**Journey through Jude—Verses 7-8**

**This is Jude’s third example of apostasy in the past. He has highlighted Israel in their unbelief, the angels who kept not their first estate, and now the people of Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them. These cities were destroyed because they defiled their flesh. The fact that God has judged men harshly in the past for sins of sensuality should be a dire warning to our generation in America!!**

**Jude 7—the apostasy of Sodom and Gomorrah**

**Jude 1:7-8, “Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”**

These two cities (**and the cities around them**) also stand as examples of God's judgment. Their sin - which was most conspicuously homosexuality, but included other sins as well - brought forth God's judgment. This verse offers the third example of God’s judgment on O.T. apostate groups. Remember, here, that his warnings are to believers, an example to the N.T. Church!

1. **Since Jude refers to Sodom and Gomorrah in his grouping with “apostates,” does this imply that they once knew the truth?**
2. **Read Genesis 18-19. Compare Jude 7 with Genesis 19. Having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh**: Jude refers to the account in Genesis 19, where the homosexual conduct of the men of Sodom is described. **Suffering the vengeance of eternal fire**: In Genesis 19, Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed with fire from heaven. But that wasn't the end of their judgment by fire. Far worse than what happened in Genesis 19, they suffered **the vengeance of eternal fire**.
	1. **Why was Lot at the city gate**? In Eastern cities it is the market, the seat of justice, of social intercourse and amusement, especially a favorite lounge in the evenings, the arched roof affording a pleasant shade.
	2. **Examine Genesis 18. Discuss Abram’s intercession for Sodom.**
	3. **Discuss the doctrine of hospitality in O.T. culture. See** [**Genesis 18:2-8**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Genesis+18:2-8)**.**
3. **What is “strange flesh?” Refer to** [**Deuteronomy 29:23**](http://biblehub.com/deuteronomy/29-23.htm)**;** [**Hosea 11:8**](http://biblehub.com/hosea/11-8.htm)**.** Going after strange flesh - "other." The reference seems to be to the unusual sin which, from the name Sodom, has been called "sodomy." Compare [Romans 1:27](http://biblehub.com/romans/1-27.htm). The meaning of the phrase "going after" is that they were greatly addicted to this vice. The word "strange, or other," refers to that which is contrary to nature. Doddridge, however, explains it, "going after strange and detestable gratifications of their pampered and indulged flesh." The verbs are selected to bring out the intense sinfulness of the sin - the one being a strong compound form expressing unreserved surrender, the other an equally strong compound form denoting a departure from the law of nature in the impurities practiced. The sin has taken its name from the city with which the Book of Genesis so fearfully connects its indulgence. It forms one of the darkest strokes in the terrible picture which Paul has given us of the state of the ancient heathen world ([Romans 1:27](http://biblehub.com/romans/1-27.htm)). With the Dead Sea probably in his view, the writer describes the doom of the cities as an example of or a witness to (the noun used being one that occurs again only in [James 5:11](http://biblehub.com/james/5-11.htm).
	1. **Reference Romans 1:26-27, James 5:11, and 2 Peter 2:6.**
4. **Review Jude 4. What do these evil men do?**
5. **What were the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah? See also** [**Ezekiel 16:49**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Ezekiel+16:49&t1=en_nas)**-50 and Leviticus 18:22.**  tells us of other sins of Sodom: **“*Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy*. Sexual depravity was not their *only* sin, but it was certainly *among* their sins, and Jude makes this plain.** [**Ezekiel 16:49-50**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ezek%2016.49-50) **declares, "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 Hebrew word translated "detestable" refers to something that is morally disgusting and is the exact same word used **in** [**Leviticus 18:22**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Lev%2018.22) **(22 “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination.”)** that refers to homosexuality as an "abomination." Similarly, [Jude 7](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Jude%207) declares, "...Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to **sexual immorality** and **perversion**." So, again, while homosexuality was not the only sin in which the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah indulged, it does appear to be the primary reason for the destruction of the cities.
	1. **Refer to Judges 1:4.**
6. **Refer to 2 Peter 2:6.**
7. **What were the cities of the plain? Refer to Genesis 14:1-2, 19:24-29,** [**Deuteronomy 29:23**](http://biblehub.com/deuteronomy/29-23.htm)**, and** [**Hosea 11:8**](http://biblehub.com/hosea/11-8.htm)**. Border with the Canaanites.** The cities of the plain (RSV, “cities of the valley”) **are the five cities—Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar**—thought to be located near the southern end of the Dead Sea. The narrative of [Genesis 14:1](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+14:1&t1=en_nas) associates these five cities and locates them **in the Valley of Siddim, the Dead Sea. All these cities except Zoar were destroyed for the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah** ([Genesis 19:24-29](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+19:24-29&t1=en_nas) ). as Sodom and Gomorrah - Notes, [2 Peter 2:6](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/2-6.htm).And the cities about them - Admah and Zeboim, [Genesis 14:2](http://biblehub.com/genesis/14-2.htm); [Deuteronomy 29:23](http://biblehub.com/deuteronomy/29-23.htm); [Hosea 11:8](http://biblehub.com/hosea/11-8.htm). There may have been other towns, also, that perished at the same time, but these are particularly mentioned. They seem to have partaken of the same general characteristics, as neighboring towns and cities generally do.
	1. **Read Genesis 13:8-18, where Abraham and Lot separate.**
		1. **Why does Lot choose the cities of the plain?**
	2. **Discuss the “first recorded war of the Bible” where Lot is taken captive in Genesis 14:10-20. NOTE: VERSE 13 IS THE FIRST TIME THE WORD, “HEBREW” IS USED.**
	3. **Talk about Melchizedek. Genesis 14:18-20.**
		1. **Review Hebrews 5:6, 10, 7:1-28 and Psalm 110:4**



