

GOMORRAH – A SELECTION OF IMAGES

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Figure 1: Gomorrah used to be a Canaanite border town. At that time, the valley of Siddim extended along the Dead Sea basin | Gen 14:2–3, 8.



Figure 2: Aerial view of the light-coloured site in the vicinity of Masada (Israel).



Figure 3: Gomorrah – destroyed in 1897 BCE | Gen xix 24 (Photo: Discovered Media).



Figure 4: Gypsiferous remains of a sphinx-like figure on a raised platform at the southern edge of the city (Photo: Holy Land Site).



Figure 5: Drone image of the shape (Photo: Discovered Media).



Figure 6: Close-up.



Figure 7: Sphinx of approx. 40 feet length (ziggurat in the background).¹



Figure 8: Rear side.



Figure 9: Ziggurat – the regular spaced holes held wooden beams which supported the floors and ceilings of the various levels.

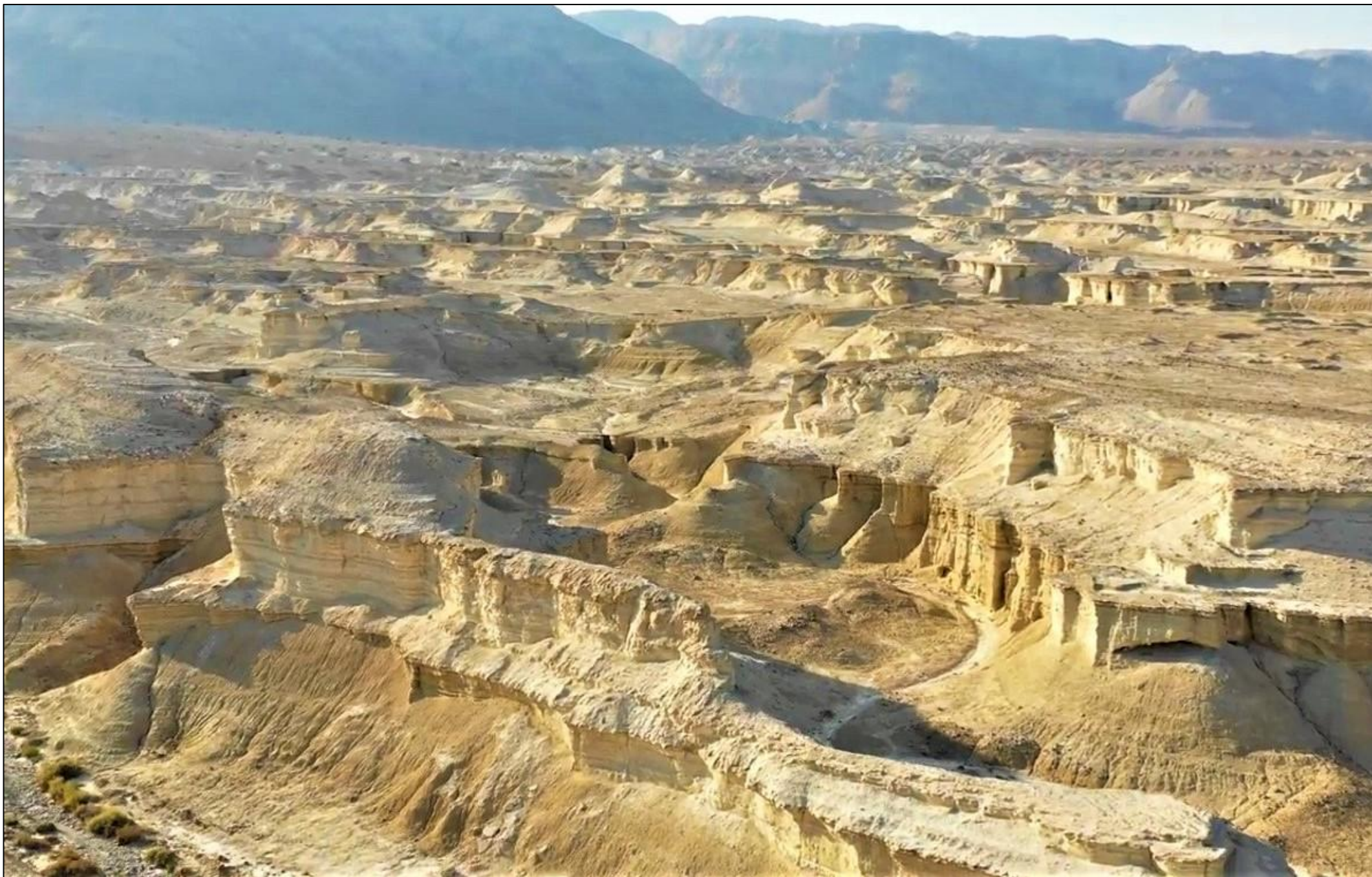


Figure 10: Drone image revealing the traditional Canaanite double wall² (Photo: Discovered Media).



