***Holiness Displayed in Wrath***

**2-14-2016**

*Genesis 19:23-25*
*The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. 24 Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.*

There are similarities between Sodom & our society and it is distressing.

* homosexuality, unconcerned about poor/needy, adultery, lying, etc.
* Immorality/sin is rampant, proudly proclaimed, & openly advocated. *Rom 1:28-32, Is 5:20*
	+ If a person confronts sin: they are considered intolerant, judgmental, and guilty of hate speech.
* As great as the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was, is does not compare to the sin of rejecting the greater light of the gospel.

Sodom is a symbol of evil and moral depravity, as well as future judgment. *Gen 19:23-25, Duet 29:23,* *Lk 10:8-12, 17:28-30*

* There was a complete devastation of 4 towns & the soil they were built upon probably by natural elements (lightening, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions)
* Bible was concerned with the final divine cause rather than the secondary physical causes.
	+ Judgment came from the Lord. He was in full control of its extent & timing.
* Some might say, “My God wouldn’t do that” but the God of Bible did & will.
	+ It’s not that He is throwing a tantrum or is impatient but because He’s holy. *Is 6:1-3*

God’s righteous wrath against sin is a necessary & loving response to His holiness.

* Defining holiness is like defining God! It can't be done completely.
	+ root of holy: to cut or separate.
		- A holy thing is separated from the common and/or secular use.
* God's holiness means His majesty sets Him apart from His creation & His purity totally separates Him from all sin/evil. Hab 1:13a, Is 5:16,

God’s holiness requires His hatred of sin & demands it’s punishment.

* God never forgets or ignores sin (that would make Him unjust) but He can forgive sinners because Another (Jesus) received their punishment.
* God ALONE was able to save sinners from His Almighty wrath! *Heb 9:22, Col 2:9, 2 Cor 5:21, Rom 5:9, Jn 3:36*
	+ Jesus bore punishment for the Christian’s sins on the cross. Is 53:4-6
		- His “atoning sacrifice” was more than simply canceling out sin & thus purifying sinner, but it is the actual turning aside of wrath.
	+ Through the cross, God displayed His infinite holiness & hatred of sin.

God’s holiness is so wonderful that He made a way for others to enjoy it too. *Eph 2:1-10*

* By faith in Christ’s death in our place, we can receive God’s grace, not His justice.
	+ A Christian no longer needs to be afraid of His wrath, but is now awestruck by His amazing holiness.
* The appropriate response to the holiness of God is humility, awe/fear, repentance, & obedience. Is 6:4-5, Ps 147:10-11
	+ We can manifest holiness as a child of a holy Father. *Eph 1:4; 1 Thess 4:3-4, 1 Pet 1:15-16, 2 Cor 7:1*
		- It is Christ-like to hate evil, injustice & sin.

The essence of grace is that God is not required to give it to us.

* Therefore be amazed by His grace, not shocked by His justice/judgment.
	+ Realize that God's kindness in heaven & wrath in hell both proclaim His holiness.