

SODOM & GOMORRAH..THE FIVE CITIES, THE FIVE KINGS, LOT'S WIFE

(GEN. 14:1-3, 19:24-25, & 19:26)

THE MYSTERY OF THEIR DESTRUCTION (Gen. 19:24-25)

The following is a very brief explanation of some things that happened at the time Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. Everyone is familiar with the biblical story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, but most don't know the details. In the following brief teaching I will reveal some details that may be of interest to some. First off, there were five cities destroyed, two of which were Sodom and Gomorrah. The destruction actual included a large area, 1300 feet below sea level, by the Dead Sea, that was called "The Plains of Jordan". The entire area that was destroyed with hail, fire, and brimstone, would have encompassed an area with as many as 60,000 people, including the cities, hamlets, villages, and farms in the region.

Gen. 19:24-25 *"Then ADONAI caused sulfur and fire to rain down upon S'dom and 'Amora from ADONAI out of the sky. 25 He overthrew those cities, the entire plain, all the inhabitants of the cities and everything growing in the ground.* Sodom and Gomorrah, along with Admah, Zeboim, and Bela, were not destroyed just because of the sexual perversity taking place, as most believe; they were destroyed because the so-called judges in the land were corrupt, and allowed anything and everything to take place. Those appointed as judges and leaders were not judging righteously, they were allowing anything to go on. This corruption opened the door to absolute chaos, which of course includes perverse sexual activity. That corruption can be witnessed in every nation today on planet earth. We can all relate to that. The so-called leaders and politicians serve themselves, along with their families, friends, relatives, and business acquaintances, while claiming they are doing the will of the people who supposedly elected them.



Even the famous historian Flavius Josephus said: "There are still the remainders of that divine fire; and the traces of the five cities are still to be seen". This event was extreme in every way, and evidence of that destruction can still be seen in the brimstone remains in the area around the Dead Sea to this day. The exposed area to this day has millions of brimstone samples physically noticeable when venturing through the area. It is another biblical story that can be physically confirmed with the naked eye. Not a story of doubt and confusion, but a story with scientific evidence to confirm just what the Word says in Genesis. Let's have a look at what is revealed to us in the Good Book about the geographical location of the destruction.

Gen. 10:19 *"The border of the Kena'ani was from Tzidon, as you go toward G'rar, to 'Azah; as you go toward S'dom, 'Amora, Admah and Tzvoyim, to Lasha." (CJB)*

Gen. 10:19 *"And the territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; as you go toward Sodom and Gomorrah and Admah and Zeboim, as far as Lasha". (NAS)*

The bible is revealing to us that the cities were spread out along the Canaanite border. Zeboim (Tzvoyim), and Admah were located at the upper end, while Gomorrah was near the middle, and Sodom and Zoar near the other end of the Dead Sea.

Many years later we are reminded of what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah as revealed by Ezekiel.
Ezek. 16:49-50 *The crimes of your sister S'dom were pride and gluttony; she and her daughters were careless and complacent, so that they did nothing to help the poor and needy. 50 They were arrogant and committed disgusting acts before me; so that when I saw it, I swept them away"*

Now let's have a look at something interesting about the Five Kings and Five Cities included in that Plain Of Jordan destruction area. At the time of destruction, the five cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboim, and Bela, also known as "the cities of the plain of Jordan", were situated near the area of the Dead Sea, which is now under water.

THE MYSTERY OF HEBREW NAMES OF THE FIVE KINGS (Gen. 14:1-3)

Gen. 14:1-3 *When Amrafel was king of Shin'ar, Aryokh king of Elasar, K'dorla'omer king of 'Elam and Tid'al king of Goyim; 2 they made war together against Bera king of S'dom and against Birsha king of 'Amora, Shin'av king of Admah, Shem'ever king of Tzvoyim, and the king of Bela (which is the same as Tzo'ar). 3 All the latter kings joined forces in the Siddim Valley, where the Dead Sea is."*

Now let's have a look at something interesting in the meanings of the Hebrew names of the Kings of those five cities destroyed at Sodom and Gomorrah. Bera (king of Sodom), Birsha (king of Gomorrah), Shinab (king of Admah), Shemeber (king of Zeboim), and Zoar (king of Bela). The name Bera means "son of evil" and the name of his kingdom, Gomorrah means "burning". "The son of evil burning". Birsha means "with iniquity" and his kingdom Gomorrah means "submersion". "The son of evil burned with iniquity, submersed". Shinab means "the splendor of the father", his kingdom Admah, means "the river". Shemeber means "lofty flight".

