



## GENESIS

*Grace from the Beginning*

**24/25 March 2018**

Vol. 40, No. 11

## The Justice and Mercy of God: The Destruction of Sodom and the Cities of the Plain

*Genesis 18:16-19:38*

### English Services

*(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)*

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Fellowship  
Worship through Giving  
Testimony  
Scripture Reading  
Worship in the Word  
*Elder Marc Sosmeña*  
Benediction

### Filipino Service

*(3 n.h.)*

Paghahanda  
Tawag sa Pagsamba  
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit  
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita  
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay  
Patotoo  
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos  
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos  
*Pastor Sam Rendal*  
Pangwakas na Panalangin  
at Basbas

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



# The Justice and Mercy of God: The Destruction of Sodom and the Cities of the Plain

Today's Message (17/18 March 2018) /  
*Genesis 18:16-19:38*

OUR ACTIONS  
TOWARD  
WICKEDNESS IN  
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US VULNERABLE  
TO NOT ONLY  
COMPROMISE,  
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DESTRUCTION. NO  
GOOD CAN COME  
FROM A BELIEVER'S  
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FROM SIN AND  
TEMPTATION.

Today, we will look at how the Lord revealed His plans for Abraham and the imminent judgment that will befall Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lot's selfish choice would prove disastrous, because over time it would draw him into Sodom's ways. It teaches us one important lesson: "all decisions have implications beyond the moment." By implication, our actions toward wickedness in any regard make us vulnerable to not only compromise, but to be led to danger, and often, even to destruction. No good can come from a believer's failure to flee from sin and temptation.

We also learn that this holy, all-just God would show mercy on Lot because of Abraham's intercession. My point is that "God hears the prayers of His people when they passionately, persistently and humbly come to Him" (*Hebrews 10:22, James 5:16*). It will do us good to reflect and ask ourselves, "What incredible things would happen if God heard a steady stream of intercessory prayer from us in GCE, and from Christians everywhere?"

Yes, even in divine judgment, we find mercy and deliverance. Let's carefully examine the movements in our passage:

## 1. GOD \_\_\_\_\_ HIS \_\_\_\_\_ PLAN TO ABRAHAM (*GENESIS 18:16-33*)

- a. Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him (*Genesis 18:16-19*).
- b. The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their grievous sin has reached God (*Genesis 18:20-21, cf. Exodus 2:23; 3:7,9; 22:22-23, Deuteronomy 24:15*).
- c. Abraham pleads with God and intercedes for the righteous (*Genesis 18:22-33*).

## 2. LOT \_\_\_\_\_ HIS \_\_\_\_\_ CHARACTER AND IRRESOLUTE DISPOSITION (*GENESIS 19:1-14, 2 PETER 2:7-8*)

- a. Two angels arrived in Sodom and Lot shows his hospitality (*Genesis 19:1-3*).

### Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Giving

Worship in Music

Doxology

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

*Elder Marc Sosmeña*

Response Hymn

Benediction



# The Justice and Mercy of God: The Destruction of Sodom and the Cities of the Plain

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- b. The men of the city, young and old, demanded for the guests, wanting to have sex with them. But Lot defended them (*Genesis 19:4-7, cf. Isaiah 1:10,17, Ezekiel 16:49-50, Jeremiah 23:14, Ezekiel 16:44-59, Jude 6-7, 2 Peter 2:6-7*).
  - c. Lot offered his daughters in exchange for the two men, but this was refused (*Genesis 19:8-9*).
  - d. The angels secured Lot and struck the wicked men with blindness (*Genesis 19:10-11*).
3. GOD \_\_\_\_\_ HIS \_\_\_\_\_ WRATH AND DESTROYED SODOM AND GOMORRAH (*GENESIS 19:15-29*)
- a. The angels announced the cities' imminent destruction and instructed Lot to run for safety. He was also told to warn his relatives, but his sons-in-law considered the matter a joke (*Genesis 19:12-25*).
  - b. Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt (*Genesis 19:26*).
  - c. Sodom and Gomorrah was completely destroyed by God's divine judgment (*Genesis 19:27-29*).
3. LOT'S DAUGHTERS \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_ MANIPULATION OF THEIR FATHER, COMMITTING INCEST (*GENESIS 19:30-38*)
- a. Only Lot and his daughters ended being saved (*Genesis 19:30*).
  - b. Lot is debased and his daughters resorted to disgracefully manipulating him and committing incest (*Genesis 19:31-35*).
  - c. The episode resulted into the origins of the Moabites and Ammonites (*Genesis 19:36-38, cf. Numbers 25, Leviticus 18:21, Deuteronomy 23:3, 1 Kings 11:33, Ruth 1:4-5; 4:13, 17*).

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Sodom and Gomorrah have stood throughout history as example of wickedness and divine judgment. It is ironic that there is little recollection of these "cities of the plain." Lot will never be mentioned again in Genesis. Desperation and fear can make us do sinful things. In many ways we are not much different than Lot and his daughters.

The story shows that God is "a consuming fire" to the wicked" (*Deuteronomy 4:24; Hebrews 12:29*), but he is friend to the righteous. He remembered the intercessions of Abraham, and what confidence this gives us, that He will remember the intercessions of the One greater than Abraham—Jesus, our great high priest, on our behalf.

