

# Strange Flesh in Sodom

Jude 7; Genesis 19

Jude

a study of the epistle

# 3 Warnings from the OT

1. v. 5: Israel in the Wilderness

2. v. 6: Rebellious Angels

**3. v. 7: Sodom & Gomorrah**



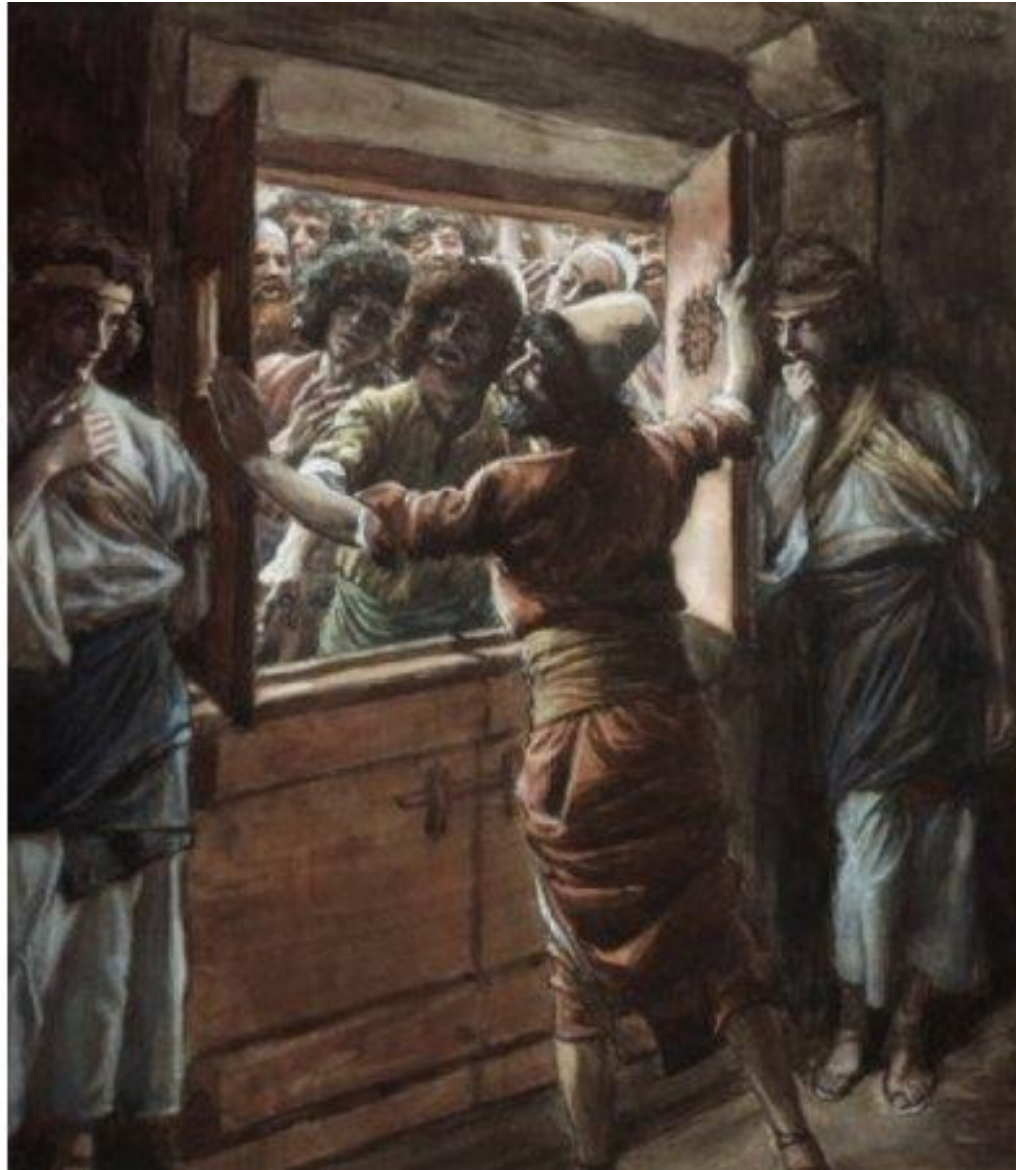
## Jude 7

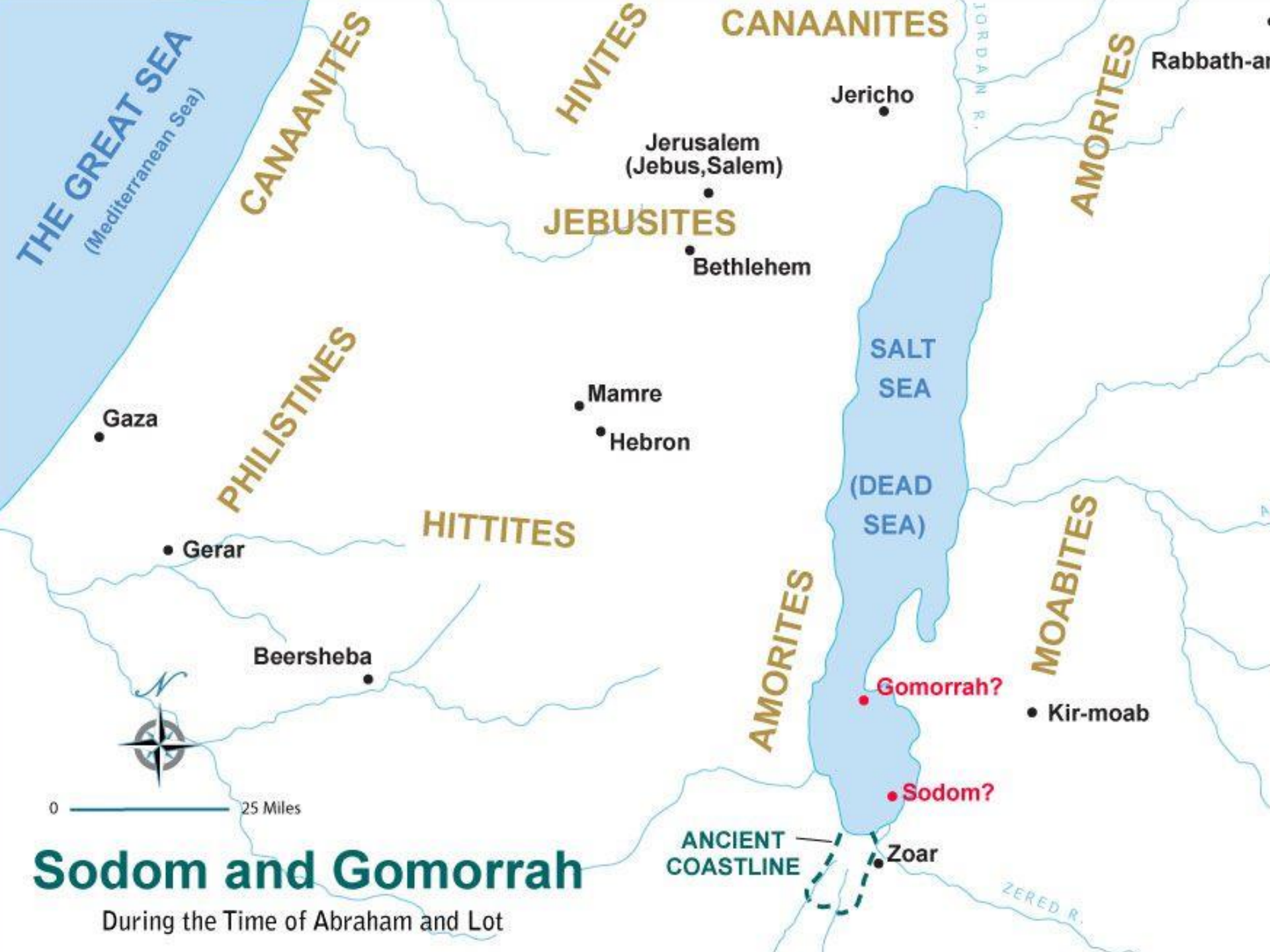
**7** just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

# Why Sodom & Gomorrah?

- Their punishment functions as an example of what God will do to those who oppose Him in the future.
1. Unbelieving Israelites were “destroyed”
  2. Sinful angels are bound in “eternal chains”
  3. Sodom & Gomorrah are punished with “eternal fire”







THE GREAT SEA  
(Mediterranean Sea)

CANAANITES

HIVITES

CANAANITES

AMORITES

Rabbath-am

Jericho

Jerusalem  
(Jebus, Salem)

JEBUSITES

Bethlehem

PHILISTINES

Gaza

Mamre

Hebron

HITTITES

Gerar

Beersheba

SALT  
SEA

(DEAD  
SEA)

MOABITES

Kir-moab

AMORITES

Gomorrah?

