

Sodom and Related Passages from the Old Testament

Please note that these passages are generally rendered in context with an occasional footnote. Included are passages noted in italics that speak to the standard for obedience for God's people or describe man's hard heart.

GENESIS

- *Genesis 1:27-28*
- Genesis 10:19
- Genesis 13:10-13
- Genesis 14:10-12
- Genesis 18:1-2, 16-33
- Genesis 19:1-29

LEVITICUS

- Leviticus 18:21-23 (*18:1-30*)
- Leviticus 20:13 (*20:1-27*)

DEUTERONOMY

- Deuteronomy 23:17
- Deuteronomy 29:23
- Deuteronomy 32:32

JUDGES

- Judges 19:1-29 (*20:1-21:25*)

1 KINGS

- 1 Kings 14:24
- 1 Kings 15:11-13
- 1 Kings 22:41-43, 46

2 KINGS

- 2 Kings 23:4-7

ISAIAH

- Isaiah 1:9-10
- Isaiah 3:8-9
- Isaiah 13:19

JEREMIAH

- Jeremiah 23:14
- Jeremiah 49:18
- Jeremiah 50:40

LAMENTATIONS

- Lamentations 4:6

EZEKIEL

- Ezekiel 16:48-56

AMOS

- Amos 4:11

ZEPHANIAH

- Zephaniah 2:9

GENESIS

- Genesis 1:27-28

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- Genesis 10:19

¹⁹ and the borders of Canaan reached from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and then toward **Sodom, Gomorrah**, Admah and Zeboyim, as far as Lasha.

- Genesis 13:10-13

¹⁰ Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. **(This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)** ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain **and pitched his tents near Sodom.** ¹³ **Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.**

- Genesis 14:10-12

¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills. ¹¹ The four kings **seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah** and all their food; then they went away. ¹² **They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.**

- Genesis 18:1-2, 16-33

The Three Visitors

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

Abraham Pleads for Sodom

¹⁶ When the men got up to leave, **they looked down toward Sodom**, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. ¹⁷ Then the Lord said, "**Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?**" ¹⁸ Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹ For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

²⁰ Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ²¹ that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

²² The men turned away and **went toward Sodom**, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

²⁶ The Lord said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of **Sodom**, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷ Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, ²⁸ what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?"

"If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."

²⁹ Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?"

He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

³⁰ Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?"

He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

³¹ Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?"

He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."

³² Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?"

He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it." [*The Lord did not answer.*]

³³ When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

LEVITICUS

- Leviticus 18:21-23 (refer to 18:1-30)

²¹ "Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molek, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

²² "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.

²³ "Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion.

- Leviticus 20:13 (refer to 20:1-27)

¹³ "If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

DEUTERONOMY

- [Deuteronomy 23:17-18](#)

17 No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute. 18 You must not bring the earnings of a female prostitute or of a male prostitute [see footnote ²] into the house of the LORD your God to pay any vow, because the LORD your God detests them both.

- [Deuteronomy 29:23](#)

23 The whole land will be a **burning waste of salt and sulfur**¹—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**, Admah and Zeboyim, **which the Lord overthrew in fierce anger.**

- [Deuteronomy 32:32](#)

Their vine comes from the vine of **Sodom**
and from the fields of **Gomorrah**.
Their grapes are filled with poison,
and their clusters with bitterness.

JUDGES

- [Judges 19:1-29 \(refer to 20:1-21:25\) "The Second Sodom"](#)

A Levite and His Concubine

19 In those days Israel had no king.

Now a Levite who lived in a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim took a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. ² But she was unfaithful to him. She left him and went back to her parents' home in Bethlehem, Judah. After she had been there four months, ³ her husband went to her to persuade her to return. He had with him his servant and two donkeys. She took him into her parents' home, and when her father saw him, he gladly welcomed him. ⁴ His father-in-law, the woman's father, prevailed on him to stay; so he remained with him three days, eating and drinking, and sleeping there.

⁵ On the fourth day they got up early and he prepared to leave, but the woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh yourself with something to eat; then you can go." ⁶ So the two of them sat down to eat and drink together. Afterward the woman's father said,

¹ Collins, Steven PhD. and Latyne Scott, PhD. *Discovering the City of Sodom: the fascinating, true account of the discovery of the Old Testament's most infamous city*. NYC: Howard Books, 2013. 216-230.