God is just and God is merciful! ■

If there's one thing I treasure as a pastor, it is the realization that I am not the expert as far as youth ministry is concerned. Yes, our youth and young adult volunteers look to us pastors for guidance and direction, but in many occasions, I find myself learning from them. Our young people are by far the most passionate and dedicated group of leaders and it's truly a privilege that I am able to serve alongside them. And as Pastor JP Kabuhat often communicates to our team of leaders, it is not our goal to just simply produce disciples who will do things exactly as how we do things, but the goal rather is to raise committed servants of Christ who will excel and exceed their mentors in ministry. Our renewed commitment then is to train them to be Christ-like leaders, who will also disciple others towards Christ.

This is why Pastor JP together with other young adult leaders formed the Youth Shepherding Team whose sole task is to make sure that our young people are followed-up and discipled to follow Jesus Christ.

Church, can you imagine, I met many of these guys back when they were still running around church in DVBS, in Sunday School and at Kids' Camp? And now? The same kids are my co-workers and servants for Jesus! These guys are now discipling and counseling as *ates* and *kuyas*. They're writing and singing modern-day hymns. They're inviting friends, neighbors, and classmates to our youth camps, campus ministries and our Saturday services. They're engaged meaningfully in social media and even developing art, apps and websites all for the glory of Jesus. And you know what's amazing? They do it because they love Jesus, and they long to see other young people to also fall in love with Jesus. They are actually proof of what we hope to achieve through our disciple-making strategy, Oikos. These kids, reaching others, and teaching others about Jesus Christ.

## FROM YOUTH L.I.V.E. TO Y.A.

Having been part of the Youth L.I.V.E. community, many of these *ates* and *kuyas* are still involved in discipling high school and college students even after graduating college. This is because of what God has been emphasizing to us these past few years, and that is the idea of Oikos—Youth L.I.V.E. as a spiritual community.

And the amazing thing about these *ates* and *kuyas* is also their willingness to further grow and learn as followers of Christ. Many of them yearn mentoring, and yearn to know how they can counsel better as leaders, and yearn to be plugged into Young Adult (YA) Growth Groups themselves for feeding and accountability.

It is my prayer then that the Oikos we are seeing take place in Youth L.I.V.E. is what we will also be witnessing in all age groups and clusters of the bigger church where each one reaches one and teaches one towards Christ. Imagine the difference that would make for our church—when all of us are reaching out to our families, officemates, and friends, making Christ known!

## JOIN US!

So to all young people out there, our family is only getting bigger and you are more than welcome to join. Be part of our community, our Youth L.I.V.E. Oikos! Checkout the Youth L.I.V.E. flyer inserted in this bulletin for our schedules and upcoming events :)

For more inquiries, you may text or call us at our Youth L.I.V.E. hotline, 0917 532 7741. You may also approach us at the Youth L.I.V.E. booth at the lobby, or you may follow us on social media, [facebook.com/gcfyouthlive](https://www.facebook.com/gcfyouthlive), and Instagram and Twitter @gcfyouthlive ■

# Ablaze Devotional

**This is the very day God acted—let's celebrate and be festive! Salvation now, God.**

**Salvation now!**

**Oh yes, God—a free and full life! - Psalm 118:24-25**

(The Message)

## GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

**The GCF Hour of Prayer**  
*Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.*

**Midweek Prayer Service**  
*Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.*

The many events of life can so easily pull us in all directions. The noise of the world distracts us from hearing God in our lives. On every side, there's violence, oppression, abuse, and injustice. Humanity seems a hopeless case.

As people of the Gospel, where do we find our place in all this? We hold on to the promise of eternal life, and that heaven will come soon, but how about now? As we mature, we see that God is both at work in and through our lives, that we are being transformed into His likeness. We are called out from our individualist pursuit into a community of faith that follows Him and living out His life.

How then do we follow Jesus? How, in such a time, when it's easier to resort to fateful resignation? We are receiving God's kingdom, why care for the affairs of this world, then? What does Jesus have to do with it? But we have to understand: the Gospel is political. Politics simply refers to 'the affairs of this world'; it is 'influencing other people on a civic or individual level'.

The politics of Jesus, however, does not concern the affairs of this world as we know it. But it does affect other people's lives and relationships. Jesus' politics is about the coming of the kingdom, God's rule over all creation. He is king after all, of both heaven and earth, and we are called to be His people and witnesses. Experiencing and witnessing the work of God, lets us see what His kingdom is— healing lives, bringing wholeness and harmony to all. It is a kingdom of love and justice that is stronger than any forces of evil that seems to rule the land.

