



**DECLOBBERING THOSE  
GLOBBER TEXTS**

**SODOM**



# HOUSEKEEPING

- We respect each other
- Anything Tom & Catherine says is public  
Anything else, especially participant names, is confidential
- Any questions of clarification: use the raise hand button
- We will have pauses for more questions
- All questions will be answered, if possible live, but definitely in a video later.



# **BEFORE WE START** **A DISCLAIMER**



# CONTENT WARNING

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE**  
**VICTIM BLAMING**





# SODOM & GOMORRAH



# WHY WERE SODOM & GOMORRAH DESTROYED?



# WHY WERE SODOM & GOMORRAH DESTROYED?

- General wickedness
- Not taking care of the poor
- Homosexuality // bisexuality
- Adultery
- (Attempted) sexual violence
- Inhospitality
- Pride, luxury, idleness
- More...?



# OUR QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

**What does the Hebrew mean?**

→ *What exactly does Leviticus forbid?*

**What is the chapter about?**

→ *Why is it forbidden?*

**How can we interpret this passage?**

→ *Are the reasons it's forbidden still valid for us?*



# OUR QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

**What does the text mean?**


→ *What exactly is the text about?*

**What is the context about?**

→ *Why is this passage included in Genesis?*

**How can we interpret this passage?**

→ *How did and do people interpret Sodom?*



19 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed down with his face to the ground. 2 He said, “Please, my lords, turn aside to your servant’s house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you can rise early and go on your way.” They said, “No; we will spend the night in the square.” 3 But he urged them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. 4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house; 5 and they called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we may know them.” 6 Lot went out of the door to

the men, shut the door after him, 7 and said, “I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. 8 Look, I have two daughters who have not known a man; let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please; only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof.” 9 But they replied, “Stand back!” And they said, “This fellow came here as an alien, and he would play the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them.” Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near the door to break it down. 10 But the men inside reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. 11 And they struck with blindness the men who were at the door of the house, both small and great, so that they were unable to find the door.


**GENESIS 19:1-12**



# THINGS TO NOTE IN THE PASSAGE

**1. Emphasis on hospitality/migration/foreignness**





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# **THINGS TO NOTE IN THE PASSAGE**


- 1. Emphasis on hospitality/migration/foreignness**
- 2. Emphasis on depravity of all men of Sodom**



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**GENESIS 19:1-12**



# WHY WERE SODOM & GOMORRAH DESTROYED?

- **Inhospitality**
- **Complete wickedness of men**
- **Homosexuality/homoeroticism/  
bisexuality**
- **Adultery**
- **(Attempted) sexual violence**



# OUR QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

**What does the text mean?**

→ *What exactly is the text about?*

**What is the context about?**

→ *Why is this passage included in Genesis?*

**How can we interpret this passage?**

→ *How did and do people interpret Sodom?*





# THE CONTEXT

- 18:1–15      Angels come to Sodom to promise Abraham a son**
- 18:16–33    God and Abraham ‘negotiate’ about Sodom**
- 19:1–11      Clobber Text**
- 19:12–29    Lot is saved (‘God remembers Abraham’),  
Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed**
- 19:30–38    Lot’s daughters commit sexual violence against him,  
they both become pregnant**



# WHY IS THIS PASSAGE IN GENESIS?

- 1. Example of the wickedness of Sodom, justifying destruction**
- 2. Contrast and compare Lot & Abraham**
- 3. Condemnation of sexual violence**
- 4. These texts are examples of what happens when you break God's law, preparing us for Leviticus 18.**



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# **NOT A (USUALLY) CLOBBER TEXT!**

**This was the guilt of your sister Sodom:**

**she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease,  
but did not aid the poor and needy.**

**They were haughty,**

**and committed an abomination before me;  
therefore I removed them when I saw it.**

**EZEKIEL 16:49-50**



**BUT LET JUDGMENT  
RUN DOWN AS WATERS,  
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS  
AS A MIGHTY STREAM.**

**EZEKIEL 16:49-50**



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therefore I removed them when I saw it.**

**EZEKIEL 16:49-50**



# **GLOBBER TEXT 7**

**Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. (NRSV)**

**In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. (NIV)**

**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. (KJV)**

**as 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. (NKJV)**

**JUDE 7**



# CLOBBER TEXT 7

**Like Sodom and Gomorra and the cities around them, in the same way as these [angels], fornicating and going after different flesh (*sarkas heteras*), they are set as an example undergoing the punishment of eternal fire (TdB)**

