

Sodom Is An Example

2 PETER 2:6 KJV

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

JUDE 1:7 KJV

7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Sodom has become a byword or synonym for depravity and utter sinfulness. The story of Sodom is found in the Old Testament where God visits His covenant friend Abraham in Genesis 18, telling Abraham how sinful the people of Sodom have become. It ends with Sodom and the surrounding cities being destroyed by fire from heaven in Genesis 19.

In the New Testament Peter and Jude both tell us that Sodom is an example. Jude 1:7 in the King James Version even tells us that Sodom is "suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."¹ Yet it is beyond any dispute that the fire that destroyed Sodom those centuries ago is not still burning in Sodom. (Sodom is generally accepted to have been located in the Dead Sea area.)

Sodom is a type, or a picture, of judgment to come, according to the verses above. Therefore it is worthwhile for us to consider the final end of Sodom. You might think it was extinction – being wiped out of existence. But God in Ezekiel 16 tells us that Sodom will one day be raised back to its former estate! This shows that a place mentioned in Scripture as an example of judgment does not have judgment that will last forever.

Will Sodom really come back? You can bet your life on it! Any Word that God has ever spoken WILL come to pass. It does not matter how long ago God said it, He never forgets.

Note what God promises in Ezekiel concerning Sodom.

EZEKIEL 16:53,55 KJV

53 When I shall bring again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of thy captives in the midst of them:

55 When thy sisters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate.

Here is the whole passage from Ezekiel, so you can see the whole context.

¹ The word translated as eternal is aionios. See the chapter on We Have A Problem With The Translations Of Eternity for evidence this is a poor translation.

EZEKIEL 16:46-63 KJV

46 And thine elder sister is Samaria, she and her daughters that dwell at thy left hand: and thy younger sister, that dwelleth at thy right hand, is Sodom and her daughters.

47 Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations: but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways.

48 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters.

49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

50 And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

51 Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done.

52 Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters.

53 When I shall bring again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of thy captives in the midst of them:

54 That thou mayest bear thine own shame, and mayest be confounded in all that thou hast done, in that thou art a comfort unto them.

55 When thy sisters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate.

56 For thy sister Sodom was not mentioned by thy mouth in the day of thy pride,

57 Before thy wickedness was discovered, as at the time of thy reproach of the daughters of Syria, and all that are round about her, the daughters of the Philistines, which despise thee round about.

58 Thou hast borne thy lewdness and thine abominations, saith the LORD.

59 For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant.

60 Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.

61 Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant.

62 And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD:

63 That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.