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July 2026



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Ministries **Investigates**

The Sins of Sodom:

A Biblical Warning and Archaeological Echo

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IN THIS EDITION

Issue 3
July 2026

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nephew Lot, welcomes them. That evening, “all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house” and demanded the visitors so they could have sex with them (Genesis 19:4-5). Lot pleads with them, even offering his virgin daughters, but the mob refuses. The angels strike the men with blindness and urge Lot’s family to flee. As they escape, “the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land” (Genesis 19:24-25). Lot’s wife looks back and becomes a pillar of salt.

The sin of Sodom went beyond one night’s violence. Earlier, in Genesis 13, the plain is described as well-watered and attractive, yet the men of Sodom were “wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord” (Genesis 13:13).

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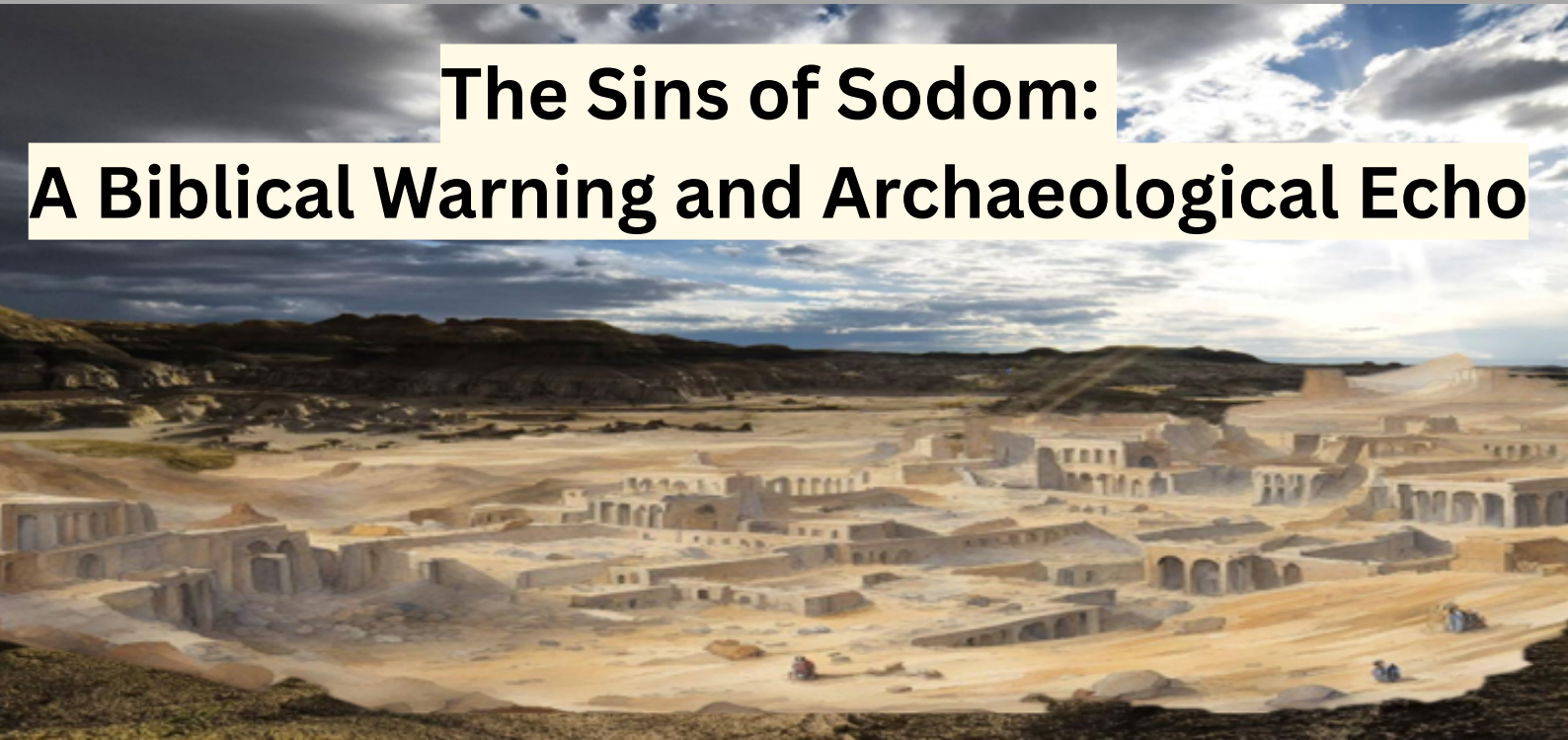


TESTIFY MAGAZINE (TELLING PEOPLE'S STORIES - AFFIRMING GOD IS ALIVE!)

