

# PATRIARCHS OF THE PROMISE

## Lesson 3: Sodom and Gomorrah

**Genesis 18:1-33, 19:1-29**

**January 26, 2025**

Isaiah 13:19 (NASB95)

And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the  
Chaldeans' pride,  
Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

Luke 17:29 (NASB95)

but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained  
fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

# Outline

- **Introduction/Background**
- **Abraham Pleads for Sodom** - Genesis 18:1-33
- **The Angels Save Lot** - Genesis 19:1-23

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  - Abram offered Lot the pick of the territory.
  - Lot chose the fertile valley and traveled east toward Sodom.
  - Abram headed west toward Canaan and settled in land near the oaks of Mamre

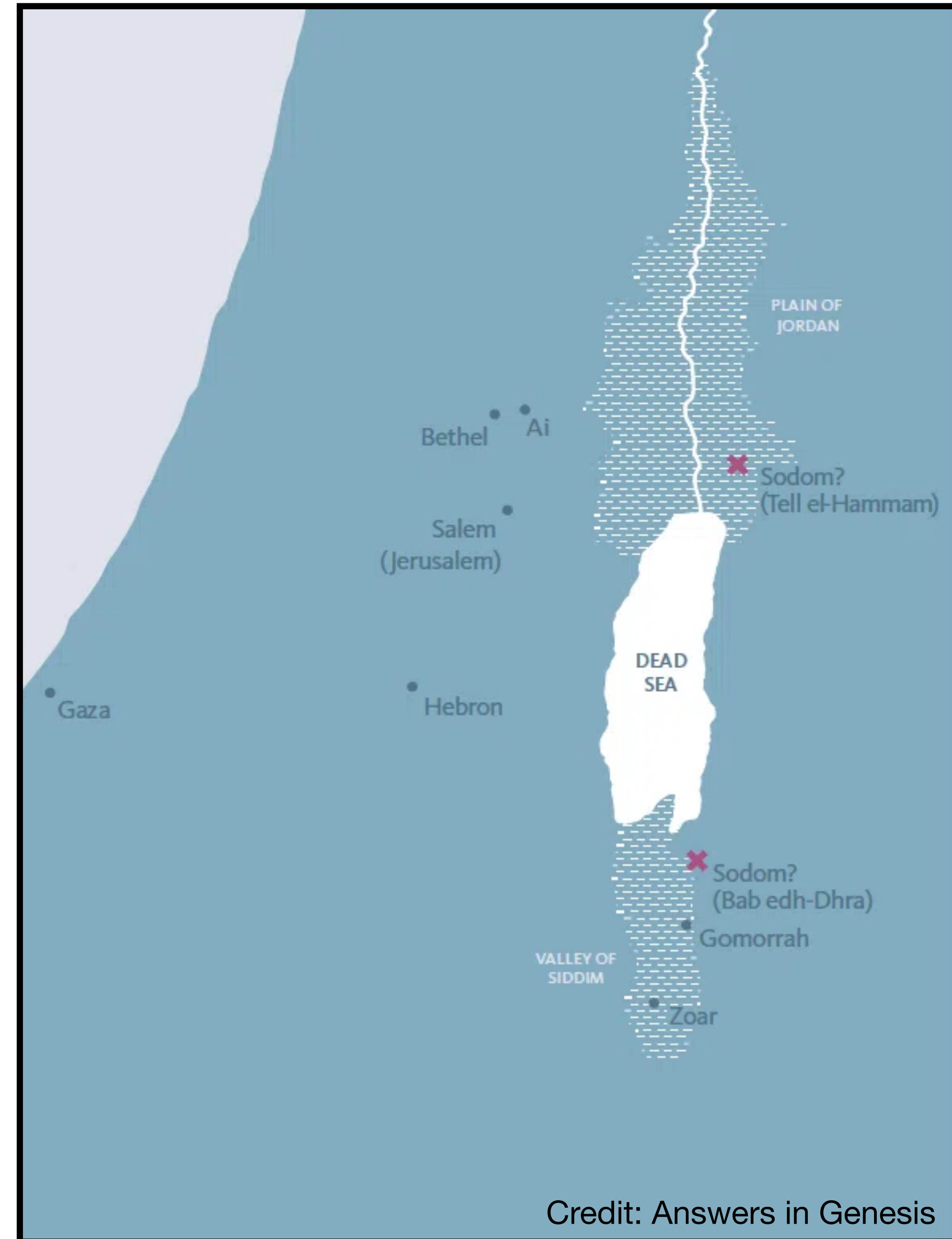
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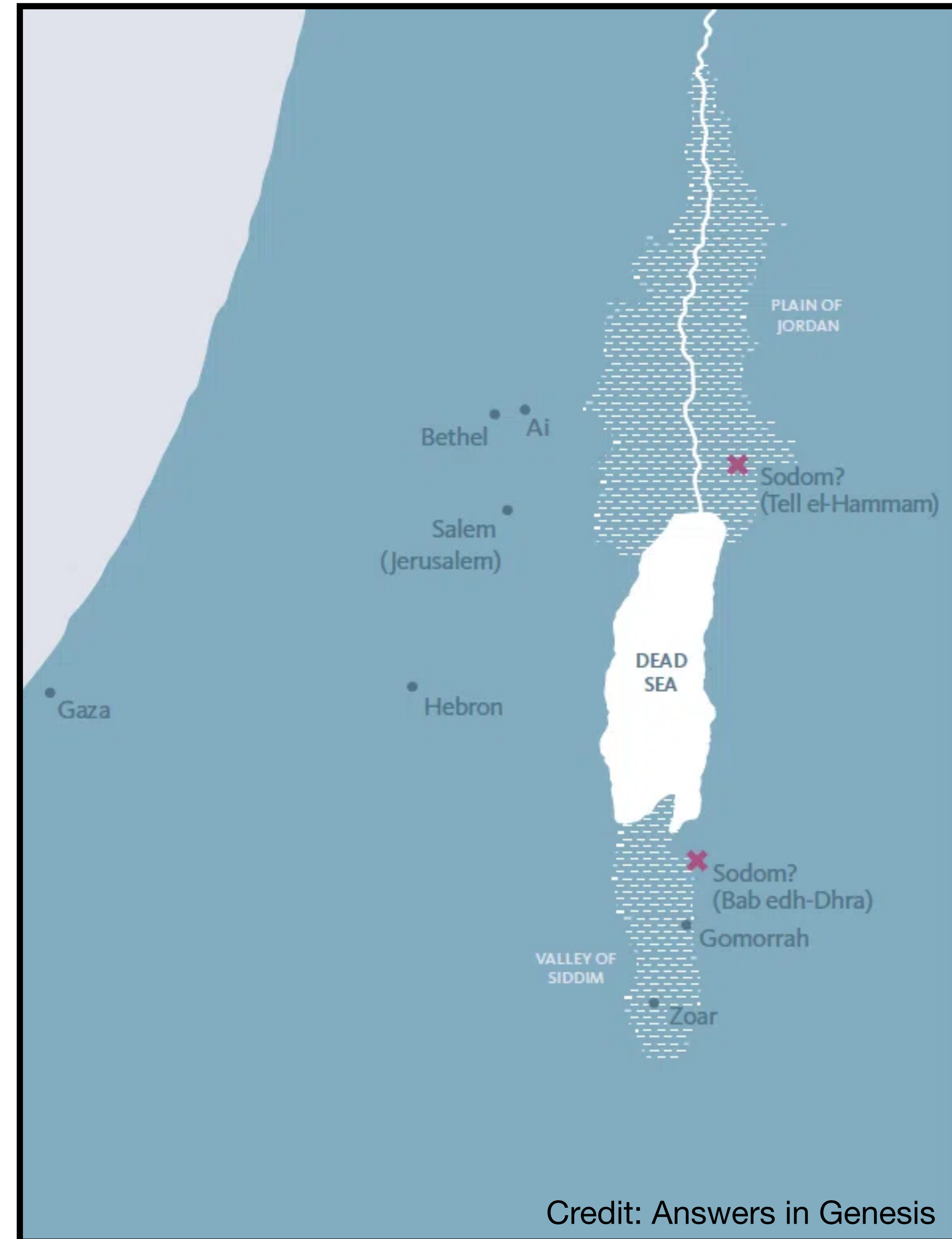
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- Slightly out of chronology (Focus on Abraham and Lot)
- Name change: Abraham rather than Abram (discussed next week)