Figure 11: The Gates of Gomorrah (Photo: Discovered Media).



Figure 12: Road leading into to the city.



Figure 13: Ruins of dense, compacted ash set against the skyline of brown limestone and dolomite.³



Figure 14: Pilasters, *i.e.* strengthened sections of a city wall – cf. Fortress of Buhen (Egypt).



Figure 15: Formations with 90° angles denoting man-made architecture.



Figure 16: Street (Photo: Discovered Media).



Figure 17: Close-up of ashen remains with turret.



Figure 18: Tower.



Figure 19: City centre (Photo: Discovered Media).



Figure 20: View from a higher elevation showing calcium carbonate layers topped by calcium sulfate layers (Photo: Discovered Media).



Figure 21: Roof sections (Photo: Amir Aloni).



Figure 22: Rectangular door and window opening.



Figure 23: Arched doorway.



Figure 24: Close-up of doorways.



Figure 25: Aerial view of the city periphery (Photo: Discovered Media).



Figure 26: Ruin surrounded by ash debris.



Figure 27: Various calcareous formations | Deut 29:23.



Figure 28: Detached edifice.



Figure 29: Remains of a stepped, squarish mass (Photo: Timothy Myer).

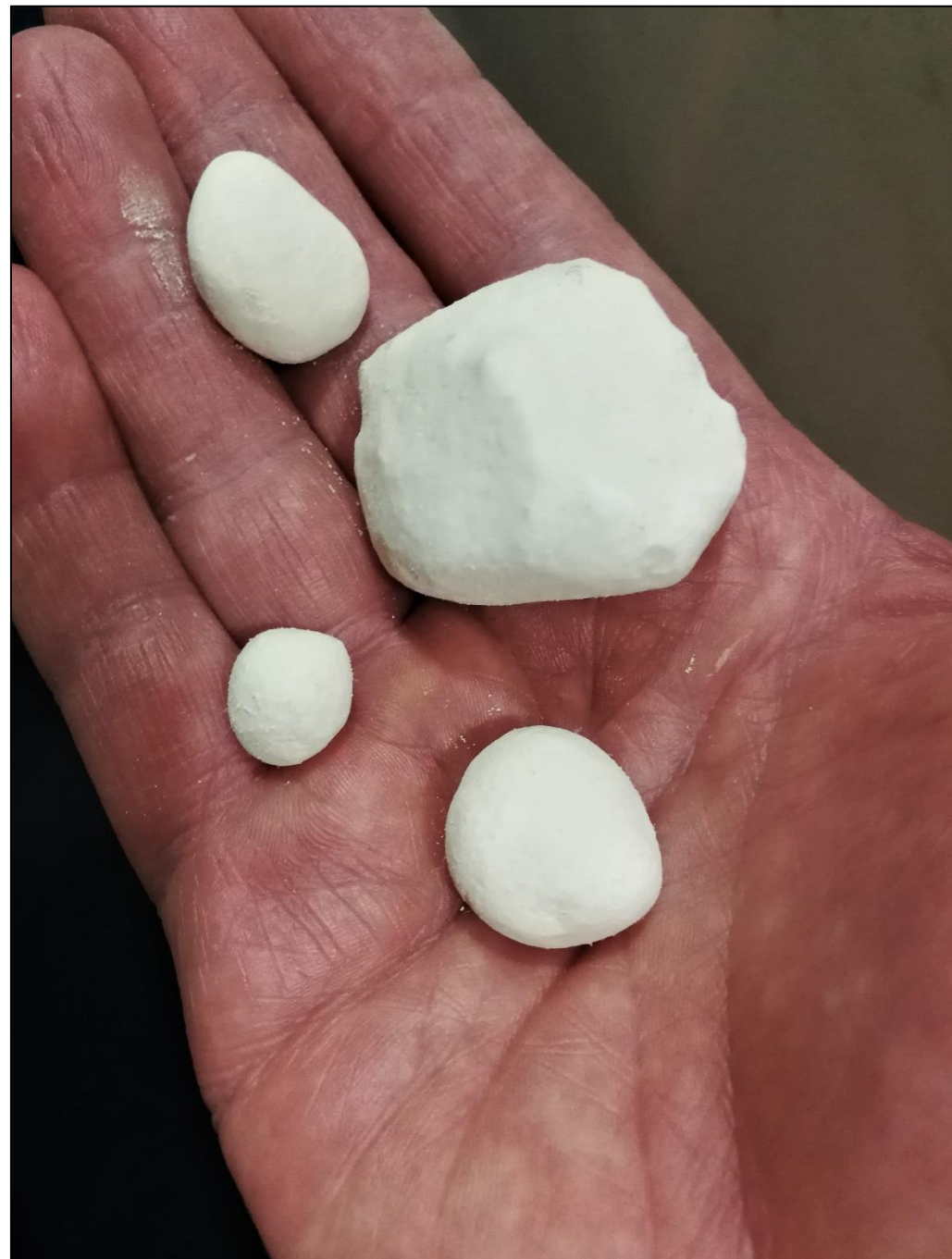


Figure 30: Sulfur nodules – embedded in vitrified ash and with burn ring.⁴



Figure 31: Burning of a sulfur nodule (Photo: Discovered Media).



Figure 32: Layer of sulfur crystals and unburned brimstone underneath (Photo: Kevin Fisher).



Figure 33: Prismatic sulfur crystals – formed by the cooling down of molten brimstone (Photo: Timothy Myer).



Figure 34: Piles of stark ash sloping into a wadi.⁵



Figure 35: Ziggurat at the northern edge of Gomorrah (Photo: Holy Land Site).



Figure 36: Close-up of the temple-tower.



Figure 37: Side view (Photo: Timothy Myer).



Figure 38: Ziggurat walls.



Figure 39: Alternating layers of calcium carbonate (cream coloured) and calcium sulfate (white) caused by thermal ionization.⁶



Figure 40: Shape on platform and a flying buttress, *i.e.* an arch supporting the weight of a roof.



Figure 41: The arch viewed from the other side.



Figure 42: Outskirts of Gomorrah.



Figure 43: Formation at the end of the city.



Figure 44: Two structures on raised platforms approx. 100 m from the northern entrance.



Figure 45: View from the front.



Figure 46: Close-up of the larger formation.



Figure 47: Shape bearing the overall resemblance of a sphinx.



Figure 48: Close-up of the sphinx-shape.



Figure 49: Another sphinx-like figure in front of the city gate (Photo: Timothy Myer).



Figure 50: Nearby dried-up riverbed – water was abundant in this once lush and fertile plain | Gen 13:10.



Figure 51: *Gomorrah* at sunset | 2 Pet 2:6.