DANELLE V D LINDE

The Sins of Sodom: A Biblical Warning and Archaeological Echo

The Sins of Sodom: A Biblical Warning and Archaeological Echo



As the world celebrated Pride Month this past June, I thought it fitting to take a deeper look into this fast-growing movement—one that raises important questions about sexuality, identity, and timeless biblical truths.

In the pages of Scripture, few stories strike as much awe and solemn warning as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. These cities, once thriving in a fertile plain, stand as a lasting testimony to God's holiness and His intolerance of unrepentant sin—particularly sexual immorality that defies His created order. For Christians today, this account is not ancient myth but a sobering historical event that calls us to purity in a world that often celebrates what God condemns.

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The Biblical Account: Corruption and Judgment

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the plain is described as well-watered and attractive, yet the men of Sodom were “wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord” (Genesis 13:13). Ezekiel 16:49-50 adds layers: “Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me.” The “detestable things” align with the attempted homosexual gang rape in Genesis 19—a gross violation of God’s design for sexuality.

Sexual sin had corrupted the culture. What began as private immorality became public, aggressive, and normalized. The entire male population participated, showing a society given over to lust. This was an abomination to a holy God who created sex for the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 1-2).

New Testament Confirmation: Homosexuality Condemned

The New Testament reinforces this without ambiguity. In Romans 1:26-27, Paul writes: “Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.”

Paul lists it among sins that, without repentance and faith in Christ, exclude people



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from inheriting the kingdom of God: “Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men... will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Similar language appears in 1 Timothy 1:9-10. Jude 1:7 recalls Sodom and Gomorrah as examples of those who “gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion” and serve as a warning of eternal fire.

These passages echo the Old Testament’s clear stance (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13) while pointing to redemption. Paul immediately adds in 1 Corinthians 6:11: “And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.” The gospel offers hope and transformation, not condemnation for those who turn to Christ.



Archaeological Evidence: Not Just a Story

Skeptics sometimes dismiss Sodom as legend, but discoveries near the Dead Sea provide compelling support that these events are rooted in history.

Prominent candidates include **Bab edh-Dhra**** (often linked to Sodom) and ****Numeira**** (possibly Gomorrah), southeast of the Dead Sea. Excavations reveal Early Bronze Age cities destroyed by intense fire. At these sites, archaeologists found thick layers of ash, burned structures, and evidence of sudden, catastrophic conflagration. Bab edh-Dhra had a massive cemetery with hundreds of thousands of burials,**

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**Excavations
Burned ruins
Melted pottery
Sulfur (brimstone) balls
These add credibility and
interest.**

indicating a once-thriving population.

Another leading proposal is ****Tall el-Hammam****, northeast of the Dead Sea, excavated by Dr. Steven Collins and others. Evidence includes melted pottery, scorched stones, and signs of extreme high-temperature destruction—consistent with a fiery event. Some studies suggest an airburst or cosmic event around 1700–1650 BCE, with temperatures hot enough to melt materials. High salt concentrations were also found, aligning with the barren wasteland described post-destruction.

Dating debates exist—some place the southern sites’ destruction earlier than traditional patriarchal timelines—but recalibrations of radiocarbon data and pottery analysis allow alignment with a date around 2000 BCE. Sulfur (brimstone) balls found in the region can still be ignited today, vividly illustrating the biblical “fire and brimstone.”

These findings do not “prove” every detail but strongly indicate real cities suffered fiery, total destruction in the right general era and location, supporting the Bible’s reliability.

The Dead Sea Connection: A Landscape of Judgment?

The Dead Sea itself—its extreme salinity, asphalt deposits, and sulfur-rich shores—fits the aftermath of catastrophic judgment. The southern basin may have been drier or differently configured in Abraham’s time, with the “Valley of Siddim” (Genesis 14) possibly submerged later. Geological activity in the

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rift valley, including bitumen and sulfur, could explain the raining fire if released and ignited by earthquake or divine means.

Mount Sodom, a massive salt formation on the southwest shore, and the pillar-like “Lot’s Wife” formation remind visitors of the story. While the Dead Sea’s formation spans millennia, a sudden event around the time of Sodom could have intensified its desolate character—turning a once-fertile plain into a symbol of desolation.