# Introduction/Background



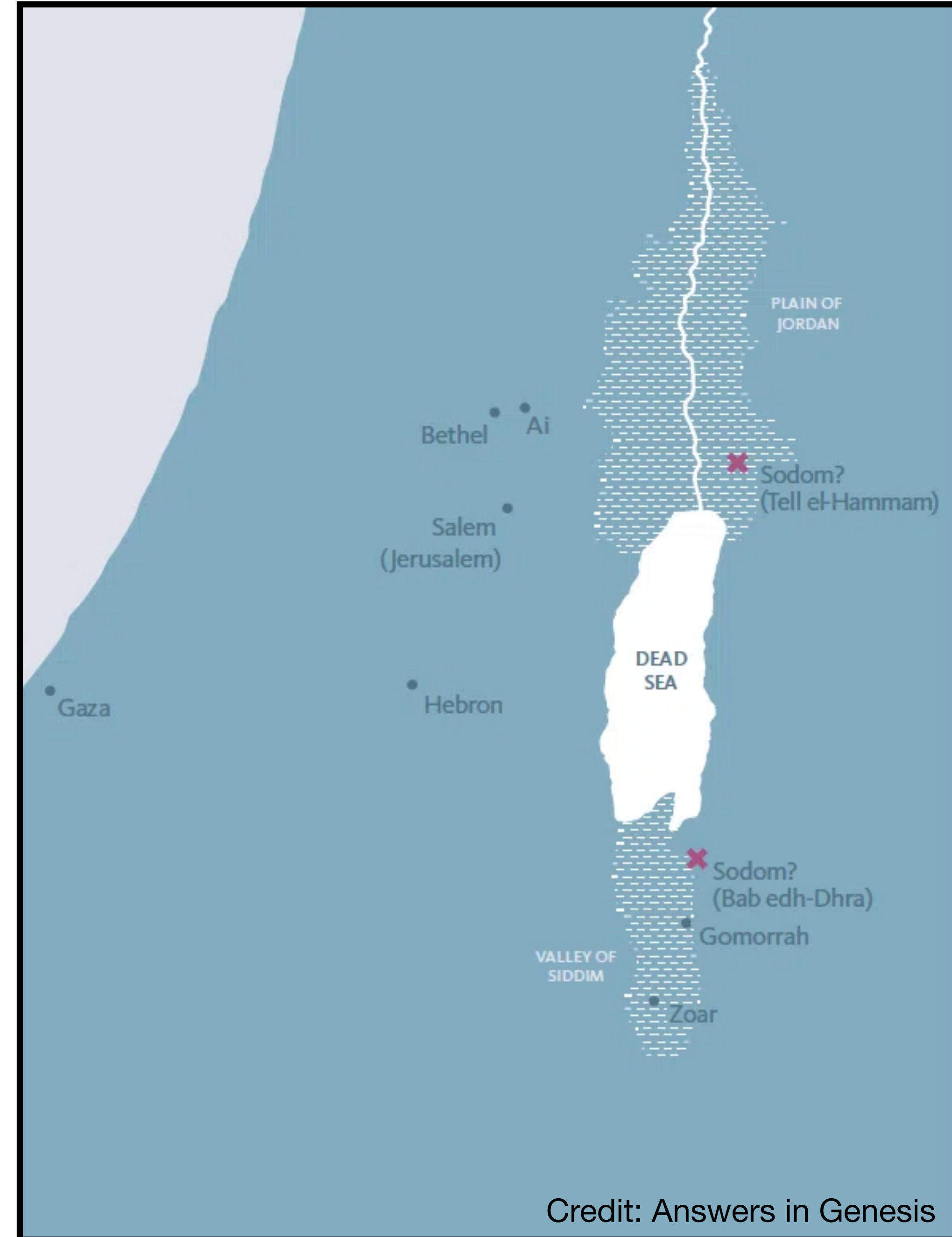
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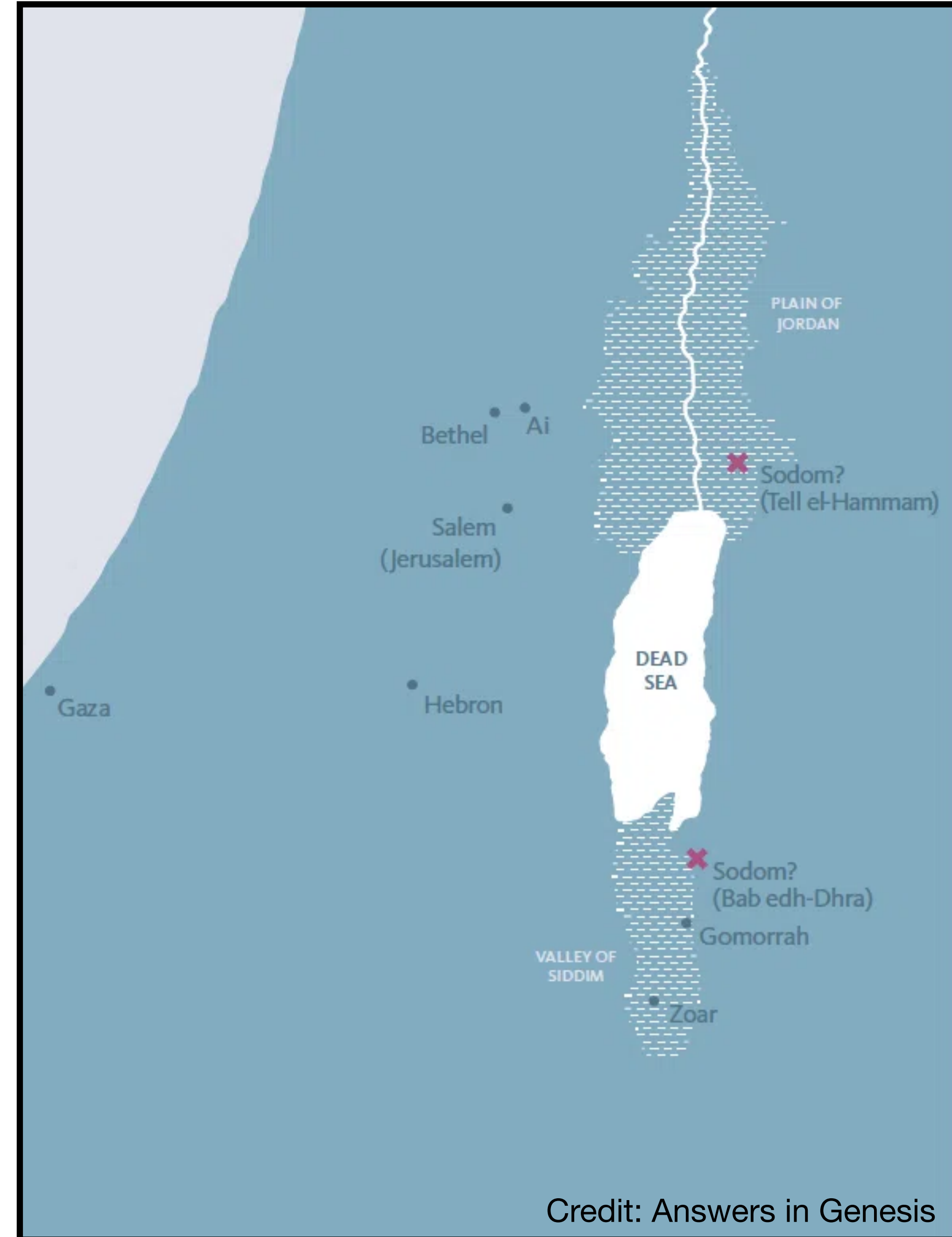
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- Could this be the five “cities of the valley” from Genesis 14?



