

## **Genesis 19:1-11 (NIV) – The depravity of Sodom**

These verses are not pleasant; they speak of horrible things. But the Bible deals with reality – with human beings as they really are. The Bible faces up to the appalling sins of our mankind. This week we look at the introduction to the destruction of Sodom – what happened when the angels visited.

### **The angels come to Lot's house in Sodom (v1-3)**

In Mamre there had been three visitors (18:2); one was the Lord himself (18:22) – the other two angels passed on to Sodom. Sodom was a city in a very good location, but full of wickedness. Its time had been long, but now had run out. The time of the wicked always, eventually, runs out. The visitors were met by Lot, who sat in the gate – perhaps to watch out for people who might not know what a wicked town it was? It is amazing that he had returned to Sodom after his previous troubles (chapter 14). Lot was generous to the visitors and invited them in.

### **The Sodomites show their depravity + Lot's rescue (v4-11)**

It is awful that men, made in the image of God, made for God's glory, should come so low as they have. The wickedness was across the whole city. People from everywhere came, young and old, to take part in vile depravity. When wickedness has spread everywhere, and when people are not ashamed, the time for God's judgment has come. Lot's response is shocking; though he boldly calls the mob “wicked”, yet he offers up his own daughters – what was he thinking? The angels took action; they struck the men with blindness. Yet even blind, they did not turn from their evil.

### **What the Bible teaches about homosexuality**

What does the Bible say about homosexuality? In today's world, many are saying that it is natural, and that there is no real difference between it and godly marriage. The Bible disagrees very strongly. It calls it an abomination to the Lord (Leviticus 18:22), alongside bestiality (v23) and child sacrifice (v21). 2 Peter 2:2-6 uses the words “ungodly”, “filthy”, “wicked” and “unlawful”; that's very clear. Jude 7 says “unnatural”, as does Romans 1 which says that when homosexuality spreads in a society, it shows that God has begun to abandon that society and hand it over for judgment. That is what is happening in the West today. In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul lists it as a sin which nobody can continue in and be saved. It is not the only such sin – he lists others; have we abandoned them all? But then he gives hope. There were people in the church at Corinth who had been involved in each of those sins. But they had repented, and Jesus had washed them with his blood; he had forgiven them, made them new and made them the children of God. Praise God for his marvellous grace, which is greater than all.