

Then Abraham said, "Let me speak just one more time. Please don't be angry with me. But what if there are only ten good people there?"

God answered, "For the sake of just ten good people, I will not destroy the city."

... continued next time

## Sodom & Gomorrah

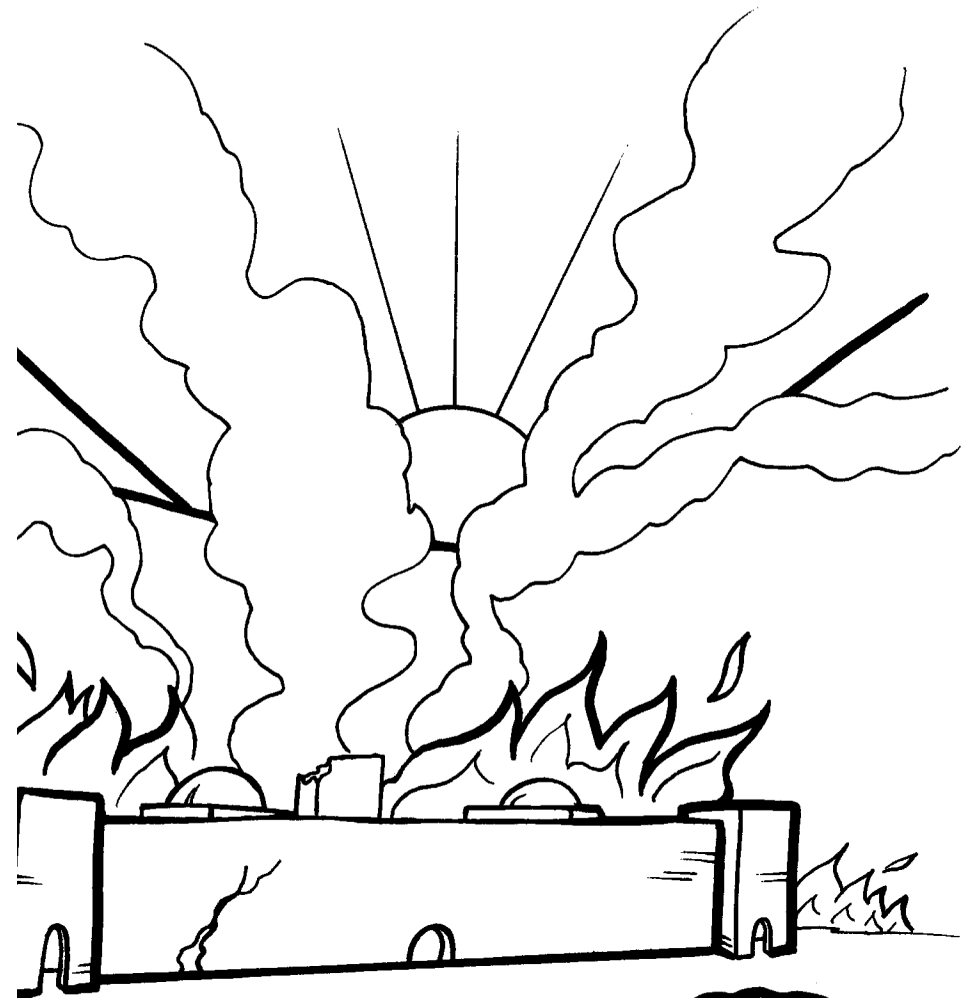
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LOT  
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OUTSIDE  
PILLAR OF SALT

SODOM  
ZOAR  
TWO ANGELS  
WIFE  
DOOR



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# THE STORY OF SODOM & GOMORRAH

By Paul Dallgas-Frey



What a wonderful, wonderful world!

God loves us so much. And he has filled the world with wonderful things so we can know how good he is.

But wait a minute. Sometimes things aren't so wonderful. People are mean to each other, and they hurt each other. Bad things happen.

But that's not how God wants things to be.

That's what sin does.

Sin is when we do what we want, instead of what God wants. And when we do, bad things happen. Sin ruins things. Someone always gets hurt. Maybe not right away, but someone always gets hurt sometime. And it only gets worse and worse.

But it's not God's fault, it's ours.

But bad things happen, and people think it's God's fault. They think God can't be good if bad things happen. And then they can't believe God loves us.

That's the terrible thing about sin. It keeps people away from God.

That's why God hates sin so much.

Now, back in the days of Abram, there were two cities named Sodom and Gomorrah. The people who lived there had turned away from God. They didn't care about God. They didn't care about doing what was good and right. In fact, they did just the opposite. They thought it was great fun to do what is wrong.

Abram had a nephew named Lot. Lot and his family lived in the city of Sodom. They cared about God, and tried to do what pleased him.

Now, the evil in Sodom was so bad that it was like a terrible, rotten smell that reached all the way to heaven. And so God decided it was time to put an end to it.

God told Abraham that he was going to destroy the city of Sodom (God had changed Abram's name to Abraham - but we'll get to that story later).

Abraham took a deep breath. He was about to argue with God! "What if there are some good people living there," Abraham said. "If you destroy the city, they will die too. That wouldn't be right."

So God said, "If you can find fifty good people there, I won't destroy the city. I will save the whole city for the sake of the fifty good people."

Abraham took another deep breath, "You are God, and I am just a man," he said, "And you don't have to listen to me at all. But," he said, "what if there aren't quite fifty good people living there? What if there are five less than fifty good people living there. Will you destroy the whole city because of five people?"

"If I find forty-five good people there," God said, "I will not destroy the city."

Then Abraham said, "What if there are only forty good people there?"

God said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

Then Abraham said, "Please don't be angry with me, Lord. But what if there are only thirty good people there?"

God said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

Abraham took a deep breath again. "What if there are only twenty good people there?"

And God said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."