



Mrs. Lot's Fatal Look Back, Gen 19:26; Ezekiel Compares Jerusalem with Sodom, Ezk 16:48-50; Passages that Punish Sodomy; Gen 13-19; Judg 19-21; Rom 1:20-28

Genesis 19:26 - But Lot's wife, from behind him, looked back; and she became a pillar of salt.

1. Note that Lot's wife is lagging behind her husband and daughters and even stops to observe the chaos. She got her wish. She not only saw the entire event but also became one of its casualties.
2. Lot's wife was caught under the raining fiery mixture that when cooled left her in a statuesque pose encapsulated by a salty ash.
3. Why did she do this? The verse says she "looked back," the Hiphil imperfect of the verb:

נָבַט *navat* - "to look back with careful, sustained, and favorable contemplation." (*TWOT*, 2:546)

The Hiphil stem is causative and means that Mrs. Lot was caused to look back while the imperfect indicates that while she was looking back the burning brimstone rained down upon her.

4. What caused her to look back were her memories. She liked Sodom and the life she had there. She had accepted the prevailing public opinion regarding its decadent culture in order to justify the material advantages the area provided her. We get some insight into her thinking from Ezekiel's condemnation of Jerusalem in:

Ezekiel 16:48 - "As I live," declares the Lord God, "Sodom, your sister [**fellow community in the area**], and her daughters [**Zeboiim, Admah, Gomorrah, and Zoar**], have not done as you and your daughters have done.

v. 49 - "Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food, and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy.

v. 50 - "Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before me. Therefore, I removed them when I saw it."

5. This passage discusses the effects upon an individual when they are involved in the downward spiral of cosmic viewpoint:

Feinberg, Charles Lee. *The Prophecy of Ezekiel: The Glory of the Lord.* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1969), 90-91:

Jerusalem Compared to Samaria and Sodom. Judah had shown herself to be of like nature with Sodom and Gomorrah who were in the land before Abraham entered it. They had all departed from the original revelation of God. Jerusalem had a real family likeness to them. Samaria may have been called the elder sister of Judah because of greater political influence and because she went into idolatry first. Sodom was called the younger sister because she was smaller in territory as well as political power. The daughters of these cities were the minor towns that surrounded them. In wickedness and flagrant disregard of the will of the Lord, Jerusalem had far outstripped both Samaria and Sodom. Her abominations exceeded any of theirs.

Notice how pride was singled out as the root of Sodom's sin when her abominations were traced to their source. God had blessed her abundantly with fullness of bread (Genesis 13:10), but she monopolized these blessings for her own pleasures and basked in prosperous ease. Provision for her own needs made her insensible to the needs of others; she had no social conscience. Then she committed the abominations and enormities which are linked inseparably with her name. God took her away with a final blow when he saw it.



6. The mental disposition of arrogance and the lustful desire for ease of life without responsibility toward others results in narcissism, an over-emphasis on self. Such self-centeredness leads to self love and absent divine guidance it manifests itself in physical perversions.
7. What is described of Sodom and her sisters in Ezekiel 16 illustrates these very principles addressed by Paul in Romans 1.
8. There are three major passages in Scripture which outline the problem of homosexual behavior in a client nation. We are involved in analyzing the first:
 - (1) **Genesis 13-19.** This passage sets up the principle of Pivot power, or lack of it, in a specific geographic location. When the Pivot becomes too small, the Lord will intervene and personally take care of the problem.

In this case the overriding problem is rampant homosexual perversion in the five cities located in the Valley of Siddim. We have just studied the corrective measures taken to put a stop to the behavior, a conflagration of four-fifths of the pentapolis.
 - (2) **Judges 19-21.** This passage documents wide-spread degeneracy within the tribe of Benjamin. A number of homosexuals are guilty of murdering the wife of a Levite who had refused to accommodate them. Because of this atrocity, the entire nation of Israel declared war on the tribe of Benjamin. Once the civil war was over, Benjamin had only 600 men left alive.
 - (3) **Romans 1:20-28.** This is the classic New Testament passage which bans homosexual behavior within the culture of a client nation.

There is nothing in any other passage of the New Testament which indicates any relaxing of divine abhorrence toward this lifestyle. Here it is condemned in the strongest of terms and in fact teaches that the behavior produces its own discipline in the form of pandemic disease and death.
9. Romans 1:20-22 addresses the principle that all action is produced by thought which originates within the heart: the stream of consciousness in the soul:

Romans 1:20 - Since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly perceived being made obvious through the things He has created.

This verse presents three of the logical approaches to the existence of God made obvious through the creation:

- (1) **Ontological:** The human mind possesses the idea of a perfect and absolute Being; therefore, such a Being must exist. In this case the mind of the unbeliever uses rationalism as the criterion of reality.
- (2) **Teleological:** The immense and orderly structure of the universe demands a Designer. In this case the mind of the unbeliever uses empiricism as the criterion of reality.
- (3) **Cosmological:** The intuitive law of cause and effect demands the existence of God as First Cause. In this case the mind of the unbeliever uses the perceptive process of rationalism plus logic.

v. 21 - Because when they knew God [Gospel hearing] they did not honor Christ as God nor did they feel obligated to thank Him, in fact, as a result, they received worthless thoughts and their vacuous heart received darkness.

v. 22 - Although they claimed to be wise they became fools,

