

SODOM HAD NO BIBLE

2 Peter 2:6-8 ⁶ And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; ⁷ And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: ⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

- The story of Sodom's destruction by God is told in Genesis 19. It was one of five sister cities located in the ancient valley of Siddim, near the Dead Sea, along with Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar. The Bible notes that this area was once exceedingly fertile and well-populated, but that it was abruptly abandoned, and this is in full agreement with the archaeological evidence.
- Because of its corruption and wickedness, the Bible records that God rained down burning sulfur on Sodom. But how is that possible?
- **Genesis 19:24** *Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;*
- Archaeologists have found subterranean deposits of sulfur, along with a petroleum-based substance called bitumen, similar to asphalt, among the ruins in this region. Geologist Frederick Clapp believes that pressure from an earthquake could have caused these substances to be forced violently out of the earth and ignited. They would then fall to earth as a burning, fiery mass. The dense smoke Abraham saw from a distance suggests such a petroleum-based fire.
- **Genesis 19:28** *And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.*
- Perhaps the most amazing discovery in the region is thousands of balls of sulfur encased in chunks of hardened ash, surrounded by a reddish-black crystalline material showing that they had once been on fire. This area near the Dead Sea is the only area in the world where sulfur has been found in this form! (Archaeologist Ron Wyatt)
- **2 Peter 2:6** *And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;*
- Once beautiful, once prosperous, once carefree, but then suddenly destroyed by God's wrath. Why? **BECAUSE SODOM HAD NO BIBLE!** And without a Bible, they didn't have a hope!

- **OH, THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING A BIBLE!** Many years ago, a beautiful painting was done featuring a large anvil, around which lay many shattered and smashed hammers on the floor. The caption below the picture was a phrase from 1 Peter 1:25 – "**The word of the Lord endures forever.**" More than one poet has been inspired by this very image, as Samuel Valentine Cole wrote, "**Hammer away, ye hostile hands, your hammers break, God's anvil stands.**" Or, as an unknown modern poet has penned ...

*Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door and heard the anvil ring
the vesper chime;
When looking in, I saw upon the floor, old hammers worn with beating
years of time.
"How many anvils have you had," said I, "To wear and batter all these
hammers so?"
"Just one," said he; then said with twinkling eye, "The anvil wears the
hammers out, you know."
And so I thought, the anvil of God's word, for ages skeptics' blows have
beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard, the anvil is unharmed
-- the hammers gone.*

- God, in a supernatural way, has sustained His Word down through the centuries against all kinds of attacks. Numerous **tyrants** have attempted to smash the anvil of God with the hammer of government power, but they are gone and it remains! In the last two centuries, while the "**higher critics**" have been sitting in stuffy libraries spinning their theories that the Bible is an unreliable, unhistorical and mythological book, modern **archaeologists** have stood by the hundreds on the soil of Bible lands and held the cold hard facts of history in their hands, undeniably proving God's Word!
- 25 years ago, **Time** magazine stated, "After more than two centuries of facing the heaviest scientific guns that could be brought to bear, the Bible has survived – and is perhaps better for the siege."
- Over 100 years ago, **Charles Spurgeon** observed, "If you want to be thought very wise today, but look very foolish in about fifty years, attack the Bible. Point out all the errors. But if you're willing to be thought foolish now, but believing that in fifty years you will be vindicated, stand with the Bible."
- The Bible has been examined more than any other book in the history of the world. Every word, syllable and letter has been scrutinized by hostile critics for centuries. And still it stands!
- "**Hammer away, ye hostile hands, your hammers break, God's anvil stands.**"

- **2 Peter 1:21** *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
- **Psalm 119:89** *For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*
- **Mark 13:31** *Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*
- What an incredible change is brought to a human life when it comes in contact with the eternal Word of God! The moment that Word is believed, miraculous things begin to happen. But Sodom had no such chance ... **BECAUSE SODOM HAD NO BIBLE!**
- Most people associate Sodom and Gomorrah only with the sin of sexual perversion. They were certainly guilty of that, as are a large number of people today. We've even coined the word "sodomite" to describe certain unnatural sexual acts, and we have often made an unspoken assumption that because these cities were destroyed they must have been more wicked than anyone else. But the Bible clearly states that their sin in God's eyes involved much more than mere immorality!
- **Ezekiel 16:49-50** ⁴⁹*Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.* ⁵⁰*And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.*
- The root of Sodom's sinfulness stemmed from their great pride and wealth, which led them to idleness and a disregard for those less fortunate than they. **IT WAS THEIR ABUNDANCE THAT LED THEM INTO APATHY, AND THEIR PRIDE THAT LED THEM INTO PERVERSION!** But there is not a city in North America that does not meet the same criteria for God's judgment! In fact, with our churches, preachers, Bibles, Christian media, literature and ministries, WE ARE MORE GUILTY THAN SODOM! That is exactly what Jesus said ...
- **Matthew 11:23-24** ²³*And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.* ²⁴*But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.*
- Sodom was no different than Fredericton! It had SEXUAL PERVERSION, but it also had SPIRITUAL PRIDE. And righteous Lot, who lived there, felt the pressure of the "anti-God atmosphere"!
- **2 Peter 2:7** *And delivered just Lot, VEXED with the filthy conversation of the wicked:*
- The word "VEXED" in this verse is "KATAPONEO," meaning "to wear down." It is the same word that is translated "oppressed" in Acts 7:24, where Stephen is preaching about Moses seeing the persecution of his fellow Israelites in Egyptian bondage.
- **Acts 7:24** *And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:*
- It is not unreasonable to expect that the spiritual atmosphere of a sinful city would be inhospitable to Christians – that is to be expected! But that doesn't make it easy! **WE ARE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE, NOT ON SPIRITUAL WELFARE!**
- **THIS IS WHAT SODOM DID TO LOT!** It vexed him! It oppressed him! It fought against him as he tried to live a godly life! But that was to be expected ... **BECAUSE SODOM HAD NO BIBLE!**
- When Sodom was finally destroyed, Lot escaped with only his two daughters. **That was all the influence he had!**
- His wife had so much invested in their life in Sodom that she couldn't even run from its destruction without looking back and being destroyed herself, turned into a pillar of salt.
- His son-in-laws laughed him to scorn and stayed behind to burn, because they couldn't reconcile his sudden urgency with what they had seen of his years of lethargy.
- The two angels who brought the warning literally had to drag Lot away from the sinful city he had grown so attached to!
- **What had happened to this righteous man?** The Bible specifically states that it was not only Sodom that vexed Lot – Lot also vexed himself! There are two different words used in the Greek text.
- **2 Peter 2:8** *(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, VEXED his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)*
- The word "VEXED" in this verse is "BASANIDZO," meaning "to torture." Lot tortured himself – he himself created most of the problems that hindered him from living for God! This word is used in other places in Scripture, and that helps us to more fully understand it ...

