

## Lesson 17: God Destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah

### Introduction to today's lesson:

We live in a society that disdains any standards of morality and righteousness, and for some that makes the story of Sodom and Gomorrah somewhat uncomfortable and hard to swallow. The story of the judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah stands as a clear testimony of God's unwavering truth.

What makes our study today so timely is that this passage of Scripture talks about the kind of sin that was prevalent in these cities. Homosexuality (and every other kind of sexual sin) is flourishing in our day, and many excuse their sin as a "chosen lifestyle." The Gay lifestyle and agenda has been accepted and is now promoted daily on television and the media. And while it may be popular and socially acceptable-- God has not changed, and he does not change his mind based on polls or popularity or because of heavy lobbying or even threats. God's righteous standards don't change based on the whims or dictates of our society or leaders.

Many people in our society like to think that a "loving God" would never punish anyone. But God is righteous; and though He is indeed loving, He is also to be feared. God does punish all sin.

One of the great lessons of this story is that we need to be mindful of the choices we make. Abraham chose to believe God, and God is still pouring out blessing on the descendants of Abraham—those who, like Abraham, believe God. But Lot made a choice that unnecessarily placed him and his family in the middle of a perverted, godless environment.

The sad fact is that sin leaves a horrible trail of pain, sorrow, wasted lives, destruction, and death.

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### REVIEW questions from Lesson 16:

1. Did God abandon His plan to send a Deliverer for mankind because they rebelled against God and built the tower of Babel? **No. He didn't.**
2. What did God do to ensure that the Deliverer would be born into the world? **God chose and called Abram to be the ancestor of the Deliverer.**
3. What did God tell Abram to do? **God told him to leave his own country and go to the place to which God promised to lead him.**
4. How many children did Abram and Sarai have when God told Abram to go into a different country? **They didn't have any children.**
5. What did God promise Abram?
  - a. **God said that Abram's descendants would become a great nation.**
  - b. **God promised that He would protect and prosper Abram so that he would become an important man, and through him others would receive great help and benefit.**

c. God said He would prosper those who helped Abram, but He would bring evil on anyone who treated Abram wrongly.

d. God also said that all of the nations and tribes in the world would receive God's help through one certain descendant of Abram.

6. Who would this descendant of Abram be? He would be the Deliverer, the one who would overcome Satan and make it possible for people to be in oneness with God.

7. God spoke directly to Abram, but how does God speak to people today? Through the Bible.

8. Did God choose Abram because Abram wasn't a sinner? No, all people are sinners.

9. How did Abram come to God to worship Him? He came the same way Abel, Seth, and Noah had come. They came the way God had told them.

10. What did Abram do when God gave him the promises? He believed God. He left his own country and went where God guided him.

11. What similarities do you see in Abel, Seth, Enoch, Noah, and Abram? They believed God and came to God in the way God asked them to come; they obeyed God.

12. Why did Lot move away from Abram and live down on the plain near to Sodom and Gomorrah?

a. Abram and Lot had so many animals that there wasn't sufficient grass and room for them to live together.

b. Lot moved to the plain because it was well-watered and had much more grass for his animals.

13. What benefit will riches be to people if, when they die, they go to everlasting punishment? Their riches will not be of any benefit to them at all.

14. Who saw the wicked things the people of Sodom and Gomorrah did? God did.

## A. Introduction

This lesson addresses some very important issues.

- What does God consider to be righteousness?
- How can anyone be counted righteous in God's sight?
- Does God care if people choose to live an immoral life?
- Is homosexuality really a sin?
- The Bible answers these questions very clearly.
- This story reminds us of what happened in Noah's day.
- And it makes us think about what is happening right now in our society

After Lot left Abram, the Lord spoke to Abram and promised once again to give him all of the land of Canaan.

### Read Genesis 13:14-17 (GW)

<sup>14</sup> After Lot left, the LORD said to Abram, "Look north, south, east, and west of where you are.