Zeboiim, his kingdom means "like gazelles". Zoar means "insignificant". Bela means "destruction".

So let's take the names and their Hebrew meanings in the order with which they are written, and see what interesting thing it reveals: we have **"The son of evil burning with iniquity, (the lawless evil people burning from the brimstone), submersed by the splendor of the Father in a river (submersed like in a river formed from all the rain and hail). They made a lofty flight (like a gazelle and tried to get away), which turned out to be insignificant" (hopeless) destruction"**. Many believe this Hebrew statement not to be coincidence.

THE MYSTERY OF LOT'S WIFE TURNED INTO A PILLAR OF SALT (Gen.19:26)

In Genesis 19 we read about when Lot escaped the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah and his wife turning into a pillar of salt.

Gen. 19:26 *"But his wife, from behind him, looked back; and she became a pillar of salt."* Now let's look at some interesting things about salt.

The first time the Hebrew word for salt is used in the torah is found here (*melach*). In Gen. 19:26 Lot's wife is turned into salt for looking back. Though the word for covenant is not used in this story, the Angel had an agreement with Lot. **Gen. 19:16** *And it came about when they had brought them outside, that one said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, lest you be swept away."* Salt always accompanies covenants and sacrifices, so when the Angel made a agreement/covenant with Lot, it symbolically included salt. When she looked back she broke the covenant. Because of this breaking of the salt covenant she was pulverized and turned into a pillar of salt.

The Angel would only destroy Sodom and Gomorrah after Lot and his family was out of town and had safely reached the city of Zoar. What did Lot's wife do? She did not keep her agreement to "not look back." It appears that she left her heart in Sodom with the accompanying lifestyle she left behind. In her heart, she didn't want to leave and thus was judged for it when she was turned into salt, or disappeared as dust.

This idea of pulverizing something in order to scatter it to the wind is also seen in Judges 9:45 when Abimelech destroyed the city of Shechem and poured salt over it. In this story, the people of Shechem rebel against their leaders, Gideon's sons. The citizens of Shechem made Abimelech king, after which Abimelech wipes out every single son of Gideon, save one Jotham.

In order to right this wrong, Adonai moves the citizens to rebel or break their agreement with Abimelech, who in turn wipes them out. Again, it is the same as Lot's wife. Just as she rebelled and paid the consequence for it, so did the city of Shechem.

Melach is not only associated with death, destruction, and judgment. It is also associated with the sacrificial system (Lev. 2:13). Now stop for a moment and ask yourself, "What was the purpose of the

sacrificial system?" According to Hebr. 9:11-10:18, sacrifices pointed to the One who would take the punishment or the negative consequences of all our sinful actions (death, destruction, and judgment) – Yeshua. In Him we find forgiveness and restoration to a relationship that was broken because we refused to trust our Adonai and His way of living.

To understand the dynamics of another part of this story, we need to look back in time 4000 years. As the cities are being ravaged by rains of sulfur and fire, Abraham's nephew Lot escapes into the hills with his two daughters.

Many believe that the daughters looked out upon the devastation, and presumed that they are the only survivors left on earth. If that was the case that would make their father the only living male on earth. So in order to propagate the human species, they initiate incestuous relations with their father. This is the reason the two daughters instigated the incestuous acts. The two daughters get Lot drunk and... nine months later, each gives birth to a baby boy. (Gen. 19:30-38) The younger daughter named her son "Ben-Ami," which means "son of my people." She felt uncomfortable about the incest, and modestly concealed the baby's lineage. The older daughter also felt uncomfortable about the incest, but she dealt with it in a much different way. She figured that by presenting incest as a valid alternative lifestyle, that would totally justify her behavior, and she'd have nothing to feel guilty about! In other words, "I can do whatever I want... and who are you to tell me otherwise?!"



So she brazenly named her son "Moav," which means "from my father." She in fact made "incest" the child's name!

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