When we remain anchored in the heart of God and rooted in God's love, we have nothing to fear, not even death. Everything joyful and everything painful will give us a chance to proclaim the Kingdom of Jesus ■

## Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

*March 30:* Good Friday Service at 3:00 p.m.  
*March 31 (Sat.):* Concert of Prayer at 5:00 p.m.  
*March 31 (Sat.):* Traditional Service at 6:00 p.m.  
*April 1:* Special Resurrection Sunday Services at 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. (*two services only*)

### BIBLICAL PORTRAIT OF MARRIAGE I

*Those who have missed classes in previous batches are encouraged to attend this batch.*  
April 14, 21, & 28 (Sats.) 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
at the Fellowship Hall | **Last day of reg.: April 8**  
Contact Dana at 0917 532 7741 to register

### LOVING GOD CONFERENCE

*With Pastor Edmund and Ann Chan*  
May 11-12 (Fri. & Sat.) here at GCF  
Tickets are available today (800.00 & 400.00)  
at the ministry information booth

### HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

*A tour of holy sites in Israel, Egypt and Jordan to be led by Pastor Larry Pabiona*  
October 23 to November 5, 2018  
For more details please contact Mina Tanchi at 633 8959 or e-mail [smpaguitatrvi@yahoo.com](mailto:sampaguitatrvi@yahoo.com)

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

*March 2018*

	March Budget	Received, Mar. 1-21
General	8,156,063	5,856,290
Missions	927,000	774,287
	Jan. - Mar. Budget	Received, Jan. - Mar.
General	28,952,111	20,035,590
Missions	2,781,000	2,452,422

### Flower Ministry

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to our generous and loving God and for His mercy and grace by an anonymous donor, Arnel Almirez, the Valera family, and the Messiah College.*

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.





## From being reached to reaching out

by *Perl Rosales*

I met and gave my life to Jesus Christ on May 22, 2014 as a Kaunlaran High School student leader, through GCF Youth L.I.V.E.'s "From the Ground Up" college camp. Years after receiving Christ, I am now given the opportunity by God to reach my *oikos* as a college student through the same ministry that reached out to me.

GCF Youth L.I.V.E.'s EARIST/PUP Frontline ministry started in September 2015 through much prayer. There were only six attendees that time and it was led by my Youth L.I.V.E mentors Ate Dre Dizon, Kuya Blythe Dizon and Kuya Eric Perez. Meeting after meeting took place, and from having just a handful, we grew and had 15 regular attendees. With prayer and by consistently meeting and studying God's Word, Mitch Arindayan and I were helped and mentored to now lead 20-30 classmates and blockmates from our respective campuses.

Being in the Frontline has been helping me to know and see how God works in even the little things that happen in the lives of these people. Hearing their different stories and knowing how I can pray for them is such a big joy for myself and for Mitch. Despite the busyness of school—paper works, projects, requirements, plus family responsibilities—at the end of the week our time together is what I personally look forward to. I am really grateful to have this opportunity—to serve God by having fellowship with His people and by studying His Word. What I love the most is that because of Jesus Christ, our differences do not really matter because we are being connected towards Himself and towards one another by the One who makes all things possible ■

**ON THE COVER:** *The Destruction of Sodom And Gomorrah* by John Martin (1852) (public domain, Wikimedia). In the painting, the two cities are rained with sulfur and fire, while Lot and his daughters escape. Lot's wife is also shown in the scene as a pillar of salt.

# Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

### SPORTS GGS (Three Groups)

*for Boys aged 11 to 18*

Saturdays, 12 nn. to 3:00 p.m.

At GCF Multi-purpose Gym, 6th flr.

### Pass by the GGEX

**(Growth Group Express)!**

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B124

Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

### HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUPS

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.,

and 4:30-5:30 p.m.

At GCF (Youth Center, 6th flr.)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

**8 a.m.:** *Ages 1-3, B415; Ages 4-5, B410;*

*Age 6, B414; Age 7, B403; Age 8, B413,*

*Ages 9-10, B411; Ages 11-12, B409;*

*Transition Age 13, B406*

**10:30 a.m.:** *Ages 1-2, B412; Age 3, B415;*

*Age 4, B408; Age 5, B410; Age 6A, B402;*

*Age 6B, B403; Age 7, B401; Age 8, B413;*

*Age 9, B411; Age 10, B414; Age 11, B409;*

*Age 12, B405; Transition Age 13, B406*

**3 p.m.:** *Ages 1-5, B415; Ages 6-9, B402;*

*Ages 10-12, B403*

**5:30 p.m.:** *Ages 1-5, B415; Age 6, B402;*

*Ages 7-9, B401; Ages 10-12, B403;*

*Transition Age 13, B404*

**Nursery:** *2<sup>nd</sup> flr. for nursing moms and*

*babies aged one week to 11 months old*

**Yayas:** *8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., B404*

**Sunday School Parents' Class:**

*9:30 a.m., B406*

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.*



## Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: [email@gcf.org.ph](mailto:email@gcf.org.ph) • Website: [www.gcf.org.ph](http://www.gcf.org.ph)

# How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**  
(Specify age group: \_\_\_\_\_)  
(Specify group composition: \_\_\_\_\_)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Landline no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): \_\_\_\_\_

*Today is 24/25 March 2018, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

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# God's Way to Heaven

## THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."  
*(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).*

## THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

**God is holy and righteous:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

**Man is sinful:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).  
**Sin demands a penalty:** "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

**Christ is the expression of God's love for us:** "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

**Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior:** "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

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PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

## Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.