"Please stay tonight and enjoy yourself." ⁷ And when the man got up to go, his father-in-law persuaded him, so he stayed there that night. ⁸ On the morning of the fifth day, when he rose to go, the woman's father said, "Refresh yourself. Wait till afternoon!" So the two of them ate together.

⁹ Then when the man, with his concubine and his servant, got up to leave, his father-in-law, the woman's father, said, "Now look, it's almost evening. Spend the night here; the day is nearly over. Stay and enjoy yourself. Early tomorrow morning you can get up and be on your way home." ¹⁰ But, unwilling to stay another night, the man left and went toward Jebus (that is, Jerusalem), with his two saddled donkeys and his concubine.

¹¹ When they were near Jebus and the day was almost gone, the servant said to his master, "Come, let's stop at this city of the Jebusites and spend the night."

¹² His master replied, "No. We won't go into any city whose people are not Israelites. We will go on to Gibeah." ¹³ He added, "Come, let's try to reach Gibeah or Ramah and spend the night in one of those places." ¹⁴ So they went on, and the sun set as they neared Gibeah in Benjamin. ¹⁵ There they stopped to spend the night. They went and sat in the city square, but no one took them in for the night.

¹⁶ That evening an old man from the hill country of Ephraim, who was living in Gibeah (the inhabitants of the place were Benjamites), came in from his work in the fields. ¹⁷ When he looked and saw the traveler in the city square, the old man asked, "Where are you going? Where did you come from?"

¹⁸ He answered, "We are on our way from Bethlehem in Judah to a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim where I live. I have been to Bethlehem in Judah and now I am going to the house of the Lord. ¹⁹ No one has taken me in for the night. ¹⁹ We have both straw and fodder for our donkeys and bread and wine for ourselves your servants—me, the woman and the young man with us. We don't need anything."

²⁰ "You are welcome at my house," the old man said. "Let me supply whatever you need. Only don't spend the night in the square." ²¹ So he took him into his house and fed his donkeys. After they had washed their feet, they had something to eat and drink.

²² While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, "Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him."

²³ The owner of the house went outside and said to them, "No, my friends, don't be so vile. Since this man is my guest, don't do this outrageous thing. ²⁴ Look, here is my virgin daughter, and his concubine. I will bring them out to you now, and you can use them and do to them whatever you wish. But as for this man, don't do such an outrageous thing."

²⁵ But the men would not listen to him. So the man took his concubine and sent her outside to them, and they raped her and abused her throughout the night, and at dawn they let her go. ²⁶ At daybreak the woman went back to the house where her master was staying, fell down at the door and lay there until daylight.

²⁷ When her master got up in the morning and opened the door of the house and stepped out to continue on his way, there lay his concubine, fallen in the doorway of the house, with her hands on the threshold. ²⁸ He said to her, "Get up; let's go." But there was no answer. Then the man put her on his donkey and set out for home.

²⁹ When he reached home, he took a knife and cut up his concubine, limb by limb, into twelve parts and sent them into all the areas of Israel.

1 KINGS

- [1 Kings 14:24](#)

²⁴ There were even male shrine prostitutes² in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites.

- [1 Kings 15:11-13](#)

¹¹ Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done. ¹² He expelled **the male shrine prostitutes** from the land and got rid of all the idols his ancestors had made. ¹³ He even deposed his grandmother Maakah from her position as queen mother, because she had made a repulsive image for the worship of Asherah. Asa

² By my understanding, among the religious rituals carried out by the pagan people of Canaan was sexual relations (both heterosexual and homosexual) between those who practiced the religion and individuals (both male and female) who were dedicated to perform such sexual acts in the service of the religion's god, which typically took place at a shrine honoring that god. These individuals were called shrine prostitutes, cult prostitutes, or temple prostitutes.

Such actions were specifically condemned and outlawed by God for the nation of Israel in the Law given to Moses ([Deuteronomy 23:17-18](#)), which also prohibited the offering to God of funds received through those actions. Tim Maas <https://ebible.com/questions/19188-what-was-a-shrine-prostitute>

cut it down and burned it in the Kidron Valley. ¹⁴ **Although he did not remove the high places,** Asa's heart was fully committed to the LORD all his life.

