

Luke 17:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Analysis

But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. The conjunction **But** (δὲ, de) marks the dramatic shift from normalcy to catastrophe. **The same day that Lot went out** (ἡ ἡμέρᾳ ἐξῆλθεν Λὼτ ἀπὸ Σοδόμων, hē hēmera exēlthen Lōt apo Sodōmōn)—judgment fell immediately after God's people were removed to safety. **It rained fire and brimstone from heaven** (πῦρ καὶ θεῖον ἔβρεξεν ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ, pyr kai theion ebrexen ap' ouranou)—supernatural destruction, not natural disaster. Theion (θεῖον, brimstone/sulfur) intensifies burning, making fire inescapable.

And destroyed them all (καὶ ἀπώλεσεν πάντας, kai apōlesen pantas)—identical language to the flood account (v. 27). Total destruction, no survivors outside Lot's family. The timing is critical: judgment came **the same day** (ἡ ἡμέρᾳ, hē hēmera) Lot departed. This establishes the pattern: God removes the righteous before pouring out wrath. Genesis 18:23-32 records Abraham's intercession—God wouldn't destroy Sodom if even ten righteous were found. None existed (except Lot's family), so God evacuated the righteous before executing judgment.

This prefigures end-times sequence: believers will be separated from the wicked at Christ's return (Matthew 24:40-41). The separation isn't secret pre-tribulation rapture but visible judgment-day division. Like Lot's same-day sequence (exit Sodom, destruction falls), Christ's return brings simultaneous salvation and judgment—the righteous gathered, the wicked destroyed (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

The application: don't assume gradual decline gives time for later repentance. Judgment comes suddenly, like fire from heaven, catching the unprepared.

Historical Context

Genesis 19:23-29 describes Sodom's destruction in vivid detail. Angels physically removed Lot, his wife, and daughters from Sodom as the sun rose (Genesis 19:15-17, 23). Immediately, 'the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven' (Genesis 19:24). The cities were utterly overthrown; even the valley's vegetation perished (Genesis 19:25). Abraham witnessed the smoke 'as the smoke of a furnace' (Genesis 19:28).

The destruction was comprehensive and permanent. Archaeological evidence suggests the Dead Sea region experienced catastrophic burning. The cities have never been rebuilt—to this day, the area remains desolate. Peter references this event as warning of future judgment: 'turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly' (2 Peter 2:6). Jude 7 identifies eternal fire as punishment for their sexual immorality. Jesus uses this history as eschatological warning: as fire from heaven destroyed Sodom when Lot left, so cosmic judgment will fall when Christ returns. The lesson: judgment delayed is not judgment denied—God will settle accounts.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the 'same day' timing of Lot's departure and Sodom's destruction demonstrate God's precise control over judgment timing?
2. What comfort does God's pattern of evacuating the righteous before destroying the wicked provide for believers facing tribulation?

3. How should the totality and suddenness of Sodom's destruction motivate urgency in calling others to repentance?

Interlinear Text

ἡ	δὲ	ἡμέρᾳ	ἐξῆλθεν	Λὼτ	ἀπ'	Σοδόμων	ἔβρεξεν
G3739	But	the same day	went	that Lot	from	Sodom	it rained
G1161		G2250	G1831	G3091	G575	G4670	G1026
πῦρ	καὶ	θεῖον	ἀπ'	οὐρανοῦ	καὶ	ἀπώλεσεν	ἄπαντας·
fire	and	brimstone	from	heaven	and	destroyed	them all
G4442	G2532	G2303	G575	G3772	G2532	G622	G537

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 11:8 (Parallel theme): And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

2 Peter 2:6 (Parallel theme): And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

Jude 1:7 (Parallel theme): Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, 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.

Zephaniah 2:9 (Parallel theme): Therefore as I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my people shall possess them.

Isaiah 13:19 (Parallel theme): And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

Jeremiah 50:40 (Parallel theme): As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.

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