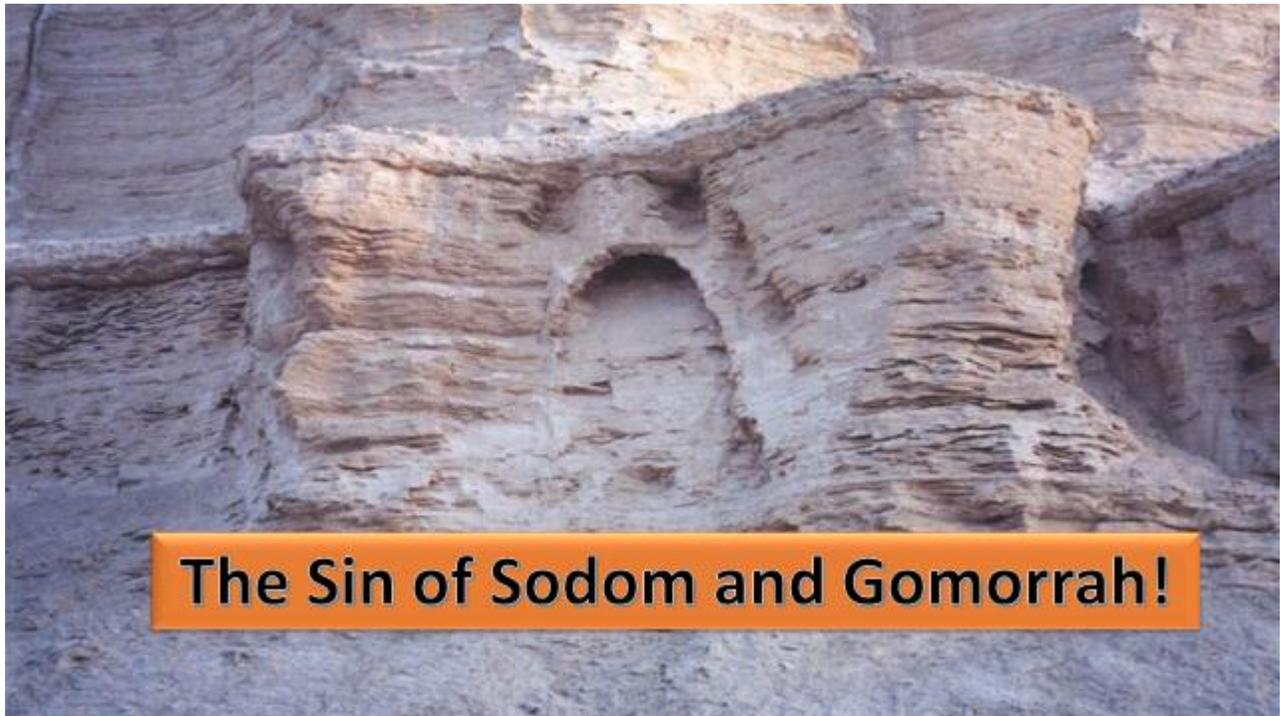


Just for clarification: In my presentations I am using YHVH (Yahuwah) instead of LORD, which is a title and not a name and I am using Yahusha instead of Jesus, which is not a translation but a transliteration and really has no meaning, neither in Hebrew nor in English! YHVH (Yahuwah) and Yahusha are the actual original names and the true nature and character of them.

This presentation is entitled:



What was the Sin of Sodom and Gomorrah?

*This particular judgment is referenced throughout scripture as an example of wickedness that we should avoid. 2. Peter (Kefa Bet) 2:6 tells us, " **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.**"*

In Matthew (Mattityahu) – KJV - 11:23-24 Yahusha states, "**And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24. **But I say unto****

you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee."

And, in Luke 17:28-30 (KJV) he states, "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29. But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30. **Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."**

Because this account is of such a great focus and is often used throughout the scriptures as an example of ungodly people and Yahuwah's judgment, we should want to know what led to it all. Indeed, as 2Peter 2:6 told us, **this story is highlighted as an example of wickedness that we should strive to avoid.** Thus, we should spend a little extra time meditating on this passage, and what the rest of the scriptures say about it.