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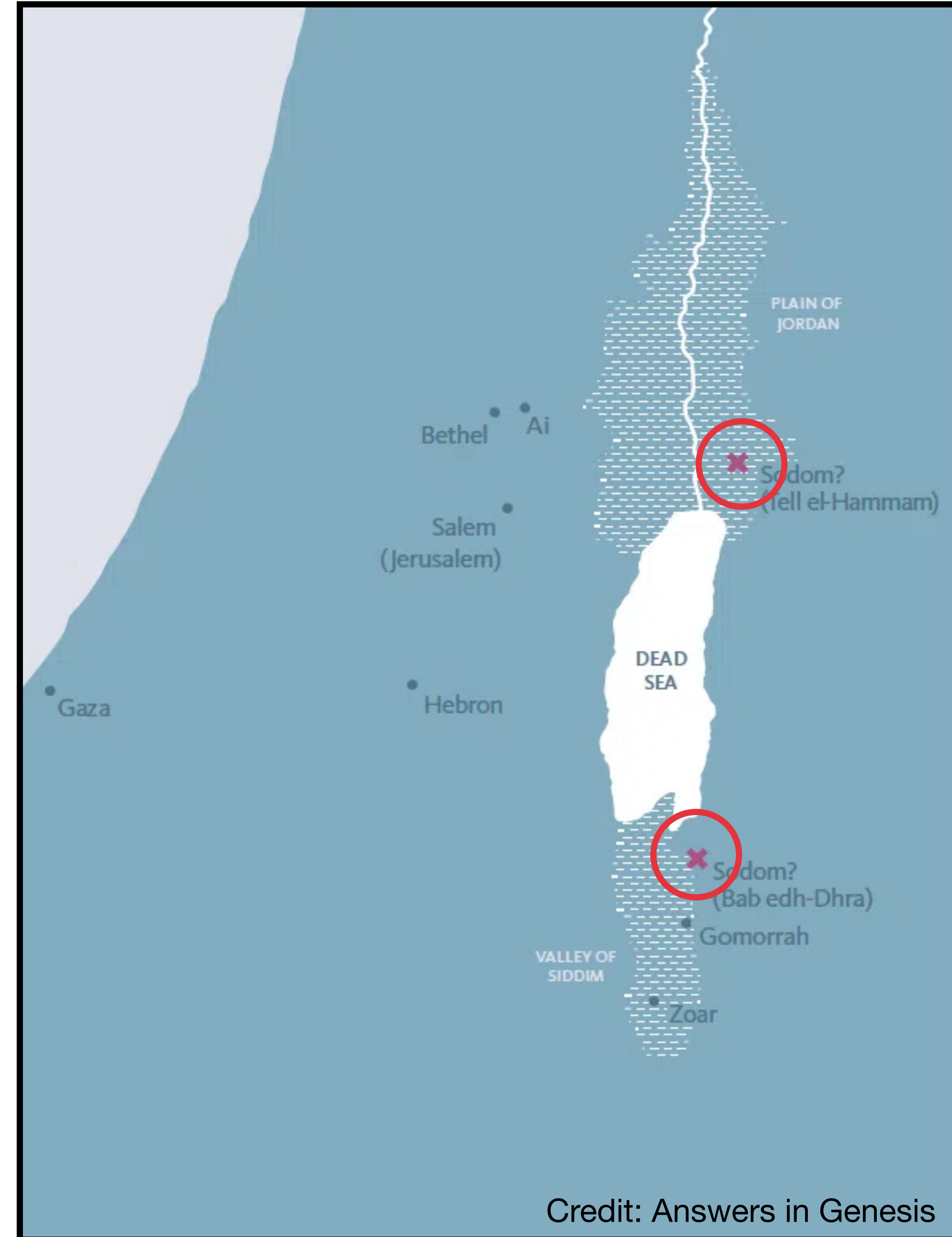
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  - Could this be the five “cities of the valley” from Genesis 14?
- Has Sodom been found?
  - Two competing candidates



Credit: Answers in Genesis

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# Introduction/Background

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- God's justice emphasized (punishment of sin)
- Justice is the application of the appropriate punishment for a crime
- Other attributes of God (e.g. faithfulness, mercy, omniscience, omnipotence)
- Mercy is when you deserve a punishment for your sin, but the punishment is withheld

# Outline

- **Introduction/Background**

- **Abraham Pleads for Sodom** - Genesis 18:1-33

- **The Angels Save Lot** - Genesis 19:1-23

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:1-33

**OBSERVE** (Genesis 18:1-15)



# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:1-33

**OBSERVE** (Genesis 18:1-15)

- Abraham shows hospitality to three men
  - One man is the LORD (Yahweh), and the other two are angels

Gen 18:13,17,22

Gen 19:1



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Gen 18:13,17,22

Gen 19:1

And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?’

(Genesis 18:13, NASB95)



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- Abraham shows hospitality to three men
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Gen 18:13,17,22

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Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.  
(Genesis 19:1, NASB95)

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- God's promise affirmed - What was the promise?



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▸ One man is the LORD (Yahweh), and the other two are his angels

Gen 18:13,17,22

**Faithfulness**

Gen 19:1

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# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

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▸ One man is the LORD (Yahweh), and the other two are angels

Gen 18:13,17,22

Gen 19:1

- God's promise affirmed - What was the promise?

