

On which two ancient cities did God rain brimstone and fire? If your answer is Sodom and Gomorrah, you are right, but know that God was not eager to destroy the two cities. He was not on a sin hunt. He was on a righteousness hunt, so that He could spare the cities. (Genesis 18:23-32) In fact, it is possible that if Abraham had asked God, "What if You can find just *one* righteous man?", His answer would have been the same: "I will not destroy the cities for the sake of one righteous man."

Today, the righteousness of one Man, Jesus, has come. Jesus died for our sins and rose again for our justification. God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, not counting our sins against us! Therefore, no judgement will fall on you today because it fell on Jesus over 2 000 years ago at Calvary. If God was gracious and merciful enough to remove Lot and his family before the judgement fell (Genesis 19:12-22), how much more will He do for you who are no longer under judgement! Because God does not judge you, don't be like Lot's wife, who became a pillar of salt when she turned around to look at the brimstone and fire. (Genesis 19:24-26) She wanted to see God's *judgement*, even though the angels had warned, "Don't look back, lest you be destroyed." (Genesis 19:17)

So don't be judgment-focused and look back at the sins you have committed. God is not against you. He is for you and on your side. He remembers that He has already judged and punished your sins in the body of His Son. Because He is faithful to His Son and to what His Son has done, He will never judge or punish you. Any trouble that you might have today or in the future is not from Him, and He will show you a way of escape because He is on your side. He loves you and always has your best interests at heart. God is not out to get you. He is out to bless you. He wants you blessed more than you can ever ask or imagine! (Ephesians 3:20)

2 Corinthians 5:19 "...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them..."