- 1 Kings 22:41-43a, 46

... he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. **The high places, however, were not removed, and the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there.**

⁴⁶ **He rid the land of the rest of the male shrine prostitutes** who remained there even after the reign of his father Asa.

2 KINGS

- 2 Kings 23:4-7

⁴ The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the LORD all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley and took the ashes to Bethel. ⁵ He did away with the idolatrous priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem—those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts. ⁶ He took the Asherah pole from the temple of the LORD to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem and burned it there. He ground it to powder and scattered the dust over the graves of the common people. ⁷ He also tore down the quarters of the **male shrine prostitutes that were in the temple of the LORD**, the quarters where women did weaving for Asherah.

ISAIAH

- Isaiah 1:9-10

Unless the Lord Almighty
had left us some survivors,
we would have become like **Sodom**,
we would have been like **Gomorrah**.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord,
you rulers of **Sodom**;
listen to the instruction of our God,
you people of **Gomorrah**!

- [Isaiah 3:8-9](#)

⁸ Jerusalem staggers,

Judah is falling;

their words and deeds are against the Lord,

defying his glorious presence.

⁹ The look on their faces testifies against them;

they parade their sin like Sodom;

they do not hide it.

Woe to them!

They have brought disaster upon themselves.

- [Isaiah 13:19](#)

¹⁹ Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms,

the pride and glory of the Babylonians,^[a]

will be overthrown by God

like **Sodom and Gomorrah.**

JEREMIAH

- [Jeremiah 23:14](#)

¹⁴ And among the prophets of Jerusalem

I have seen something horrible:

They commit adultery and live a lie.

They strengthen the hands of evildoers,

so that not one of them turns from their wickedness.

They are all like **Sodom** to me;

the people of Jerusalem are like **Gomorrah.**"

- [Jeremiah 49:18](#)

¹⁸ As **Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown,**

along with their neighboring towns,"

says the Lord,

"so no one will live there;

no people will dwell in it.

- Jeremiah 50:40

40 As I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah

along with their neighboring towns,"
declares the Lord,

**"so no one will live there;
no people will dwell in it.**

LAMENTATIONS

- Lamentations 4:6

6 The punishment of my people

is greater than that of Sodom,
which was overthrown in a moment
without a hand turned to help her.

EZEKIEL

- Ezekiel 16:48-58

48 As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, **your sister Sodom and her daughters never did what you and your daughters have done.**

49 "'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. **50** They were haughty and **did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.** **51** Samaria did not commit half the sins you did. You have done more detestable things than they, and have made your sisters seem righteous by all these things you have done. **52** Bear your disgrace, for you have furnished some justification for your sisters. Because **your sins were more vile than theirs**, they appear more righteous than you. So then, be ashamed and bear your disgrace, for you have made your sisters appear righteous.

53 "'However, I will restore the fortunes of **Sodom** and her daughters and of Samaria and her daughters, and your fortunes along with them, **54** so that you may bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all you have done in giving them comfort. **55** And your sisters, Sodom with her daughters and Samaria with her daughters, will return to what they were before; and you and your daughters will return to what you were before. **56** You would not even mention your sister **Sodom** in the day of your pride, **57** before your wickedness was uncovered. Even so, you are now scorned by the daughters of Edom^{el} and all her neighbors and the daughters of the Philistines—all

those around you who despise you. ⁵⁸ **You will bear the consequences of your lewdness and your detestable practices, declares the Lord.**

AMOS

- Amos 4:11

¹¹ **"I overthrew some of you
as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.**

You were like a burning stick snatched from the fire,
yet you have not returned to me,"
declares the Lord.

ZEPHANIAH

- Zephaniah 2:9

⁹ Therefore, as surely as I live,"
declares the Lord Almighty,
the God of Israel,
"surely Moab will become like **Sodom**,
the Ammonites like **Gomorrah**—
a place of weeds and salt pits,
a wasteland forever.

**The remnant of my people will plunder them;
the survivors of my nation will inherit their land."**