There are several ideas that are proposed as to what the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was and why Adonai judged these cities so harshly. Indeed, the sin was so heavy and grievous that it warranted a personal visit from Yahuwah Himself

Because it states in Genesis 18:20-21 (KJV): "And YHVH, said, because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and **because their sin is very grievous**; 18. I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know."

When the Creator Elohim calls something a grievous sin that should be taken seriously!

ALL SINS are great sins, but yet some sins are greater than others. Every sin has in it the very venom of rebellion, and is full of the essential marrow of traitorous rejection of Elohim. But there be some sins which have in them a greater development of the essential mischief of rebellion, and which wear upon their faces more of the brazen pride which defies the Most High. It is wrong to suppose that because all sins will condemn us, that therefore one sin is not greater than another. The fact is, that while all transgression is a greatly grievous sinful thing, yet there are some transgressions which have a deeper shade of blackness, and a more double scarlet-dyed hue of criminality than others. It is remarkable, that though an atonement was provided under the Jewish law for every kind of sin, there was this one exception: **"But the soul that sinneth presumptuously shall have no atonement; it shall be out off from the midst of my people."**

Part of a Sermon delivered on Sabbath Morning, June 7, 1857, C. H. Spurgeon at the Music Hall, Royal Surrey Gardens.

<http://www.spurgeon.org/sermons/0135.htm>

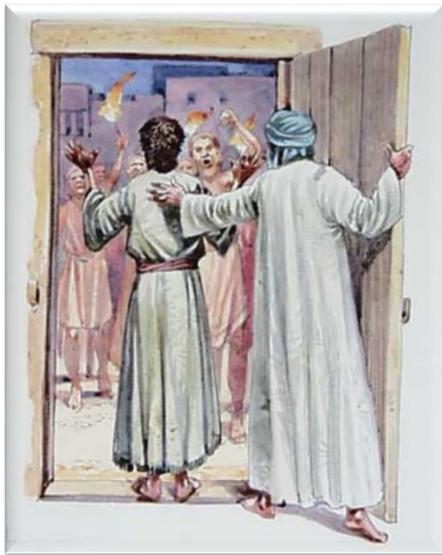
So the question: What was the Sin Of Sodom and Gomorrah?



And, yet some say **"That it was pride and greed."**

The most common response to the question: "What was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah?" is that it was homosexuality. That is how the term "sodomy" came to be used to refer to anal sex between two men, whether consensual or forced. Clearly, homosexuality was part of why Elohim destroyed the two cities. The men of Sodom and Gomorrah wanted to perform homosexual gang rape on the two angels (who were disguised as men). At the same time, it is not biblical to say that homosexuality was the exclusive reason why Yahuwah destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. These cities were definitely not exclusive in terms of the sins in which they indulged.

Although people will want to make a particular case for one or the other, as we search the scriptures I believe we can find truth in all of these claims. Earlier we read that Yahusha references Sodom as an example of what this world will look like at the end of time, when He returns. Therefore, let us search passages of Scripture to see if we discover any parallels to our present day in correlation to what it says **about what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah.**



Let's see what Scripture says. After Lot insisted that the two angels stay in his home we read the following in Genesis (Bereshit) 19:4-5 (CJB) . It says, **"But before they could go to bed, the men of the city surrounded the house - young and old, everyone from every neighborhood of Sodom. They called Lot and said to him, 'Where are the men who came to stay with you tonight? Bring them out to us! We want to have sex with (*know*) them!'"**

Often advocates for homosexuality will want to claim that the text doesn't speak of homosexuality or homosexual acts at all, but that it is a mistranslation or faulty interpretation of the underlying Hebrew text. Is this true?

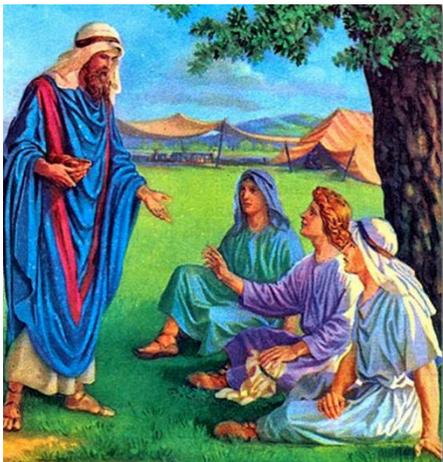
The Hebrew word in question that is translated as "**sex**" in the CJB and other versions of the scripture is "**yada**", which generally means "**know**". But, it is used in various contexts, one of which is to communicate sexual **relations.**