Figure 52: View towards the city exit (gate tower on the right) | Jude 1:7.

Notes

- ¹ Deities protecting the entrance to the city reflect the centuries-long interaction between Canaan, Babylon, and Egypt. Across Israel we find that Canaan adopted foreign culture including temple-towers and imagery of scarabs and winged sphinxes. Scarabs and ivories depicting human-headed and falcon-headed sphinxes were found at Jericho, Lachish, Megiddo, and Gezer. See Daphna Ben-Tor, *Scarabs, Chronology, and Interconnections: Egypt and Palestine in the Second Intermediate Period* (Göttingen, 2007), 178.
- ² Gomorrah was a citadel city with double walls of different heights; to accommodate the population increase, walls had to be extended or added and houses were partially built on top of them (cf. the description of Rahab's house in Josh 2:15).
- ³ Despite an outer crust, the ash easily disintegrates into particles the consistency of talcum powder. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) released during burning reacts with limestone (CaCO₃) to form compounds containing sulfur and calcium which in turn oxidise into calcium sulfate (CaSO₄) or gypsum. Consequently, the ash-like substance is mainly composed of calcium sulfate as well as calcium carbonate and sulfur.
- ⁴ Sulfur nodules near the Dead Sea were already found in 1924, see Melvin Grove Kyle, *Explorations at Sodom* (London, 1928), 52. The type of sulfur found in the five ashen cities is not of geothermal origin and nowhere else extant (which should not surprise if it came down from above). Once the flaming brimstone had been smothered out by ash it was encapsulated in crystalline sulfur; the unburned pellet then separated from the capsule through erosion. The nodules are 95–98% elemental sulfur with trace amounts of magnesium, causing an extremely high-temperature burn.
- ⁵ The erosion caused by the conflagration extends to the bedrock; the walkable paths are therefore at a much lower elevation than the ashen structures.
- ⁶ Given that a supposed Pleistocene *Lake Lisan* presupposes a Pleistocene, the billow-like folds will hardly have resulted from regional earthquakes. The swirling layers of ash are the outcome of burning sodium and calcium at approx. 2500°C, causing surface ionization, *i.e.* the attraction and repelling of positive and negative ions.

The Book of Jasher

Chapter 18

11 In those days all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and of the whole five cities, were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord and they provoked the Lord with their abominations, and they strengthened in aging abominably and scornfully before the Lord, and their wickedness and crimes were in those days great before the Lord.

