

# *the* Purpose *and* Promises of God

## The Justice and Mercy of God

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### Summary

God is the just Judge who punishes sin and the merciful Rescuer who spares the undeserving. He brought destruction on Sodom but rescued Lot. In Jesus, God judged sin once and for all, providing merciful rescue for undeserving sinners to be justified freely by his grace.

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### Outline

#### Scene 1: Intercession for Sodom (18:16-33)

The Lord's Call to Justice (18:16-21)

Abraham's Appeal to Justice (18:22-33)



**Scene 2: Encounters in Sodom (19:1-14)**

Lot and the Angels (19:1-3)

Lot and the Men of the City (19:4-11)

Lot and His Sons-in Law (19:12-14)

**Scene 3: Escape from Sodom (19:15-22)**

The Lord's Severe Mercy (19:15-17)

Lot's Pathetic Plea (19:18-22)

**Scene 4: Destruction of Sodom (19:23-29)**

Looking Back with Longing (19:23-26)

Looking Down with Compassion (19:27-29)

## Scene 5: Rebirth of Sodom (19:30-38)

Lot's Downfall (19:30-35)

Lot's Legacy (19:36-38)

### Discovering the Gospel in Sodom

God

Sin

Christ

Response

1. Consider this passage through the Gospel Grid: What does this story teach you about God? What does it teach you about sin? How does it point you to Jesus? How should you respond?

2. In what ways do we see God's justice and mercy on display in this passage? Where else do we see God's just judgment and merciful deliverance come together? Consider Romans 3:23-26.

3. Sodom is mentioned repeatedly throughout Scripture as an example of judgment and a warning against sin. What are some of the warnings we should heed from this terrible account?

4. God judged sin by destroying Sodom, but Sodom lived on in Lot's family. In Jesus, God doesn't merely judge sin—he has completely defeated it at the cross and rendered it powerless (Col 2:15; Heb 2:14-15). Jesus enables us to put sin to death in our lives now (Rom 6:1-2; 8:13), and he will one day wipe it out completely when he comes again (Heb 9:26-28; Rev 22:3). How does the "completeness" of this salvation God has provided in Jesus encourage you today?

5. Do you have a friend or family member who is making compromises or living in sin? Follow Abraham's example of intercession: ask God to open their eyes to their danger and to rescue them in his mercy.