Sodom?

Zoar

ANCIENT  
COASTLINE

ZERED R.



0 25 Miles

# Sodom and Gomorrah

During the Time of Abraham and Lot



# Sexual Sins of Sodom & Gomorrah

- Josephus says they were punished for “Sodomitic practices.”
- Philo specifically traced their sin to homosexuality.
- In *Testament of Naphtali*, Israel is exhorted to avoid the sin of Sodom “which departed from the order of nature.”
- *Testament of Levi* lists the sexual sins of Israel and concludes with “your sexual relations will become like Sodom and Gomorrah.”

# Sexual Sins of Sodom & Gomorrah

- *Jubilees* argues that Sodom and Gomorrah were punished for their fornication and impurity.
- *Testament of Benjamin* predicts future sexual promiscuity “like that of Sodom.”
- And clearly Jude has sexual sin in mind with “indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh.”



# Other Sins of Sodom & Gomorrah

- *Sirach* mentions their “arrogance.”
- *3 Maccabees* mentions “injustice.”
- Josephus criticized Sodom for its pride and hatred of foreigners.

## Ezekiel 16:49

“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy.”





## Deuteronomy 29:23

“All its land is brimstone and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows in it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and in His wrath.”



## *The Wisdom of Solomon 10:7*

“Evidence of their wickedness still remains: a continually smoking wasteland, plants bearing fruit that does not ripen.”

## Josephus said:

“In fact, vestiges of the divine fire and faint traces of five cities are still visible. Still, too, may one see ashes reproduced in the fruits, which from their outward appearance would be thought edible, but on being plucked with the hand dissolve into smoke and ashes. So far are the legends about the land of Sodom borne out by ocular evidence.”



## He Goes On To Say:

“Even to this day there are seen in Syria monuments of the unprecedented destruction that fell upon them, in the ruins, and ashes, and sulphur, and smoke, and the dusky flame which still is sent up from the ground as of a fire smoldering beneath.”