<sup>15</sup> I will give all the land you see to you and to your descendants for an indefinite period of time.

<sup>16</sup> I will also give you as many descendants as the dust of the earth. If anyone could count the dust of the earth, then he could also count your descendants.

<sup>17</sup> Go! Walk back and forth across the entire land because I will give it to you."

**(SHOW AREA OF CANAAN ON MAP 1. )**

### Compare:

How many stars can you see in the sky on a dark, cloudless night? One night, God took Abram outside of his tent and told him to look up and see if he could count the stars.

God promised Abram, even before he had one child, that his descendants would be as many as the stars.

### Read Genesis 15:5-6 (GW)

<sup>5</sup> He took Abram outside and said, "Now look up at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." He also said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!"

<sup>6</sup> Then Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD regarded that faith to be his approval of Abram.

**Theme:** Man must have faith in order to please God and be saved.

### Abram believed God.

- What God had promised would have seemed impossible.
- Abram and Sarai had been married for many years and were now old, but they had never been able to have a child.
- But Abram trusted in God to give him a child and to send the Deliverer as one of his descendants.

Therefore, because Abram believed God, God accepted him as if he had no sin.

- Abram was a sinner; but because of his trust in God, he was accepted by God as if he were perfectly right.

### Read Genesis 15:6 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.

### What is righteousness?

- The root word is "right."
- God "counted it to him" or gave Abram credit for being right or acceptable to God.

But Abram was a sinner, a descendant of Adam, like us. What did God find in Abram that would cause God to credit Abram with righteousness?

- Why should God accept Abram, a sinner?
- The only reason why God credited righteousness to Abram was that Abram believed God.

**(suggested visual: Abraham believed God)  
Abraham BELIEVED GOD.**

## **GOD counted it to him for righteousness.**

You might say that, though Abram's bank account with God was in the red because of his sins, God put righteousness into Abram's account.

This righteousness, given to him as a gift from God, was the reason Abram was fully acceptable to God.

Why did God do this for him? Because Abram believed God! Abram knew that he could not save himself from his sins, but he believed that God was going to send a Deliverer who would be able to save him from Satan and sin and death.

**Theme:** God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.

### **READ Genesis 15:13-16 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years.

<sup>14</sup> But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth.

<sup>15</sup> (As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.)

<sup>16</sup> After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction."

God knew all that would happen to Abram's descendants before they were ever born.

**Compare:** Do you know what will happen next week, next year, in ten years' time? What about in one or two hundred years' time? No one knows the answers to these questions except God. He alone knows all about your future.

### **READ Genesis 17:1-5 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life.

<sup>2</sup> I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants."

<sup>3</sup> At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him,

<sup>4</sup> "This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations!

<sup>5</sup> What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations.

God again spoke to Abram when he was 99 years old.

- God changed Abram's name to Abraham because God promised he would become the father of many descendants.
- Abram means "exalted father;"

## **C. God's promise that Abraham and Sarah would have a son**

**Theme:** God communicates with man.

### **Genesis 17:15-16 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> Then God said to Abraham, “Regarding Sarai, your wife—her name will no longer be Sarai. From now on her name will be Sarah.

<sup>16</sup> And I will bless her and give you a son from her! Yes, I will bless her richly, and she will become the mother of many nations. Kings of nations will be among her descendants.”

God also changed Sarai’s name to Sarah because, even though she had never been able to have a child, God promised she would have a son.

- Sarai means “princess,” but Sarah means “mother of nations.”
- She would become the mother of millions of descendants.

**Theme:** God is all-powerful.

**Theme:** Man needs God.

### **Read Genesis 17:17 (NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham bowed down to the ground, but he laughed to himself in disbelief. “How could I become a father at the age of 100?” he thought. “And how can Sarah have a baby when she is ninety years old?”

It seemed impossible that Abraham and Sarah would have a son.