For example, one of the first times we see it used this way is in Genesis 4:1 where it says, "**The man had sexual relations with (*yada/knew*) Eve his wife; she conceived, gave birth to Cain (*Kayin*) [acquisition] and said, 'I have acquired a man from Yahuwah.'**" Clearly the context of the usage of the Hebrew word "yada" in this passage is of sexual nature, because one obviously cannot have children simply be acquiring knowledge of an individual.

Likewise, if the men of Sodom simply wanted to get to know the angels (as advocates for homosexuality would have us believe)... what would be the problem with that? But, in Genesis 19:7 Lot responded to their demand by saying, "**Please, my brothers, don't do such a wicked thing**". But, of course in this case the context is clear that the men of Sodom wished to sexually assault the men in a homosexual act. **This was the wicked thing that Lot was speaking of.**

Nonetheless, some will insist that Sodom and Gomorrah wasn't judged at all for the sin of homosexuality and sexual perversion, but because they were not hospitable or because they were just prideful and greedy. But, other than the actual text we just quoted, we have the text in Jude, which we must read to find out what his understanding was!

Jude (Yehudah) 1:7-8 (CJB) states, "And Sodom, Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, following a pattern like theirs, committing sexual sins and perversions, lie exposed as a warning of the everlasting fire awaiting those who must undergo punishment. Likewise, these people, with their visions, defile their own flesh, despise godly authority and insult angelic beings".



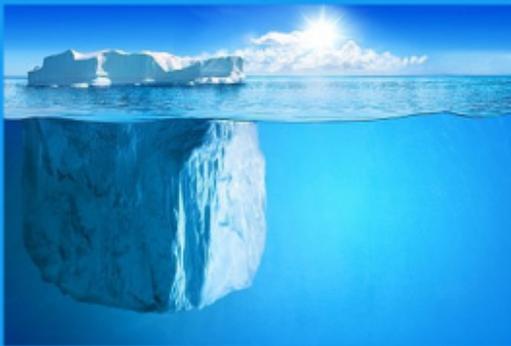
Granted, a great contrast can be seen in the preceding portion of scripture between the people of Sodom and between Abraham and Lot, as Abraham and Lot went out of their way to be hospitable. Truly, this was serious business to the people of Elohim, and it was important to Elohim. And, although the sexual sin and perversion of Sodom and Gomorrah were likely the highlight of their sin and the Tipping point of Elohim's judgment, **there**

..... likely were various other sins that led to their moral and spiritual decay, such as a lack of hospitality, not taking care of the needy, greed, pride, and many other sins.

And, although they likely received judgment for a whole host of other sins, staying strictly with Scripture, both Genesis and Jude directly supports translating and interpreting one of the defining sins of Sodom and Gomorrah (*found in chapter 19 of Genesis*), **as rampant sexual sin and homosexuality.**

Is it any wonder that Yahusha tells us that towards the end of time before He comes to judge the earth that times would once again be likened to that time and it just so happens that there is an aggressive push and campaign to forward the homosexual agenda and acceptance in our nation and in the nations of the world today? **Don't let anyone deceive you, it is a sign of the times.** And, just as it was in our story with Lot, it is aggressively forcing its way in through our doors.

Although the sin of sexual sin and homosexuality are grievous sins, even abominations (*as Torah calls it in Vayikra/Leviticus 18:22*), and it is was certainly a cause for the judgment of Yahweh to come down upon Sodom and Gomorrah, and indeed, upon our society today...I nonetheless believe that these transgressions were and **are just the tip of the iceberg, and are symptoms or a sign of the underlying spiritual and moral sickness of a**



spiritual and moral sickness of a society. Often a disease festers and develops for quite some time before it actually manifests itself in various ways. And, even though we often try to treat the symptoms of a disease, what is needed even more is to treat the root of the problem.

