I would like to personally thank you for watching the Origins program. Origins was a special program, near to the heart of my late husband, Russell Bixler.

I trust that the information in this presentation will be helpful in your study of creation science. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of Origins... you’re making the television production of this program possible.

Norma Bixler
Sodom (Bab edh-Dhra)
Thin horizontal lake sediments (aquiclude)

Thick horizontal conglomerate beds (aquifer)

Border fault zone
Collapse debris from the south wall
“Now the two angels came to Sodom ... and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. ‘Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.’”  

(Genesis 19:1a,17b NKJV)
Excavation at the cemetery south of the city
The Arabic Name “Numeira”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARABIC</th>
<th>HEBREW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consonants NMR</td>
<td>Consonants ‘MR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nasal “N” sound</td>
<td>Guttural “G” sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Numeira”</td>
<td>“Gomorrah”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Geology of the site of Gomorrah
Burn deposit overlying the collapsed tower
Beaten-earth floor

Trench through collapsed house
Post-cultural material

Collapsed & burned roof resting on floor

Pre-cultural material (alluvial fan)
Geology of Sodom & Gomorrah

- Sodom was built on ancient lake beds
- Gomorrah was built on an active alluvial fan
- Both sites were abruptly destroyed in the Early Bronze III by collapse and ignition
- Both sites are adjacent to the enormous border fault that created the Dead Sea rift zone
- Both sites display vertical displacements associated with the fault of tens of meters
- Both sites have severe mass wasting & erosion
- Tar seeps are associated with the border fault
The Destruction Event

"Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground."

Genesis 19:24-25 KJV

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"rained" – Hebrew: *matar*, atmospheric process.

"brimstone" – Hebrew: *goprit*, a liquid sealant.

"overthrew" – Hebrew: *haphek*, to flip over.
What did Abraham see?

“And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.”

Genesis 19:28 KJV

“furnace” – Hebrew: *kibshan*, a kiln for baking lime or pottery.

Did Abraham see the simultaneous collapse and ignition of the cities of the plain?
Abraham’s Viewpoint

Looking southeast from more than 30 miles distance, Abraham sees smoke like a forced air furnace rising over the cities of the plain across at least a 30 degree angle of view.
Salt Encrustations at the Shore of the Dead Sea
Active Oil Seep

Recent salt encrustations at the southeastern shore of the Dead Sea are broken away by tar oozing from the rock along the border fault.
Earthquake Fires – California, Owens Valley earthquake of March 26, 1872

“...immediately following the great shock, men whose veracity is beyond question . . . saw sheets of flame on the rocky sides of the Inyo Mountains but a few miles distant. These flames, observed in several places, waved to and fro, apparently clear of the ground, like vast torches; they continued for only a few minutes.”

- report in local newspaper
Earthquake Fires

- During some earthquakes, competent observers have described flaming phenomena, scorched trees, explosive sounds, erupting sand and mud, floating tar, sulfurous smells, and bubbling lakes.

- These observations demonstrate that gases and liquids erupted along faults during earthquakes are frequently combustible.
Piezoelectricity

Pressure applied to a quartz crystal produces a measurable voltage.
Piezoelectricity

Familiar examples:
- Phonograph needle
- Microphone
- Digital wrist watch

Unfamiliar example:
- Earthquake lights
Earthquake Lights

- Normal lightning
- Fireballs (ball lightning)
- Sky flashes
- Aurora-like beams
- St. Elmo’s fire of wide extent

Strange atmospheric lights have been created by the piezoelectric effect from stress applied to rock during earthquakes.
Does Magma Reside in the Deep Rocks beneath the Dead Sea?

- Small historic earthquakes beneath the Dead Sea are not uniformly spaced.
- Do earthquake shadow zones represent hot, ductile, and high density magma at depth?
Potent Agents of Destruction

Probable Physical Causes:

- Flammable gas or liquid
- Piezoelectricity
- Magma

Was there a supernatural agent working as well?
Conclusion

- The cities are a significant biblical topic
- The cities are located in the region of Moab southeast of the Dead Sea
- Specific EBIII sites are likely the cities
- Earthquake collapse, piezoelectric phenomena, and flammable matter ignition were the likely agents of destruction
- Authentication of details of the account of judgment has important implications today
- More research on geology and archaeology of sites needs to be conducted in the future
What was the Sin of Sodom?

“Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me.”

Ezekiel 16:49-50a NKJV
“And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, ... like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath: Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the Lord done thus unto the land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger?”

Deuteronomy 29:23, 24 KJV
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