- Abraham would be 100 years old.
- Sarah would be 90 years old.
- But the promise did not depend on their human frailty.

It was God who made the promise, and He is almighty.

## **D. God’s attitude toward Sodom and Gomorrah.**

**Theme:** Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.

**Theme:** God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.

**Now, we’re going to read about an amazing encounter Abraham has with 3 visitors who know all about Abraham and Sarah. We’ll also see Abraham bargaining with God.**

### **Read Genesis 18:1-33 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD appeared again to Abraham near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. One day Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent during the hottest part of the day.

<sup>2</sup> He looked up and noticed three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran to meet them and welcomed them, bowing low to the ground.

<sup>3</sup> “My lord,” he said, “if it pleases you, stop here for a while.

<sup>4</sup> Rest in the shade of this tree while water is brought to wash your feet.

<sup>5</sup> And since you’ve honored your servant with this visit, let me prepare some food to refresh you before you continue on your journey.” “All right,” they said. “Do as you have said.”

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, “Hurry! Get three large measures of your best flour,

knead it into dough, and bake some bread.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Abraham ran out to the herd and chose a tender calf and gave it to his servant, who quickly prepared it.

<sup>8</sup> When the food was ready, Abraham took some yogurt and milk and the roasted meat, and he served it to the men. As they ate, Abraham waited on them in the shade of the trees.

<sup>9</sup> “Where is Sarah, your wife?” the visitors asked. “She’s inside the tent,” Abraham replied.

<sup>10</sup> Then one of them said, “I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!” Sarah was listening to this conversation from the tent.

<sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah were both very old by this time, and Sarah was long past the age of having children.

<sup>12</sup> So she laughed silently to herself and said, “How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?”

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, ‘Can an old woman like me have a baby?’

<sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

<sup>15</sup> Sarah was afraid, so she denied it, saying, “I didn’t laugh.” But the LORD said, “No, you did laugh.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the men got up from their meal and looked out toward Sodom. As they left, Abraham went with them to send them on their way.

<sup>17</sup> “Should I hide my plan from Abraham?” the LORD asked.

<sup>18</sup> “For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him.

<sup>19</sup> I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised.”

<sup>20</sup> So the LORD told Abraham, “I have heard a great outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah, because their sin is so flagrant.

<sup>21</sup> I am going down to see if their actions are as wicked as I have heard. If not, I want to know.”

<sup>22</sup> The other men turned and headed toward Sodom, but the LORD remained with Abraham.

<sup>23</sup> Abraham approached him and said, “Will you sweep away both the righteous and the wicked?

<sup>24</sup> Suppose you find fifty righteous people living there in the city—will you still sweep it away and not spare it for their sakes?

<sup>25</sup> Surely you wouldn’t do such a thing, destroying the righteous along with the wicked. Why, you would be treating the righteous and the wicked exactly the same! Surely you wouldn’t do that! Should not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?”

<sup>26</sup> And the LORD replied, “If I find fifty righteous people in Sodom, I will spare the entire city for their sake.”

<sup>27</sup> Then Abraham spoke again. “Since I have begun, let me speak further to my Lord, even though I am but dust and ashes.

<sup>28</sup> Suppose there are only forty-five righteous people rather than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And the LORD said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five righteous people there.”

<sup>29</sup> Then Abraham pressed his request further. “Suppose there are only forty?” And the LORD replied, “I will not destroy it for the sake of the forty.”

<sup>30</sup> “Please don’t be angry, my Lord,” Abraham pleaded. “Let me speak—suppose only thirty righteous people are found?” And the LORD replied, “I will not destroy it if I find thirty.”

<sup>31</sup> Then Abraham said, “Since I have dared to speak to the Lord, let me continue—suppose there are only twenty?” And the LORD replied, “Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the twenty.”

<sup>32</sup> Finally, Abraham said, “Lord, please don’t be angry with me if I speak one more time. Suppose only ten are found there?” And the LORD replied, “Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.”