Although we may not be the root of the problem, as believers in Messiah Yahusha, we should nonetheless humbly accept that often we are one aspect of the problem, and to a degree we need to acknowledge that we are partly responsible for the perversity that is all around us. Often we want to focus on protesting sins such as homosexuality and sexual sin, and we should resist and protest such detestable behavior, but we often don't put it

into perspective to our own sin. We have to ask ourselves the question, **"Are we equally resisting and protesting our own sin and transgressions of Torah?"**

We have to come to terms with the big picture. How did homosexuality occur? Although it is often said to be genetic, there is no actual scientific proof that conclusively can make this statement as a fact. Regardless, the truth is (and this may shock some) we all do actually have a genetic defect that was passed onto us. We inherited these undesirable traits through our original parents; that is, through Adam and Eve. Their sin nature was passed on to their seed and the result that we have today is fallen mankind. Although some of us may fancy ourselves as quite the specimen...the sad truth is that we are not the perfect creation that Adonai originally created.

A literal version of Genesis 6:12 confirms this for us. It says, **"And Elohim looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupted. For all flesh had corrupted its way on the earth".**

The Hebrew root for the word **"corrupt"** here is **"shachat"** and can refer to something that is **"decayed, ruined, corrupt, or marred"**. **Just as it was with Adam and Eve, it is our own sin that corrupts the world and those around us.** We cannot remain satisfied to just sit back and judge the sin that we see in the world. If we only do that, than the cycle will never be broken. Due to our own unresolved sin, we have to take some of the responsibility for the corruption that is in the world. **Our sin affects others and the world around us in ways we often cannot comprehend, and thus we contribute to the corruption of Elohim's creation.**

Therefore, we have to ask ourselves, do we want others to walk righteously? Do we want others to stop lying, deceiving, committing homosexual acts, acts of sexual sin, and acting wickedly?

Then we first have to focus on our own righteous conduct with all of our heart soul and strength. This is probably one of the several reasons that Y'shua our Master teaches us to **first remove the plank out of our own eye before we seek to remove the speck out of another's eye** (*Mathew 7:3*).



While we are rallying against those who we see as Sodom and Gomorrah today...we have to question ourselves to see if we also have Sodom and Gomorrah living in our hearts and lives. Regardless if it has fully manifested itself as it does in others or not isn't the point, for it starts from the heart and works its way out, as Yahusha tells us in Matthew 15:19:

"For out of the heart come forth wicked thoughts, murder, adultery and other kinds of sexual immorality, theft, lies, slanders". Although some may not be committing acts of homosexuality and other sexual perversions, they may simply be at a different stage of the disease that struck Sodom, leading to such abominations.

Before we say to ourselves, **"No, not me!"**, we have to ask ourselves, do we **have unresolved rebellion against any of the instructions of YHVH in our lives or any known sins we haven't completely removed from our own lives or repented of?** If we don't seek to remove these things from our

lives completely, it not only will eventually overtake us, but the world will see and won't take us seriously when we call them to repentance.

It has been said that it takes one to know one. A thief can often spot another thief. A deceiver can often spot another deceiver, and likewise, those who are of the spirit of Sodom and Gomorrah can spot those who have Sodom and Gomorrah festering in their heart. If we offer freedom, yet we are in bondage ourselves, what type of an option are we offering people? We don't want to be like those described in 2Peter 2:19 where it says, **"They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for a person is slave to whatever has defeated him"**.

No one wants to be led through hazardous terrain by a blind person, especially if he has not successfully navigated that path himself. And, we should be careful not to immediately think or proclaim that we are not blind in various areas of our life or walk... For in John 9:41 Y'shua answered them, **"If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin. But since you still say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."** We need to constantly be alert and be testing our faculties to make sure they are working correctly, and we do this through prayer, the reading of the scriptures, and living it out daily.



As I mentioned, the Torah tells us that **all flesh was corrupted**. Therefore, in reality we all have a genetic disorder, and a predisposition that leads us into one type of sin or another. While this is true, it is not a valid excuse to wallow in such sin. **Adonai is in the business of making new creations and new natures.**

2Corinthians 5:16-17 (CJB) says, **"So from now on, we do not look at anyone from a worldly viewpoint. Even if we once regarded the Messiah from a worldly viewpoint, we do so no longer.**

Therefore, **if anyone is united with the Messiah, he is a new creation - the old has passed; look, what has come is fresh and new!"** In John 3:6-7 Messiah himself stated, "What is born from the flesh is flesh, and what is born from the Spirit is spirit. Stop being amazed at my telling you that **you must be born again from above!**".

