holy living. That is one reason why Jesus has been delayed His return, as His Father God in heaven does "not wish that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." My prayer is that we don't refuse this generous but extremely serious offer while there is still time. In Galatians, Chapter 5, it says: "Let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature. For what our human nature wants is opposed to what the Spirit wants, and what the Spirit wants is opposed to what our human nature wants. What human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy and indecent actions." Those who believe the gospel of Christ and are justified by faith alone, receive the Holy Spirit, which produces self-control in the believer. Then the passions, cravings and lusts of the flesh are kept subdued. But this position of surrender to Jesus' Spirit is a daily choice of our will.

If we try to keep worldly ways in our lives and not fully depend on the Lord, then the fruit of the Spirit won't be seen in us. A believer must flee the world, without looking back with regrets or longing, lest he himself be injured or destroyed in its overthrow.

The Lord Jesus used Lot's wife as an example in Luke, Chapter 17. He said: "Remember Lot's wife!" And in Mark, Chapter 8, it's recorded: "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." Whoever denies Christ in order to save his life, and keep the pleasures, pride and possessions in this world, will lose his true spiritual life for eternity. But to lose one's life for Christ and the Gospel means to deny one's self and to take up one's cross of sacrifice to follow Jesus every day. If we do so, we will abide in Christ and be filled with abundant living through God's Spirit present within us.

What is the goal for all genuine believers? Let us carefully examine our lives and thoughts, and consider if we'll be able to say with the Apostle Paul:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.