<sup>33</sup> When the LORD had finished his conversation with Abraham, he went on his way, and Abraham returned to his tent.

Two of these three visitors are angels and the third—the one whom Abraham “bargains” with in terms of asking God to spare even ten righteous in Sodom and Gomorrah—that third person is the Lord himself, the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Abraham is not yet certain of God’s justice, as his response reveals:

<sup>25</sup> Surely you wouldn’t do such a thing, destroying the righteous along with the wicked. Why, you would be treating the righteous and the wicked exactly the same! Surely you wouldn’t do that! Should not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?”

The discussion is precisely the one God wants to have with Abraham, especially because his view of God will inform the views of many to follow. God allows Abraham to engage him in some bargaining. Abraham, perhaps feeling like he aimed too high in his bidding, keeps lowering the bid, first by fives and then by tens, eventually stopping at ten. With each bid, God responds, “Sure---for that number, I will not destroy the city.” And God departs, having demonstrated to Abraham that whether or not, Sodom and Gomorrah survive, He is willing to bargain if that helps others see Him for who He really is.

**ON MAP 1, POINT TO THE PROBABLE LOCATION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> map illustration of where Sodom & Gomorrah were located.**

You will remember that Lot had moved down near these two wicked cities.

Even though there were many people in the world at that time, God saw everything that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah did, and He heard everything that they said.

**Theme:** God is loving, merciful, and gracious.

**Theme:** God is supreme and sovereign. ^

**Theme:** God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.

God had been displeased with these wicked cities for a long time, even before Lot moved near them. For a long while, the Lord had been patient with their inhabitants, but now He decided that He could not tolerate their sinfulness any longer. They could not escape the judgment of God.

As we just read--Abraham interceded for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, asking God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah if even 10 righteous could be found. Sad to say, there were not 10 righteous in all of Sodom and Gomorrah.

**Compare:**

Do you remember how God patiently waited for the people to repent in the days when Noah lived? But the time came when God decided He had given the people sufficient time to repent. Not one of those who refused to agree with God escaped His punishment.

He is sovereign and supreme. He doesn't ask anyone what He should do. When He decides to punish sinners, no one can stop Him.

**Consider:**

*Because God doesn't immediately punish sin, it may seem like God overlooks sin. Nevertheless, He will eventually punish all sin. No one can escape from God, our almighty Creator. He sees and will punish the sin of every person.*

## E. God's angels came to Sodom.

### Read Genesis 19:1-3 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> That evening the two angels came to the entrance of the city of Sodom. Lot was sitting there, and when he saw them, he stood up to meet them. Then he welcomed them and bowed with his face to the ground.

<sup>2</sup> "My lords," he said, "come to my home to wash your feet, and be my guests for the night. You may then get up early in the morning and be on your way again." "Oh no," they replied. "We'll just spend the night out here in the city square."

<sup>3</sup> But Lot insisted, so at last they went home with him. Lot prepared a feast for them, complete with fresh bread made without yeast, and they ate.

Where was Lot?

Previously, Lot was living near the city.

Now he had moved right in and was living with these wicked people.

Who were his visitors, and why did they come?

They were two of God's good angels who had not followed Satan.

God sent them to Sodom for a special purpose.

He sent these angels to warn Lot and his family of what was about to happen.

### **Theme: God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.**

God knew that Lot believed Him, even though Lot lived among the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

God knows everything. The Bible gives us more insight into the sin of Sodom.

### Read Ezekiel 16:49-50 (NLT)

<sup>49</sup> Sodom's sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door.

<sup>50</sup> She was proud and committed detestable sins, so I wiped her out, as you have seen.

These people were proud, they were gluttons, and they didn't care about the needs of others.

## F. The sinfulness of the Sodomites

**Theme:** Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.

### Read Genesis 19:4-7 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup> But before they retired for the night, all the men of Sodom, young and old, came from all over the city and surrounded the house.