By being born again, you are a new creation, actually your nature is changed from a carnalistic/animalistic nature to the spiritual nature of Yahusha! Therefore, the scripture tells us in 1Corinthians 6:9-11: "**Don't you know that unrighteous people will have no share in the Kingdom of Elohim? Don't delude yourselves - people who engage in sex before marriage, who worship idols, who engage in sex after marriage with someone other than their spouse, who engage in active or passive homosexuality, who steal, who are greedy, who get drunk, who assail people with contemptuous language, who rob - none of them will share in the Kingdom of Elohim. Some of you used to do these things. But you have cleansed yourselves, you have been set apart for Elohim, you have come to be counted righteous through the power of the Master Yahusha the Messiah and the Spirit of our Elohim".** (*Complete Jewish Bible*)

We can tell the world that they are wrong and sinful, and call them to repentance, but that won't necessarily help them if the message of the Good News is not effectively communicated to them. They not only need an accurate message proclaimed by those who intimately know it through their own life, but they also need to be enabled through the power and love of Yahweh Elohim to turn from such things.



What the world desperately needs are sincere and legitimate emissaries from Yahusha to give them this message and for it to come from people who are actually walking out lives characterized by the new creation. For us to be effective communicators we must show Yahuwah's love to a lost, corrupted, and dying world, for this is one of the most effective ways to enable someone to engage in repentance, and for them to be further empowered by the Spirit of Yahuwah!).

Abraham and Lot offered amazing hospitality to the strangers that came to them. And although we could say it was because they somehow knew they were angels, the fact was that they made a habit of practicing such hospitality, and often to those who were not worshipers of the Elohim of Abraham. It was in this way that they were often able to turn the lives of people unto their Elohim, by showing them His love and care.

A story is told in the Talmud, how Avraham would go about having the true Elohim recognized by all the travelers whom he showed hospitality to. For after they had eaten and drunk, and when they arose to bless Abraham, he said to them, **"Is it of mine that you have eaten? Surely it is of what belongs to Elohim that you have eaten."**

Surely it is of what belongs to Yahuwah that you have eaten. So praise and bless Him by whose word the world was created. **"But where is this YHVH?"** the astonished visitors would ask. **"His glory fills the heaven and earth,"** was the reply. And away went the strangers blessing the Elohim of Abraham and Sarah".



One of the best ways to change the world is through our love and care that we have for those in it. It is a tall order, but like Abraham and Lot, it is one that we should strive to fulfill in any way we can. It should also be noted that it is the way that Adonai Himself chose to change the world, for 1. John 4:19 tells us, **"We love Him because He first loved us". His proactive love was a catalyst to our repentance.**

*And although passages like Jeremiah (Yirmeyahu) 23:14 tell us that sexual sin and unfaithfulness was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah as it says (CEV), **"And you prophets in Jerusalem are even worse. You're unfaithful in marriage and never tell the truth. You even lead others to sin instead of helping them turn back to me. You and the people of Jerusalem are evil like Sodom and Gomorrah,"** the fact is, there is another way that spiritual adultery and perversion is committed.*

*And, that is through our pride and allowing the abundance of the goods of this world to corrupt us. Ezekiel 16:48-49 tells us (CEV), **"As surely as I am the living Yahuwah Elohim, the people of Sodom and its nearby villages were never as sinful as you. 49. They were arrogant and spoiled; they had everything they needed and still refused to help the poor and needy."***

*There is a Jewish parable told along these lines (Source: Jewish Parables, A Mashal For Every Occasion, pgs. 211-212). **"A wealthy man was renowned for the hospitality he accorded guests. There was not a single pauper, traveler, nor guest of any sort to whom he did not offer sleeping accommodations as well as a hearty meal. In addition, the wealthy man personally served each guest who lodged in his home. One day a traveler appeared in the wealthy man's home and after removing his backpack, sat himself down at the wealthy man's table.***

"What can I serve you?" asked the wealthy man. "We prepared many delicacies today in honor of the guests." I am not hungry nor do I have an appetite," replied the guest. "Would you happen to have whiskey in the house? I'll down a glass or two, and maybe that will stimulate my appetite."