* 1. **Were Sodom and Gomorrah situated in a blessed area? See Genesis 13:10-12, 19:29.** Sodom and Gomorrah were blessed, privileged places. They were situated in a blessed area: it was *well watered everywhere . . . like the garden of the Lord* ([Genesis 13:10](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+13:10&t1=en_nas)). THESE WERE VERY FERTILE, AND THE AREA WAS GREATLY POPULATED, AT OVER 1,000,000 PEOPLE IN THIS AREA.
1. **What two lessons are learned from verse 7?** This example gives two lessons.
	1. **First, it *assures* us that the *certain men* causing trouble will be judged, no matter how much they had been blessed in the past**. Just as Sodom and Gomorrah were once wonderfully blessed but eventually suffered **the vengeance of eternal fire**, so will it be with these *certain men*.
	2. **Secondly, it warns us that *we also* must continue walking with Jesus**. If the blessings of the past didn't guarantee their future spiritual state, then neither does ours.
	3. **What was going on in Sodom and Gomorrah spiritually**? **See Romans 1:18-28.** The whole creation holds man accountable**.** This means that the heathen are accountable.
		1. **Discuss “vile affections” as a disobedience to God**.
		2. **Compare Romans 1 with Jude 7 and Sodom and Gomorrah**.
2. **Talk about “the vengeance of an eternal fire.”** that, in its nature and duration, this was a striking emblem of the destruction which will come upon the ungodly**,** and bearing either sense) the retributive justice of God. They are set forth (literally, they lie before us) for **an example, suffering the vengeance (rather, the punishment) of eternal fire.** **See Matthew 25:41 and Ezekiel 16:53-55.**
3. **Discuss whether Lot was a righteous man or not.** **Use 2 Peter 2:5-9 and 3:4.** Apostolic authority has declared Lot was "a righteous man" ([2 Peter 2:8](http://www.biblestudytools.com/2-peter/2-8.html)), at bottom good, though he contented himself with lamenting the sins that he saw, instead of acting on his own convictions, and withdrawing himself and family from such a sink of corruption. But favor was shown him: and even his bad relatives had, for his sake, an offer of deliverance, which was ridiculed and spurned ([2 Peter 3:4](http://www.biblestudytools.com/2-peter/3-4.html)).
	1. **What about Lot’s wife? See Luke 9:62 and 17:32…REMEMBER LOT’S WIFE!**
	2. **What was Lot’s mental/emotional state in this story? Use 2 Peter 2:4-10.**
	3. **Comment on Ezekiel 22:30-31 and Jeremiah 5:1. Parallel with Lot.**
	4. **See I Corinthians 3:11-12, Luke 17:22-26-32.**
4. **Review and discuss** [**Romans 1:27-28**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Romans%201.27-28)**: ”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. Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done."**
5. **What is the central theme of Jude 7?** REMEMBER LOT’S WIFE