<sup>5</sup> They shouted to Lot, "Where are the men who came to spend the night with you? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them!"



<sup>6</sup> So Lot stepped outside to talk to them, shutting the door behind him.

<sup>7</sup> “Please, my brothers,” he begged, “don’t do such a wicked thing.”

**Consider:**

What a sickening passage. But God has put it here for us to read. Stop and think: is our society doing any better? The word “sodomy” is still in our language because the sin is still in our midst.

God’s only plan for sex was that it be the special bond between a man and his wife, and the means for them to have children. The unnatural, out-of-control, selfish passions that plagued Sodom are still raging today.

Lot’s earlier choice of the “best” land appears quite different now in light of this awful scene. If God had not sent His angels, what a horrible end Lot and his two daughters would have faced! But the Bible tells us that Lot believed God, and God rescued him.

## **G. Lot, his wife, and his daughters rescued out of Sodom**

**Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.**

### **Genesis 19:10-17 (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> But the two angels reached out, pulled Lot into the house, and bolted the door.

<sup>11</sup> Then they blinded all the men, young and old, who were at the door of the house, so they gave up trying to get inside.

<sup>12</sup> Meanwhile, the angels questioned Lot. “Do you have any other relatives here in the city?” they asked. “Get them out of this place—your sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone else.

<sup>13</sup> For we are about to destroy this city completely. The outcry against this place is so great it has reached the LORD, and he has sent us to destroy it.”

<sup>14</sup> So Lot rushed out to tell his daughters’ fiancés, “Quick, get out of the city! The LORD is about to destroy it.” But the young men thought he was only joking.

<sup>15</sup> At dawn the next morning the angels became insistent. “Hurry,” they said to Lot. “Take your wife and your two daughters who are here. Get out right now, or you will be swept away in the destruction of the city!”

<sup>16</sup> When Lot still hesitated, the angels seized his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and rushed them to safety outside the city, for the LORD was merciful.

<sup>17</sup> When they were safely out of the city, one of the angels ordered, “Run for your lives! And don’t look back or stop anywhere in the valley! Escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away!”

God did not save Lot and his wife and daughters because they were good.

- Lot was not living a wicked life like the people of Sodom, but he, too, was born a sinner.
- Lot, however, had agreed with God that he was a sinner, and he trusted in God’s mercy.

**Theme:** Man must have faith in order to please God and be saved.

- Lot believed the promises given to Adam and to his uncle Abraham about the coming Deliverer.

**Theme:** God is loving, merciful, and gracious.

God's angels led Lot out before the wicked cities were destroyed. God always saves those who agree with Him and trust in Him.

- Abel agreed with God and trusted in Him, and God accepted Abel.
- Noah agreed with God and trusted in Him, and God saved Noah from the flood.
- Lot agreed with God and trusted in Him, and God delivered him before Sodom was destroyed.

## H. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah

**Theme:** God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.

### Read Genesis 19:24-25 (NLT)

<sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah.

<sup>25</sup> He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation.

(show picture of destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah)

Commentary:

*Once Lot was safely outside the city, God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. God hates sin. Just as He destroyed the world by a flood in the time of Noah, now He destroyed these wicked people by fire.*

In II Peter 2:4-9 God calls the destruction of these cities an example of what is going to happen to ungodly people.

### Read 2 Peter 2:4-9 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup> For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment.

<sup>5</sup> And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood.

<sup>6</sup> Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people.

<sup>7</sup> But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him.

<sup>8</sup> Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day.

<sup>9</sup> So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.

**Theme:** God is faithful; He never changes.

God is still the same today.

- He has not changed.
- He still sees and hates sin.
- No one can escape His judgment.

## I. Lot's wife looked back.

**Theme:** God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.

## Read Genesis 19:26 (NLT)

<sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt.

When the angels took Lot, his wife, and his two daughters out of Sodom, they told them not to look behind but to run to the mountains. But Lot's wife disobeyed.