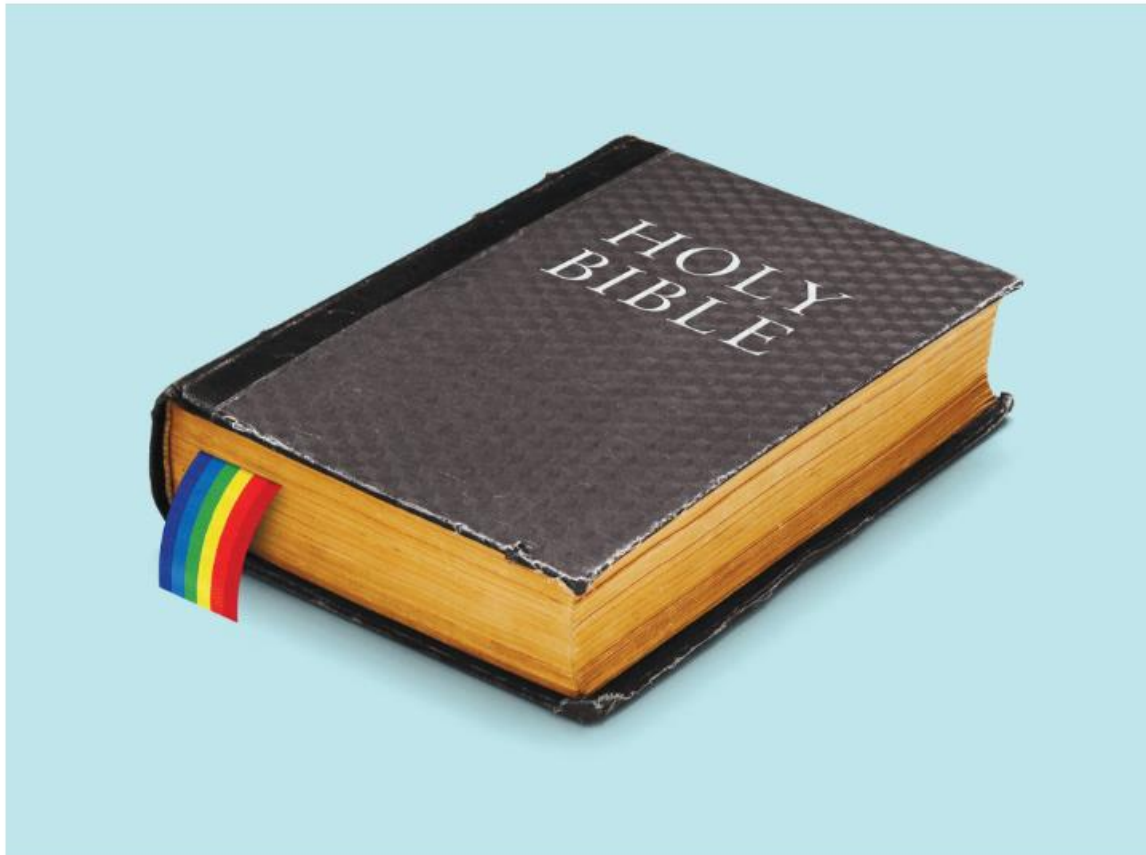
# The New York Times

## The Secret History of Leviticus

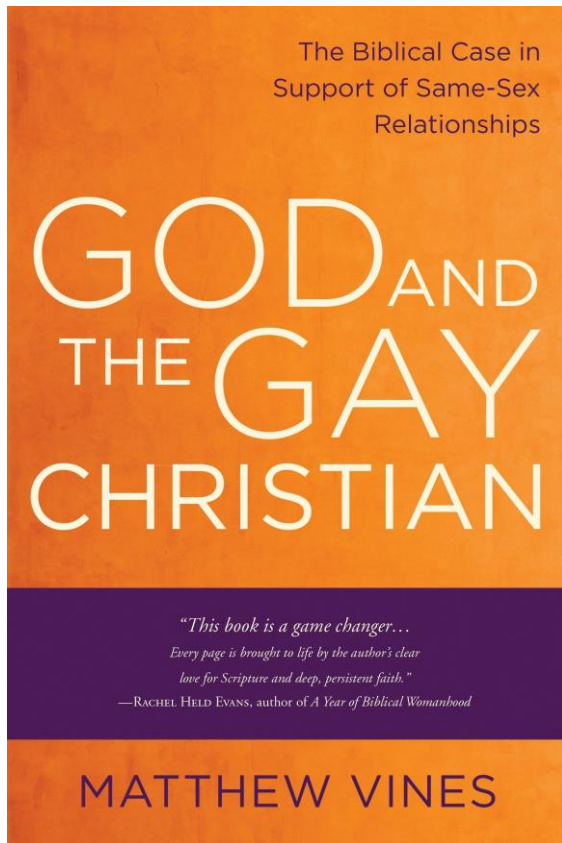
By Idan Dershowitz

Dr. Dershowitz is a biblical scholar.

July 21, 2018







# Matthew Vines

## The Cultural Distance Argument

## The Current Argument

“The kind of same-sex behavior condemned in the Bible is not what modern-day LGBT Christians practice.”



# Kevin DeYoung's Summary

“The issue was not gender (whether the lovers were male or female), but gender roles (whether a man was overly feminized and acting like a woman). The issue was not men having sex with men, but men having sex with boys. The issue was not consensual same-sex sexual intimacy, but gang rape, power imbalances, and systemic oppression. The revisionist case can take many forms, but central to most of them is the “not that kind of homosexuality!” argument. We can safely set aside the scriptural prohibitions against homosexual behavior because we are comparing apples and oranges: we are talking in our day about committed, consensual, lifelong partnerships, something the biblical authors in their day knew nothing about. Thus, on this view the Bible does not prohibit homosexuality per se, only abusive forms of homosexuality like pederasty, master-slave exploitation, promiscuity, rape, victimization, etc.”