- **Matthew 8:6** *And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*
 - Here the word shows us a servant who is “**prevented from normal activity.**”
- **Matthew 14:24** *But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.*
 - Here the word shows us a ship that is “**distracted from a proper course.**”
- **Mark 6:48** *And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.*
 - Here the word shows us some men who are “**rowing against a strong current.**”
- LOT CERTAINLY FELT THESE FEELINGS AS HE LIVED IN SODOM, BUT WHAT HE PROBABLY DIDN'T REALIZE WAS THAT HE BROUGHT THEM ON HIMSELF BY BECOMING SO ATTACHED TO EARTHLY THINGS!
- **THIS IS WHAT LOT DID TO HIMSELF!** By his earthly attachments, he prevented himself from the normal activity of God's people, he distracted himself from the proper course that God wanted him to walk, and he set in motion a strong current that he had to row against!
- We can blame Sodom all we want, but their apathy is to be expected. After all, **SODOM HAD NO BIBLE!** Or did they? What about Lot? As one of God's people, wasn't he supposed to represent God to them? The truth is ... **SODOM HAD NO BIBLE ... EXCEPT LOT!**
- For the greatest part of human history, the vast majority of earth's people have been without a “Bible” as we know it. But God has ordained that HIS PEOPLE should live out the Word of God as a testimony to others around them. In effect, they become the “Word in flesh” ... they become a Bible for others to read!
- This is what Paul meant when he wrote to the Corinthians ...
- **2 Corinthians 3:2-3** *²Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: ³Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*

- **BUT LOT WAS TOO BUSY TO BE A BIBLE!**
- **HE WAS TOO EXHAUSTED TO BE AN EXAMPLE!**
- **HE WAS TOO TEMPTED TO BE A TESTIMONY!**
- **HE WAS TOO WEAK TO BE A WITNESS!**
- **HE WAS TOO DISTRACTED TO BE A DISCIPLE!**
- **AND HE DID THIS TO HIMSELF!**
- **Lot didn't lose his SOUL ... but he did lose his INFLUENCE!**
- Lot's righteous life had a negligible effect on Sodom ... not because they were uninterested in HEARING, but because he was uninterested in TELLING! **WHAT A WASTE!**
- Sodom is not really our subject today ... but Fredericton is! We also live in a city where spiritual pride, sexual perversion, apathy, abundance and an anti-God atmosphere are prevalent! And the plain fact of the matter is ... **FREDERICTON HAS NO BIBLE!**
- Yes, there are churches, preachers, Bibles, Christian media, literature and ministries, but most of the people you meet are not interested in finding a BOOK with the answer – they are interested in finding a PERSON with the answer! Unless someone becomes “an epistle known and read of all men” to them, they have no Bible! The Word may sit on their shelf, but it will never get in their soul!
- **BUT WHAT IF THE BIBLES ARE TOO BUSY?**
- **WHAT IF THE EXAMPLES ARE TOO EXHAUSTED?**
- **WHAT IF THE TESTIMONIES ARE TOO TEMPTED?**
- **WHAT IF THE WITNESSES ARE TOO WEAK?**
- **WHAT IF THE DISCIPLES ARE TOO DISTRACTED?**
- We can't blame the atmosphere of the city for that – we must be honest and lay the blame at our own feet!
- Missionary Amy Carmichael said, “We will have all eternity to celebrate the victories, but only a few hours before sunset to win them.”
- **What about YOU, Brother Lot?** Are you being an influence on the city, or is the city being an influence on you? Is your lifestyle impacting them, or is their lifestyle impacting you? And the most haunting question of all ... will anyone be in Heaven because they “read” the Bible you became? ... will anyone be in Hell because the “print” in your Bible was illegible? TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
- **Fredericton has no Bible ... except YOU!**