He said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him.  
(Genesis 18:10, NASB95)

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

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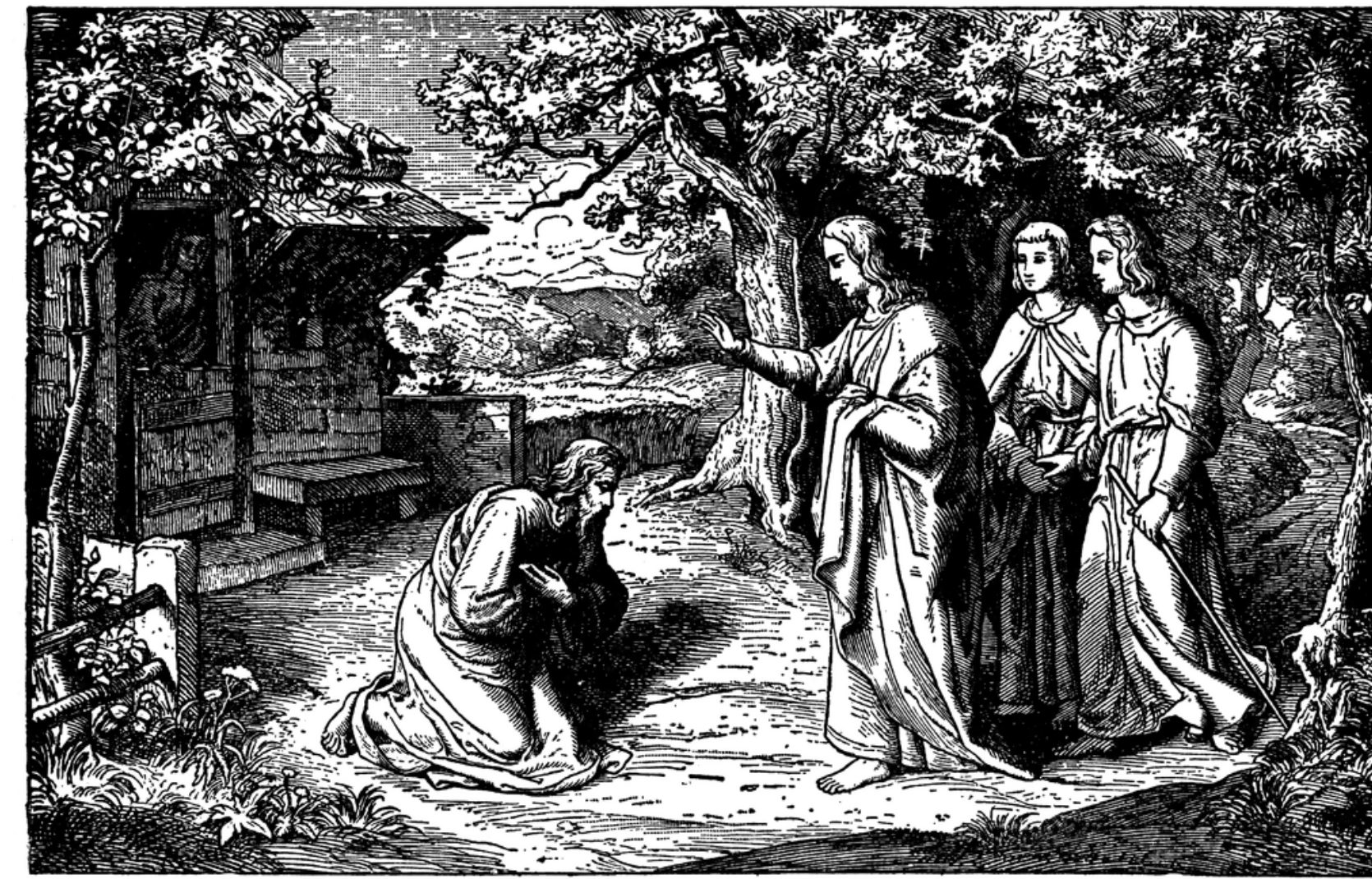
Omniscience

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Genesis 18:1-33

**OBSERVE** (Genesis 18:16-33)



# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:1-33

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- Three men head towards Sodom



# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:1-33

**OBSERVE** (Genesis 18:16-33)

- Three men head towards Sodom

The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”  
(Genesis 18:17-19, NASB95)



# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:1-33

**OBSERVE** (Genesis 18:16-33)

- Three men head towards Sodom
- The LORD tells Abraham that He was going to observe Sodom



# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

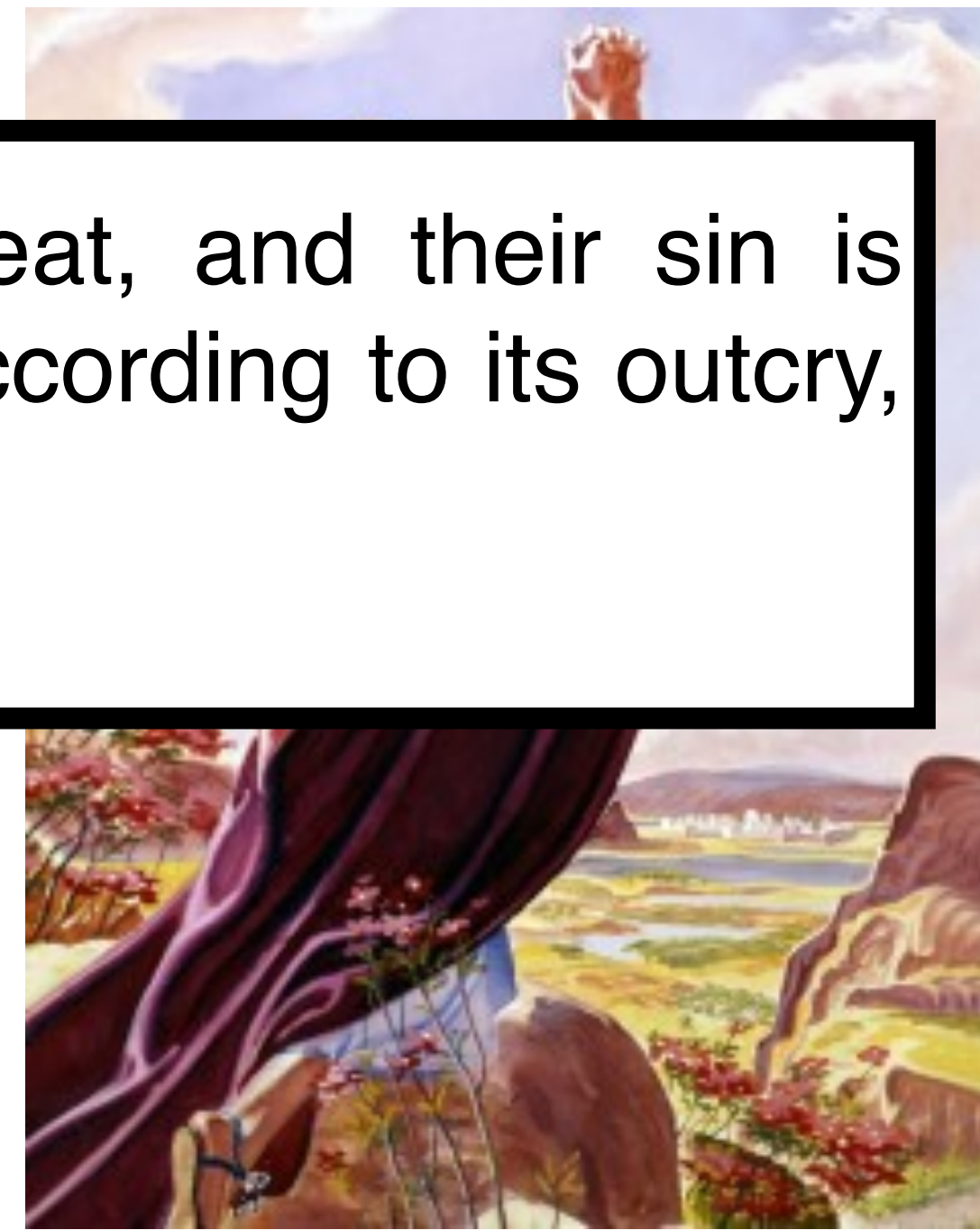
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**OBSERVE** (Genesis 18:16-33)

- Three men head towards Sodom
- The LORD tells Abraham that He was going to observe Sodom

And the LORD said, “The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know.”

(Genesis 18:20-21, NASB95)



# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:1-33

**OBSERVE** (Genesis 18:16-33)

- Three men head towards Sodom
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- Abraham pleads with the LORD

And he said, “Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord; suppose twenty are found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy *it* on account of the twenty.”  
(Genesis 18:31, NASB95)



# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:1-33

**OBSERVE** (Genesis 18:16-33)

- Three men head towards Sodom
- The LORD tells Abraham that He was going to observe Sodom
- Abraham pleads with the LORD

Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?”

(Genesis 18:25, NASB95)



# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

**Genesis 18:1-33**

**INTERPRET**

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

**Genesis 18:1-33**

## INTERPRET

- Did Abraham know that true identities of the three men?

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

**Genesis 18:1-33**

## INTERPRET

- Did Abraham know that true identities of the three men?
- No indication that Abraham immediately knew their true identities
  - However, he still treated them as distinguished guests
  - Sounded like he knew it was the LORD when the promised was affirmed

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

**Genesis 18:1-33**

## INTERPRET

- Did Abraham know that true identities of the three men?
- How could Abraham see God and live?

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

**Genesis 18:1-33**

## INTERPRET

- Did Abraham know that true identities of the three men?
- How could Abraham see God and live?

But He said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!”  
(Exodus 33:20, NASB95)

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:1-33

## INTERPRET

- Did Abraham know that true identities of the three men?
- How could Abraham see God and live?

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

(John 1:18, NASB95)

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:1-33

## INTERPRET



Christophany:  
A pre-incarnate appearance of Christ

- Did Abraham know that true identity was in the flesh?
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# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

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# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

**Genesis 18:1-33**

## INTERPRET

- Did Abraham know that true identities of the three men?
- How could Abraham see God and live?
- Why did Sarah laugh about the promise?
  - She did not believe that the promise would come to pass
  - She was already 90 years old at that time!
  - Do we doubt God's "more ordinary" provision?

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

**Genesis 18:1-33**

## INTERPRET

- Did Abraham know that true identities of the three men?
- How could Abraham see God and live?
- Why did Sarah laugh about the promise?
- Did the LORD know the extent of the wickedness that was going on in Sodom and Gomorrah? If so, why did He have to observe for Himself?

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:1-33

## INTERPRET

- Did Abraham know that true identities of the three men?

Sarah denied *it* however, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. And He said, “No, but you did laugh.”  
(Genesis 18:15, NASB95)

- Did the LORD know the extent of the wickedness that was going on in Sodom and Gomorrah? If so, why did He have to observe for Himself?

- God is all-knowing (omniscient). He knew the extent of the wickedness in Sodom.
- God does not act out of ignorance nor does He act recklessly

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

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Genesis 18:1-33

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Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?”

(Genesis 18:25, NASB95)

- Abraham knew the perfect justice of God
- God does not punish the righteous together with the wicked
- God will deal with sin appropriately

g on in Sodom

- What does the LORD’s response to Abraham’s questions say about His character?