**JUDE 7**



# CLOBBER TEXT 7

**And the angels who did not keep their own beginning, but left their own dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deepest darkness for the judgment of the great day.  
Like Sodom and Gomorra and the cities around them, in the same way as these [angels], fornicating and going after different flesh (*sarkas heteras*), they are set as an example undergoing the punishment of eternal fire (TdB)**

**JUDE 6-7**



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# PETER DAMIAN

±988–1072

*monk, cardinal,  
doctor of the church  
feast day 21 February*

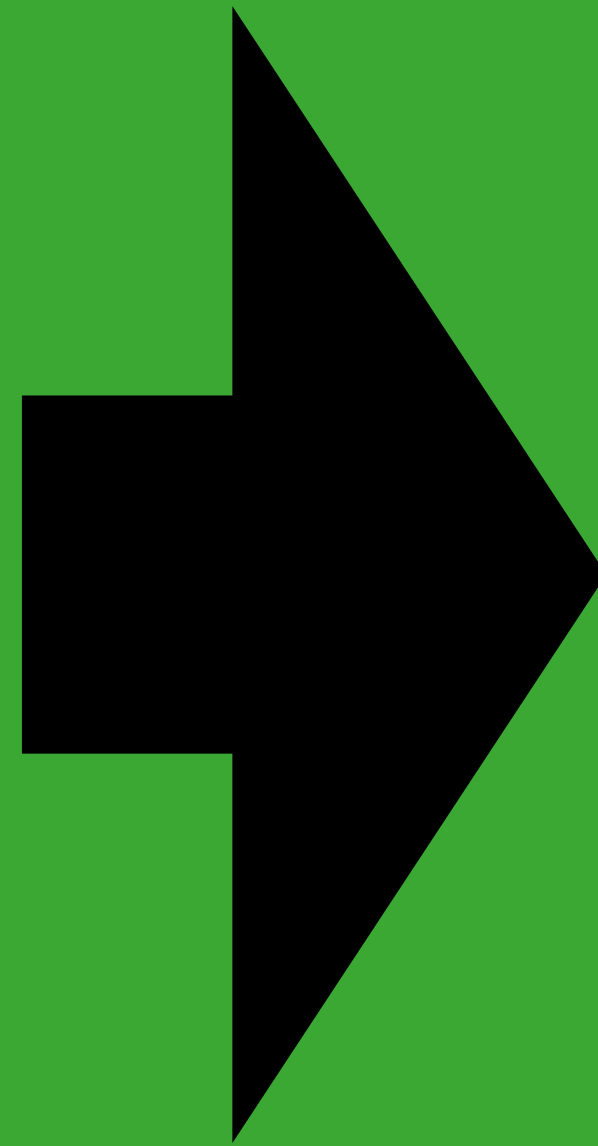






# LUXURIA

**PRIDE  
LEADS  
TO**



**VAINGLORY  
ENVY  
WRATH  
SADNESS  
AVARICE  
GLUTTONY  
LUXURIA**

# PETER DAMIAN





# PETER DAMIAN

*“I distinguish four types of this nefarious sin. (1) Some pollute themselves, (2) others are soiled by fondling each other’s male parts, (3) others fornicate between the thighs or (4) in the rear, and these ascend by grades, such that each one is worse than the previous.”*





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# ANTI-HOMOPHOBIC READING STRATEGIES

WHAT	CONTEXT	ANSWER
Homosexuality // bisexuality	Examples of breaking Leviticus 18	How do you know that it's homosexuality/ homo-eroticism that is the problem?
Adultery	Examples of breaking God's ideal of marriage	We don't need Gen 19 to talk about adultery. And homosexuality ≠ adultery.
(Attempted) sexual violence	Men of sodom and daughters of Lot (attempt to) commit same act	We can all agree that sexual violence is bad.
Inhospitality	Abraham is great host, Lot is a terrible one.	Hospitality ≠ homosexuality.
Complete wickedness of men	Justification of destruction.	Was it really their sexual identity that was the issue, and not ... ..?





**FEEDBACK** [is.gd/sodomfeedback](https://is.gd/sodomfeedback)

**SLIDES** [is.gd/sodomslides](https://is.gd/sodomslides)

**NEXT TIME** December 10, [bit.ly/clobbertexts](https://bit.ly/clobbertexts)