"Why would I do such a thing?" asked the wealthy man. **"The whole purpose of my hospitality is to satiate the hungry - not to hunger the satiated! If a hungry individual comes to me, I will immediately fulfill his request and feed him the finest delicacies. But why should I extend myself to make a satiated person hungry? "**

There are times, that our Heavenly Father rewards an individual for the good deeds that he has performed, and grants him wealth. Such a person must thank Him and be content with what he has been given. It would be a terrible thing, however, if his wealth led him to covet money and to pursue additional riches and possessions. The purpose of reward is to satiate the hungry - not to hunger the satiated!

When we fill ourselves with the goods of the world, and seek ways to gain even more to fulfill our fleshly desires, and are not using the increase that God gives to glorify Him and serve others...the result is that we become corrupt, which manifests itself in numerous sins. If we are not continually giving what we are given, than the danger is that we eventually may feel as if we don't need to rely on Yahweh any longer because of the abundance that we have. When this happens we begin to lean and trust



in those things and we begin to less and less lean and trust upon our God. And, when we don't use that which comes from Him for His glory and to help others, and instead we use it to increase our own lusts and hunger for more, **it causes us to become spiritually lazy and blind, and we eventually grow corrupt.**

And, when this happens we more and more see Yahuwah's ways **as burdensome, inconvenient and unnecessary**, and we begin to grow apart from Him. And, this is the other aspect of Sodom and Gomorrah sin that we need to recognize so we don't fall into the same pit, that is the sin of greed and pride.

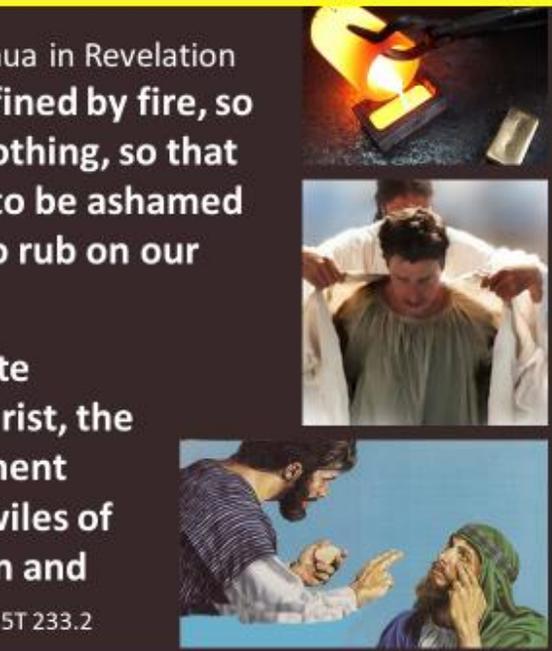
In conclusion, Yahusha says the following in Revelation 3:14-19:

"To the angel of the Messianic Community in Laodicea, write: 'Here is the message from the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the Ruler of Elohim's creation: "I know what you are doing: you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth! For you keep saying, 'I am rich, I have gotten rich, I don't need a thing!' You don't know that you are the one who is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked! My advice to you is to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich; and white clothing, so that you may be dressed and not have to be ashamed of your nakedness; and eye salve to rub on your eyes, so that you may see. As for me, I rebuke and discipline everyone I love; so exert yourselves, and turn from your sins!"
(Complete Jewish Bible – Revelation 3:14-19)

To this day, the area where Sodom and Gomorrah were once located remains a desolate wasteland. Sodom and Gomorrah serve as a powerful example of how Yahuwah, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob feels about sin in general, and specifically all sexual perversions.

Let's heed the advice given to us by Y'shua in Revelation chapter 3 **"to buy from him gold refined by fire, so that we may be rich; and white clothing, so that we may be dressed and not have to be ashamed of our nakedness; and eye salve to rub on our eyes, so that we may see."**

The gold is faith and love, the white raiment is the righteousness of Christ, the eye salve is that spiritual discernment which will enable you to see the wiles of Satan and shun them, to detect sin and abhor it, to see truth and obey it. 5T 233.2



THE END



Supreme Provider
Y'shua Ha Mashiach

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