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

**Genesis 18:1-33**

**APPLY**

# Abraham Pleads for Sodom

**Genesis 18:1-33**

## APPLY

- Abraham and Sarah both laughed at the idea of having a child in their old age despite God's clear promise to them.
  - How does knowing that God was faithful to His promise to these encourage you in your walk before God?
  - Do we fail to believe even the less extravagant promises of God?

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## APPLY

- Abraham and Sarah both laughed at the idea of having a child in their old age despite God's clear promise to them.
  - How does knowing that God was faithful to His promise to these encourage you in your walk before God?
  - Do we fail to believe even the less extravagant promises of God?
- Abraham interceded for Sodom, asking God to spare it for the sake of the righteous.
  - Do you pray for others, even those you disagree with or might find undeserving?
  - Does rightly knowing God's character affect how we pray?

# Outline

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- **Abraham Pleads for Sodom** - Genesis 18:1-33
- **The Angels Save Lot** - Genesis 19:1-23

# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

OBSERVE



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the **gate** of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. (Genesis 19:1, NASB95, emphasis mine)



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom

Often served as administrative and judicial center of a city

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the **gate** of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. (Genesis 19:1, NASB95, emphasis mine)



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom
- Lot shows hospitality to the angels



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

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And he said, “Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant’s house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.” They said however, “No, but we shall spend the night in the square.” Yet he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. (Genesis 19:2-3, NASB95)

# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom
- Lot shows hospitality to the angels
- Men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house (sinful demands)



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom
- Lot shows hospitality to the angels
- Men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house (sinful demands)

Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter;  
(Genesis 19:4, NASB95)



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels came to him in the night
- Lot showed them the extent of the depravity in the city
- Men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house (sinful demands)

Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter;  
(Genesis 19:4, NASB95)



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom
- Lot shows hospitality to the angels
- Men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house (sinful demands)

and they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them."

(Genesis 19:5, NASB95)



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

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- Lot shows hospitality to them
- Men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house (sinful demands)

Homosexual relations

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(Genesis 19:5, NASB95)



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom
- Lot shows hospitality to the angels
- Men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house (sinful demands)

Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof.”  
(Genesis 19:8, NASB95)



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom
- Lot shows hospitality to the angels
- Men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house (sinful demands)
- Angels protect Lot and his household



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom

But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied *themselves trying* to find the doorway.  
(Genesis 19:10-11, NASB95)

- Angels protect Lot and his household



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

**OBSERVE**



Still groping for the door in their blindness

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom

But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied *themselves trying* to find the doorway.

(Genesis 19:10-11, NASB95)

- Angels protect Lot and his household

# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom

But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the Lord *was* upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.

(Genesis 19:16, NASB95)

- Angels protect Lot and his household



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom
- Lot shows hospitality to the angels
- Men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house (sinful demands)
- Angels protect Lot and his household
- Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom
- Lot shows hospitality to the angels

The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven, and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.  
(Genesis 19:23-25, NASB95)

- Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom
- Lot shows hospitality to the angels
- Men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house (sinful demands)
- Angels protect Lot and his household
- Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed
- Lot's wife is turned into a pillar of salt



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## OBSERVE

- Two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom
- Lot shows hospitality to the angels
- Men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house (sinful demands)
- Angels protect Lot and his household

But his wife, from behind him, looked *back*, and she became a pillar of salt.  
(Genesis 19:26, NASB95)

- Lot's wife is turned into a pillar of salt



# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

INTERPRET

# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?

# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?
- No indication that Lot immediately knew their true identities
  - Still, like Abraham, he treated them as distinguished guests

# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?
- The men of Sodom said that Lot was “acting like a judge”. What does this suggest about Lot’s character?

# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?
- The men of Sodom said that Lot was “acting like a judge”. What does this suggest about Lot’s character?

(for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds),

(2 Peter 2:8, NASB95)

# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?
- The men of Sodom said that Lot was “acting like a judge”. What does this suggest about Lot’s character?



He must have confronted their sinful deeds in the past

(for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds),

(2 Peter 2:8, NASB95)

# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?
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- Was Lot acting righteously by offering his daughters to the men of Sodom?

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Genesis 19:1-23

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- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?
  - The men of Sodom said that Lot was “acting like a judge”. What does this suggest about Lot’s character?
  - Was Lot acting righteously by offering his daughters to the men of Sodom?
- No, Lot was not acting righteously
  - In fact, we know that the people of Sodom did not really take him seriously (e.g. sons-in-law v14)

# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## INTERPRET

Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, “Up, get out of this place, for the Lord will destroy the city.” But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be **jesting**.

(Genesis 19:14, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- Was Lot acting righteously by offering his daughters to the men of Sodom?

- No, Lot was not acting righteously
- In fact, we know that the people of Sodom did not really take him seriously (e.g. sons-in-law v14)

# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

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- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?
- The men of Sodom said that Lot was “acting like a judge”. What does this suggest about Lot’s character?
- Was Lot acting righteously by offering his daughters to the men of Sodom?
- Why did the angels protect Lot and his family?

# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?

Far be it from You to do such a thing, to **slay the righteous with the wicked**, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?”

(Genesis 18:25, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- Why did the angels protect Lot and his family?

# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?
- The men of Sodom said that Lot was “acting like a judge”. What does this

and *if* He rescued **righteous** Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (2 Peter 2:7, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- Why did the angels protect Lot and his family?

# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?

But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the **compassion of the LORD was upon him**; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.

(Genesis 19:16, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- Why did the angels protect Lot and his family?

# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two

Mercy

But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the **compassion of the LORD was upon him**; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.

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**Genesis 19:1-23**

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?
- The men of Sodom said that Lot was “acting like a judge”. What does this suggest about Lot’s character?
- Was Lot acting righteously by offering his daughters to the men of Sodom?
- Why did the angels protect Lot and his family?
- Why did Lot’s wife turn into a pillar of salt?

# The Angels Save Lot

Genesis 19:1-23

## INTERPRET

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When they had brought them outside, one said, “Escape for your life! **Do not look behind you**, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away.”

(Genesis 19:17, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- Why did Lot’s wife turn into a pillar of salt?

# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

## INTERPRET

- Did Lot know that the two men were angels?
  - The men of Sodom said that Lot was “acting like a judge”. What does this suggest about Lot’s character?
- Lot’s wife disobeyed God’s command
  - Act of turning back might signify an attachment to the city of Sodom
- Why did Lot’s wife turn into a pillar of salt?

# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

## INTERPRET

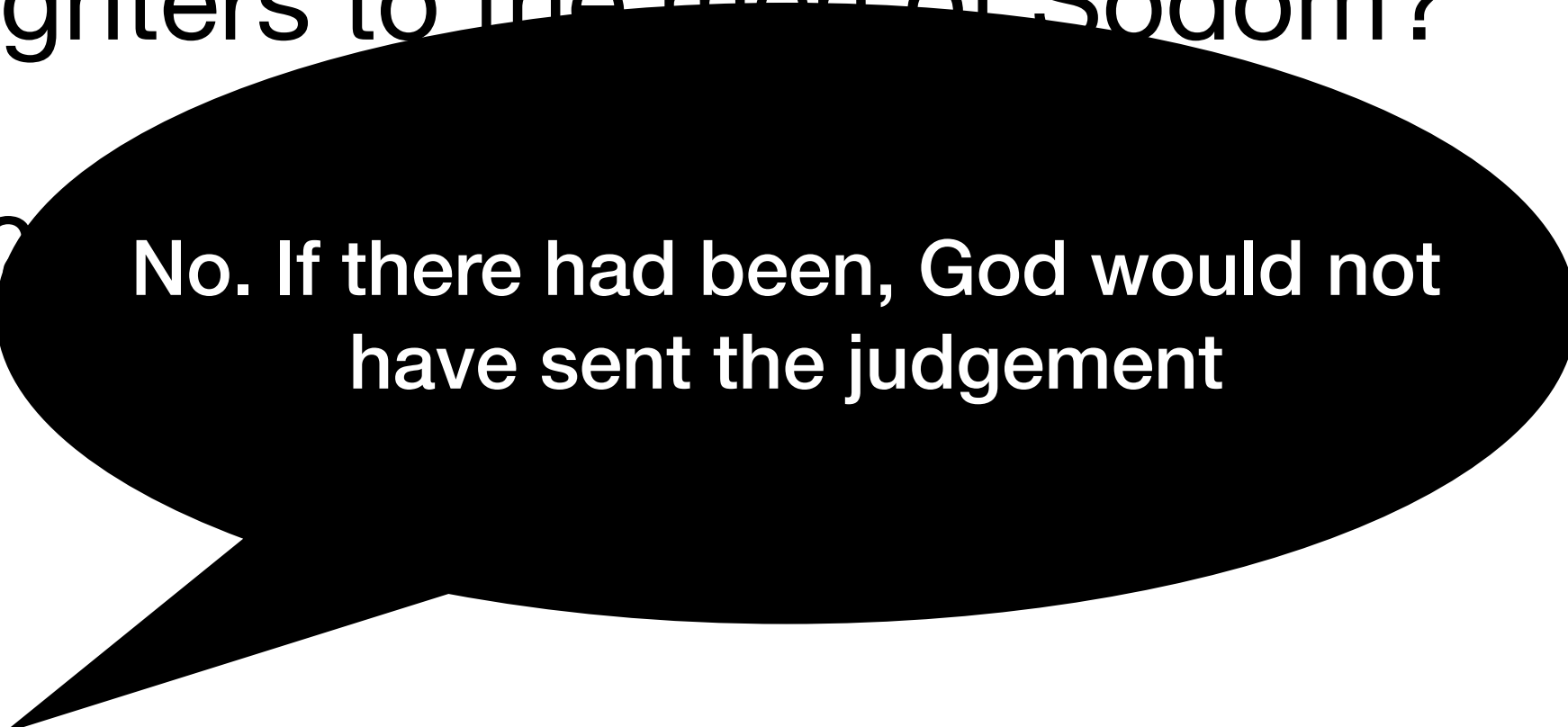
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No. If there had been, God would not have sent the judgement

# The Angels Save Lot

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# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

**APPLY**

# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

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- The Bible is clear when it speaks against homosexuality as a sin. This is a topic that can spark passions in our culture.
  - If you were sharing the gospel with someone who claims to be homosexual, how could you use 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 to minimize some of the strong emotional reaction that comes with this issue?

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Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; **neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.** Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.  
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11, NASB95, emphasis mine)

# The Angels Save Lot

**Genesis 19:1-23**

## APPLY

- The Bible is clear when it speaks against homosexuality as a sin. This is a topic that can spark passions in our culture.
  - If you were sharing the gospel with someone who claims to be homosexual, how could you use 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 to minimize some of the strong emotional reaction that comes with this issue?
- In our culture, people typically identify certain sins as more significant than others. However, are certain sins more damnable than other sins?
  - Why is it that any sin against God is worthy of such strong punishment?