# On Genesis 19 & Jude 7

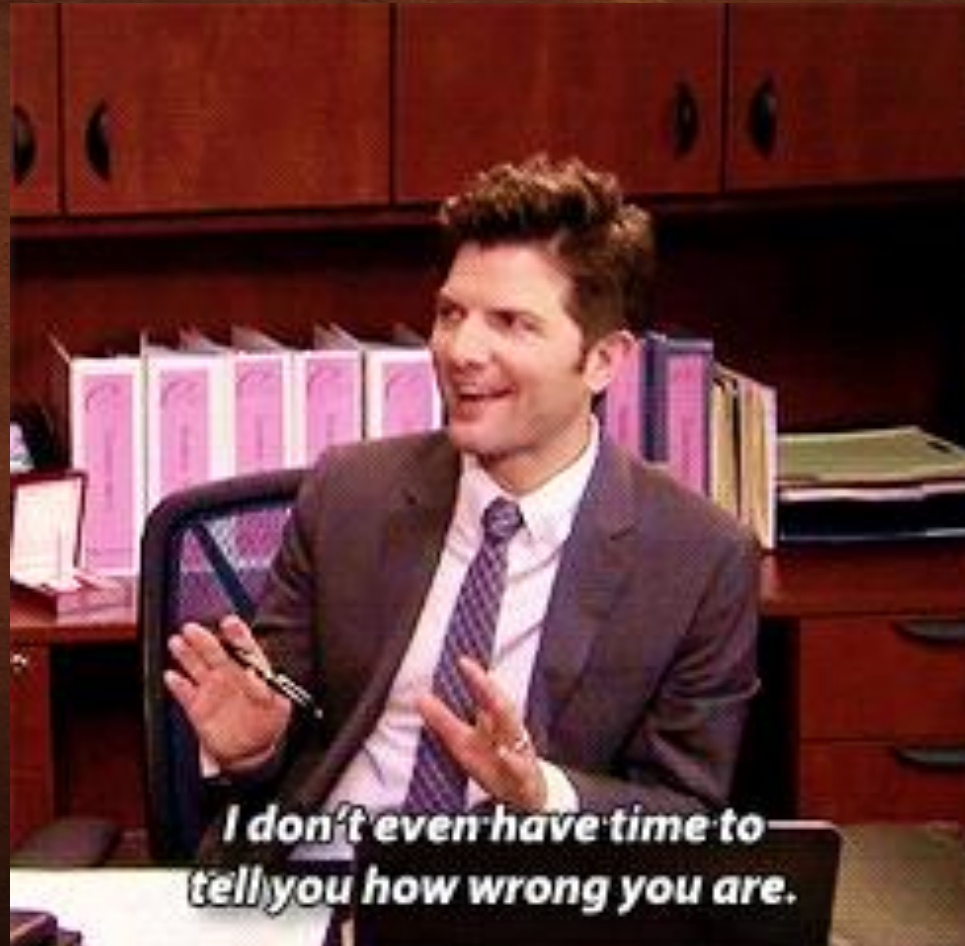
“Sodom and Gomorrah involved a threatened gang rape, not...loving relationships based on mutuality and fidelity.” According to Ezekiel 16:49, the iniquity of Sodom was “pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.” Jude’s reference in verse 7 to the men of Sodom and Gomorrah going after “different flesh”...“likely refers to the attempted rape of non-human beings, angels.”



# Understand the Position

- The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was “pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness” and a failure to help “the poor and needy” (Ez. 16:49).
- The “strange flesh” in Jude 7 is referring to “attempted rape of non-human beings, angels.”

# Allow Me To Retort.



*I don't even have time to  
tell you how wrong you are.*



# Point #1

- In Genesis 19, there was no rape, only an expressed intention that was not fulfilled.
- Thus, according to the revisionist view, God annihilated two entire cities in part because a gang of ruffians hoped to sexually assault two men they never actually touched.



## This Seems Odd...

- It's hard to believe that merely attempting a crime—even one as despicable as rape—would bring annihilation.
- I think we can eliminate that option.

## Point #2

- Jude 7 says, “Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh,” which the group interprets as sexual fornication with angels.
- Yes, sex with angels would be strange, but there is absolutely no indication the men of Sodom—or even Lot—knew the visitors were angels.