(Show chronological picture #16)

God knew what was in the heart of Lot's wife.

- Lot's wife was like Cain.
- She did not trust in God.

God knew why she looked back.

- She looked back because she liked the sinful ways of the people of Sodom.
- She didn't want to leave.
- She was very foolish to ignore God's warning because, when she looked back, God turned her into a pillar of salt.
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**Theme:** God is faithful; He never changes.

Consider:

*If we get angry at someone, we may threaten lots of things, but, after a while, we probably forget. But God doesn't threaten to punish and then forget. He is always the same. He remembers and keeps His promises to bless those who trust in Him and to punish those who disobey Him. God never forgets about sin until it is paid for in full. The punishment for sin is death, separation from God forever in the Lake of Fire.*

## J. Conclusion

Consider:

*God is interested in all people. Even though there are now billions of people in the world, God still knows and is interested in every individual. Every living thing is important to God—even sparrows. Though there are millions of sparrows in the world, the Bible tells us (in Matthew 10:29) that God knows when one sparrow dies. In Psalm 50:11 God says, "I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine."*

*But we are much more precious to God than the birds. Psalm 139:1-4 tells us:*

### **Psalm 139:1-4 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup>

O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

<sup>3</sup> You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do.

<sup>4</sup> You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.

Think of the vastness of God's knowledge! This great, all-knowing, all-powerful God CARES about everyone, even you and me! God knows that we are studying His Word right now, and He wants us to believe what He is teaching us.

- God wants us to listen and to believe because not only is God interested in every individual, but He will also judge every single person who refuses to believe His Word.

Some people think that they are just too insignificant for God to bother with. That is not true. Remember what we just read from Psalms. Even the birds are important enough to God that He knows every one of them! And how much more God cares about people; He knows everything about us. He knows everything about YOU!

- God cares about us and wants us to believe Him, but He is also righteous and true and will judge the person who refuses Him.
- No person escapes God's concern; no sin escapes God's righteous judgment.

God is the same today as He was in the day of Abraham and Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah.

### Questions for Review:

1. What did God tell Abram after Lot left him?
  - a. *God told Abram that He would give him all the land of Canaan.*
  - b. *God promised that Abram's descendants would number more than the stars.*
  - c. *God said that Abram's descendants would go to live in another country and that they would be ill-treated for four hundred years, but after that time, God would bring them back to the land of Canaan which God had promised to Abram.*
2. What new names did God give to Abram and Sarai? *Abraham and Sarah.*
3. Why couldn't Abraham and Sarah have a child unless God performed a miracle?
  - a. *Sarah was unable to have a child.*
  - b. *They were both too old. Abraham was now 100 years old, and Sarah was 90 years old.*
4. Who created the first man and woman and gives life to every baby? *God.*
5. Is there anything which God wants to do but cannot? *No, God can do everything He wants to do.*
6. Who knows the future of every person? *Only God.*
7. Did God know about all the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah? *Yes.*
8. If people ignore God, will He bypass them and not punish them? *No, God is interested in all people. He is the judge of every person.*
9. Why didn't God immediately punish the evil people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and why doesn't God immediately punish sinners now? *Because God is loving, merciful, gracious, and patient, He gives people time to change their minds and trust in Him.*
10. Does God merely threaten but never punish sinners? *No, even though God is patient, He will eventually punish sinners.*
11. Can anyone stop God from punishing people when He decides they have had sufficient time to repent (change their minds)? *No, God is supreme. No one is greater than He is.*
12. Why did the Lord send His angels to rescue Lot, his wife, and his

family? *Because Lot agreed with God that he was a sinner and trusted in God's promises to send the Deliverer.*

13. Why did God turn Lot's wife into a pillar of salt? *Because she disobeyed the command of the Lord when He told them they must not look back at the burning cities.*

**Lesson 18:** *God gave Isaac; God delivers Isaac from death*