**Jude 8—the character of dangerous, certain men.**

**Jude 1:8, “Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.”**

**This verse continues Jude’s railing against “apostasy,” by pointing out “the sins of the *certain men*.” “Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.” These apostate teachers are the ones Jude warns us about in verse 4, who crept in “unaware, sideways,” into the modern church. There are four points of identification of apostate teachers that Jude gives to us in this verse: 1. They are filthy dreamers, 2. They “defile the flesh,” 3. They “despise dominion,” and 4. They “speak evil of dignities.”** Likewise also these filthy dreamers - He means to say that these false teachers and their followers were as unbelieving and disobedient as the Israelites in the wilderness, as rebellious against the authority of God as the fallen angels, and as impure and unholy as the Sodomites; and that consequently they must expect similar punishment.

1. **What does “likewise also” mean?** Jude connected the *certain men* with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah in their *sensuality* (defile the flesh) and in their rejection of God's authority (reject authority). Jude is referring you back to the three examples of apostates: disobedient Israelites, angels that sinned, and Sodom and Gomorrah.
2. **Who are “these filthy dreamers?” Refer to Genesis 38:26-30, the sin of Judah... These dreamers**: It is possible that Jude meant that the *certain men* were out of touch with reality. It is more likely that he meant they claimed to have prophetic dreams which were really deceptions. In plain English, **self-pollution**, with all its train of curses and cursed effects on body, soul, and spirit... See what is said at the conclusion of the thirty-eighth chapter of Genesis.
3. **What is “defile the flesh?” Examine 2 Peter 3:3…**scoffers coming, walking after own lust, belief in evolution and disbelief**.**
	1. **See also Galatians 5:19-20, and Matthew 15:19**. out of the heart
4. **What does “despise dominion/reject authority” refer to?** it meant that *they* wanted to be in authority. Therefore they rejected the authority of God and they rejected those God put in authority.
	1. **Examine Judges 21:25**. In the darkest days of Israel, society was characterized by a term: *every man did what was right in his own eyes* (Judges 21:25).
	2. **Comment on “despise dominion.” Use I Corinthians 12:3 and Philippians 2:10. Every knee shall bow** Despise dominion - They set all government at nought - they will come under no restraints; they despise all law, and wish to live as they list.
	3. **Compare this with today’s disrespect of policeman in modern America.**
5. **What does “speak evil of dignitaries” mean?** Probably these **dignitaries** were the apostles or other leaders in the church. Their rejection of **authority** was connected with their speaking **evil of dignitaries**.
	1. **Who are the “dignitaries” referenced here?**
	2. **Examine 2 Peter 2**:10-11. Speak evil of dignities -they blaspheme or speak injuriously of supreme authority. They treat governors and government with contempt, and calumniate and misrepresent all Divine and civil institutions.
6. **Sum-up Jude 8 for today’s believer. Re-read 2 Peter 2 to re-cap.**

**And, here are the promises:**

**Romans 8:37, “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”**

**Romans 16:20, “The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.”**

**Micah 7:19, “He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all oursins into the depths of the sea.”**

 

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