Visuals include: Aerial view of the Dead Sea, Mount Sodom ,The "Lot's Wife" salt pillar Salt-encrusted shoreline

Conclusion: A Timeless Warning for Today

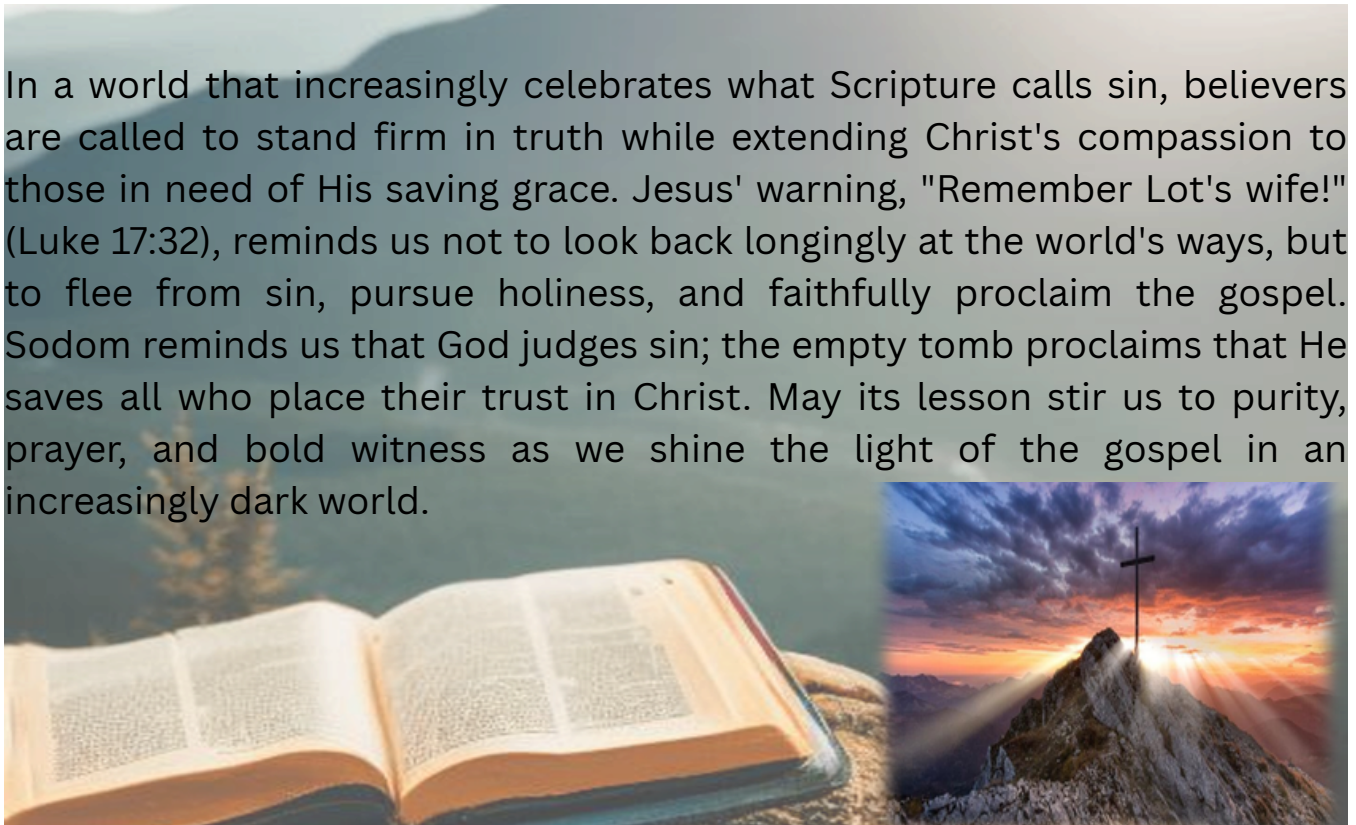
The ruins near the Dead Sea stand as a silent witness that Sodom and Gomorah were real places, corrupted by sin and ultimately judged by a holy God. What began as private immorality became a public culture of rebellion, arrogance, and sexual perversion that defied God's created order. Scripture

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consistently presents Sodom as a solemn warning that God is patient, but He will not overlook unrepentant sin. The New Testament echoes this message, affirming that sexual immorality—including homosexual practice, along with all other forms of sexual sin—is contrary to God's design and, apart from repentance and faith in Christ, excludes people from His kingdom (Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Jude 7).