12 And they had in their land a very extensive valley, about half a day's walk, and in it there were fountains of water and a great deal of herbage surrounding the water.

13 And all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah went there four times in the year, with their wives and children and all belonging to them, and they rejoiced there with timbrels and dances.

14 And in the time of rejoicing they would all rise and lay hold of their neighbor's wives, and some, the virgin daughters of their neighbors, and they enjoyed them, and each man saw his wife and daughter in the hands of his neighbor and did not say a word.

15 And they did so from morning to night, and they afterward returned home each man to his house and each woman to her tent; so they always did four times in the year.

16 Also when a stranger came into their cities and brought goods which he had purchased with a view to dispose of there, the people of these cities would assemble, men, women and children, young and old, and go to the man and take his goods by force, giving a little to each man until there was an end to all the goods of the owner which he had brought into the land.

17 And if the owner of the goods quarreled with them, saying, What is this work which you have done to me, then they would approach to him one by one, and each would show him the little which he took and taunt him, saying, I only took that little which thou didst give me; and when he heard this from them all, he would arise and go from them in sorrow and bitterness of soul, when they would all arise and go after him, and drive him out of the city with great noise and tumult.

Chapter 19

1 And the cities of Sodom had four judges to four cities, and these were their names, Serak in the city of Sodom, Sharkad in Gomorrah, Zabnac in Admah, and Menon in Zeboyim.

2 And Eliezer Abraham's servant applied to them different names, and he converted Serak to Shakra, Sharkad to Shakrura, Zebnac to Kezobim, and Menon to Matzlodin.

3 And by desire of their four judges the people of Sodom and Gomorrah had beds erected in the streets of the cities, and if a man came to these places they laid hold of him and brought him to one of their beds, and by force made him to lie in them.

4 And as he lay down, three men would stand at his head and three at his feet, and measure him by the length of the bed, and if the man was less than the bed these six men would stretch him at each end, and when he cried out to them they would not answer him.

5 And if he was longer than the bed they would draw together the two sides of the bed at each end, until the man had reached the gates of death.

6 And if he continued to cry out to them, they would answer him, saying, Thus shall it be done to a man that cometh into our land.

7 And when men heard all these things that the people of the cities of Sodom did, they refrained from coming there.

8 And when a poor man came to their land they would give him silver and gold, and cause a proclamation in the whole city not to give him a morsel of bread to eat, and if the stranger should remain there some days, and die from hunger, not having been able to obtain a morsel of bread, then at his death all the people of the city would come and take their silver and gold which they had given to him.

9 And those that could recognize the silver or gold which they had given him took it back, and at his death they also stripped him of his garments, and they would fight about them, and he that prevailed over his neighbor took them.

10 They would after that carry him and bury him under some of the shrubs in the deserts; so they did all the days to any one that came to them and died in their land.

25 And a poor man came into the city to seek a maintenance, and he remained in the city some days, and all the people of Sodom caused a proclamation of their custom not to give this man a morsel of bread to eat, until he dropped dead upon the earth, and they did so.

26 And Paltith the daughter of Lot saw this man lying in the streets starved with hunger, and no one would give him any thing to keep him alive, and he was just upon the point of death.

27 And her soul was filled with pity on account of the man, and she fed him secretly with bread for many days, and the soul of this man was revived.

28 For when she went forth to fetch water she would put the bread in the water pitcher, and when she came to the place where the poor man was, she took the bread from the pitcher and gave it him to eat; so she did many days.

29 And all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah wondered how this man could bear starvation for so many days.

30 And they said to each other, This can only be that he eats and drinks, for no man can bear starvation for so many days or live as this man has, without even his countenance changing; and three men concealed themselves in a place where the poor man was stationed, to know who it was that brought him bread to eat.

31 And Paltith daughter of Lot went forth that day to fetch water, and she put bread into her pitcher of water, and she went to draw water by the poor man's place, and she took out the bread from the pitcher and gave it to the poor man and he ate it.

32 And the three men saw what Paltith did to the poor man, and they said to her, It is thou then who hast supported him, and therefore has he not starved, nor changed in appearance nor died like the rest.

33 And the three men went out of the place in which they were concealed, and they seized Paltith and the bread which was in the poor man's hand.

34 And they took Paltith and brought her before their judges, and they said to them, Thus did she do, and it is she who supplied the poor man with bread, therefore did he not die all this time; now therefore declare to us the punishment due to this woman for having transgressed our law.

35 And the people of Sodom and Gomorrah assembled and kindled a fire in the street of the city, and they took the woman and cast her into the fire and she was burned to ashes.

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