# Furthermore...

- The strange-flesh sex was happening in neighboring cities as well.
- Were all the surrounding cities experiencing angelic visitors being targeted for sexual assault?
- The “strange flesh” that appealed to the sexual appetites of the men of that region clearly was not angelic flesh.
- Eliminate that option, too.



## Point #3

Nothing that happened at Lot's house that night could have been the reason God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—neither attempted gang rape, nor sex with angels, nor anything else that took place that evening.

Why?

Turn to Genesis 18:16-21



# Scripture is Explicit

- God had sent the angels to visit judgment before those incidents ever happened: “for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it.” (Gen. 19:13).
- **Something terrible had been going on for so long in the those two cities that God’s judgment was pronounced before the angels even arrived.**



# Ask Peter and Jude

- 2 Peter 2:7-10 says Lot was “oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men,” and, “for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds” as they would “indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority.”
- Jude 7 says that those who, in the entire region of Sodom and Gomorrah, “indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”

# The Sin, Therefore:

- Was some kind of ongoing, sensuous behavior Lot saw and heard in which men, driven by corrupt desire contrary to right principle, rejected what was proper in order to pursue flesh that was odd, unusual, abnormal and “strange.”
- **There is only one characteristic of Sodom’s assailants that fits this description: their homosexuality.**
- Curiously, neither Peter nor Jude even hint at any other problem, meaning sexual sin eclipsed everything else.



# My Take

- The references to strange flesh, to the corruption of their sensuality, to actions contrary to right principle, and to a pursuit of fleshly appetites in a way not proper, all signal an abandonment of God's expressed purpose for sex established in His original, created order emphasized by Jesus.
- In this, they despised His authority by exchanging the proper for the perverse, triggering the most severe judgment anywhere in biblical history outside of the flood.

**But, But...**

**What about the reference to  
Ezekiel 16:49?**

**Ezekiel never mentions  
homosexuality!**

**Correct, he doesn't use that word,  
but...**



## Ezekiel 16:49-50

**49** Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy.

**50** Thus they were haughty and committed **abominations** before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw it.

# Leviticus 18:22

You shall not lie  
with a male as  
one lies with a  
female; it is an  
**abomination.**





## Their Response:

“The prohibitions of Leviticus do not apply to Christians...The New Testament teaches that Christ’s death and resurrection fulfilled the Law...which is why it’s many rules or regulations have never applied to Christians.”

## Question:

Does the fact that “Christ is the end of the Law” liberate us now from every moral constraint?

**Of course not.**

That’s why their points about “New” vs. “Old” are irrelevant to our issue.



# The Real Question is This:

Do the Mosaic prohibitions of same-sex behavior reflect temporal provisions for Jews in the theocracy, or do they reflect universal moral concerns for everyone?

## Context: Leviticus 18:20-23\*

**20** You shall not have intercourse with your neighbor's wife, to be defiled with her. **21** You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the Lord. **22** You shall not lie with a male as lone lies with a female; it is an abomination. **23** Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.



# Context, Context, Context!

- The “abomination” of homosexuality in Leviticus 18 is grouped with condemnation of:
  1. v. 20: Adultery
  2. v. 21: Child sacrifice
  3. v. 23: Bestiality.

Let's Keep Reading

Leviticus 18:24-30



# No Accident

- These were the very behaviors that brought judgment on the Canaanites to begin with – people who also were gentiles “not under the Law.”
- **Nevertheless, this did not exonerate them.**
- They still were “spewed out” for their wickedness.

## Note Also

- The prohibition of homosexual behavior is unqualified—no exceptions for loving, consensual, committed relationships.
- And both participants were punished here (Lev. 20:13) – unlike rape where only the abuser was penalized (Deut. 22:25-26) – so this passage couldn't merely be prohibiting coercive, abusive sex.



# The Facts:

- Whenever a man lies with another man the way he should be lying with a woman, something is terribly wrong.
- He is exchanging the natural for unnatural.
- He is rejecting the woman who was “fit” for him for a man who was not.
- Once again, the created order is subverted—God’s original purpose for sex is distorted and corrupted.
- The result: a “an abomination.”

**Next Week:**

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**A Very  
Interesting  
Passage**





