

Witness to God's Providence

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, having in like manner with these given themselves over to fornication and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire” (Jude 7).

The Apostle Paul, said, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18). Throughout history, God has communicated with His creation: from Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to the kings of Israel, Egypt, Babylon, and Assyria, God sent His prophets: “Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate” (Jeremiah 44:4).

From Noah's preaching to a world ripe for destruction, Jeremiah's proclamations to the nations, and Paul's declaration that “we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10), God has warned us of the great day in which the Lord will separate the sheep from the goats.

Think about Sodom and Gomorrah, of whom God set “forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire,” because they gave themselves over to fornication and went after strange flesh (Jude 7). Lot, a “righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their lawless deeds” (2 Pet. 2:8), warned the men of Sodom, saying, “I pray you, my brethren, do not so wickedly” (Gen. 19:7). In rejecting the admonition, Sodom will be without excuse as they stand before the judgment-seat of Christ.

Within the context of Genesis 19, the reader can see the willingness and desire of Jehovah to save a people laden with sin. Abraham appealed to Jehovah, saying, “Wilt thou consume the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there are fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou consume and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?” to which, Jehovah said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sake” (Genesis 18:23-26). Of Jehovah's desire to save, the Apostle Peter said, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Although Jehovah is longsuffering, the destruction that came upon Sodom and Gomorrah, and numerous nations and people, is a stark reminder that a day of judgment must surely come.

Of himself, Jesus said, “The Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost” (Lk. 19:10). However, as it was with Sodom and Gomorrah, salvation requires action on the part of the hearer.

Concerning those who reject God's saving providence, Jesus said to his apostles, “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, as ye go forth out of that house or that city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city” (Matt. 10:14-15). Ross Triplett, Sr.