Yet the story of Sodom is not only one of judgment—it is also one of mercy. Just as God rescued Lot, He offers salvation to all who turn to Jesus Christ. As Paul reminds believers, "And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11). The cross offers forgiveness, transformation, and the power to live holy lives.

In a world that increasingly celebrates what Scripture calls sin, believers are called to stand firm in truth while extending Christ's compassion to those in need of His saving grace. Jesus' warning, "Remember Lot's wife!" (Luke 17:32), reminds us not to look back longingly at the world's ways, but to flee from sin, pursue holiness, and faithfully proclaim the gospel. Sodom reminds us that God judges sin; the empty tomb proclaims that He saves all who place their trust in Christ. May its lesson stir us to purity, prayer, and bold witness as we shine the light of the gospel in an increasingly dark world.



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Psalm 1 vers 3 sê :

"En hy sal wees soos 'n boom wat
geplant is by waterstrome, wat sy vrugte gee
op sy tyd en waarvan die blare nie verwelk nie;
en alles wat hy doen, voer hy voorspoedig uit."



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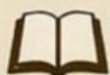
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THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!

HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS
CHRIST?

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Romans 3:23 ESV

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

The abovementioned verse is an extremely well used verse and many people know it and can even quote it off by heart, but the significance of it is the reality that every single person needs to contemplate.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Personal Saviour yet or are thin king about it, you have to start here. The reality of your sin problem cancels and disqualifies you from the very presence of God and this bars you from eternal Life. Your choices are simple here, either an eternity with God or an Eternity without God. I would think that the logical answer would be an Eternity with God. Why? Well let's look at this:

2 Thessalonians 1:9

"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might"

NASB

This is the reality of a choice that omits Jesus as your Personal Saviour -

= Everlasting Punishment

= Destruction

= Shut Out

= No Godly Presence

= And no Glory at all

This is not something to take lightly and by the way this is not scaring you into making a false decision, God is love, thus we as His followers are love, this means if I say I have the love of God, it is my duty to tell you the truth and point you into the right direction.

So in looking at the sin problem and the reality of this, what is the answer then? Let's look at this:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

NASB

What a wonderful solution to an immense problem, God has made a way and in making the way He has also made it very clear that this is the only answer to the problem. You have to accept Jesus His Son in order to obtain Eternal Life and ward off all the destruction and other bad things spoken about in the previous Bible verse.

It also makes it very clear that this can only be done through JESUS CHRIST His Son, there is no other way to salvation or Eternal life other than through Jesus, NONE!

Let's look at this too:

John 1:12-13

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

NASB

Wow! Just look at this, not only do we get Eternal Life but we become Children of God. The impact of this is massive as it speaks to the fact that we now belong to the family of God and receive the benefits of being part of a family, and not just any family but a royal family (1 Peter 2 vs 9).

So in looking and understanding all of this, How do you accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour?

Romans 10 vs 9-10

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

NASB

Let me just make one point very clear before we look at the above verses, your salvation cannot be obtained by good works, you cannot go to Heaven or be part of God's family because you are a good person, or you do good deeds, No! The Bible makes it clear, if you want to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour then it gets done on the basis of two things. These two things are critical because it will also help you on your work with the Lord and attain righteousness and a life pleasing to God.

Firstly, you have to confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, this is very important because by your confession God will know and people in the world will know. This is significant because one does not hide a light under a bowl. Everyone must see and hear that you are a child of God.

BELIEF

And secondly you must believe in your heart, with your whole being and understanding that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive and is your only Saviour.

So if you have read all of this and the Holy Spirit is directing you to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour please pray the prayer on the next page, God loves you so much.



ACCEPTING JESUS IS EVERYTHING!

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus,

I understand that I am a sinner and in need of desperate saving, The Bible tells me clearly that the only answer is for me to confess with my mouth and believe in my heart. I am now confessing with my mouth that I am accepting You as my Personal Saviour and believing in my heart that you are alive and well and dwelling within me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of other Believers and allow me please to follow in your footsteps. Amen!

Wow! Congratulations if you have just prayed this prayer, and know that you are now part of the family of the Kingdom of God. Please tell someone about your decision, pray all the time and read and study your Bible. Find a Holy Ghost, Bible preaching church and join.

Please let us know if you have made this decision and allow us to point you in the right direction.

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