

Parallels between Flood and Sodom stories

ELEMENT	FLOOD	SODOM
Human agent of divine salvation	Noah	Lot/Abraham
Humans proposed to be saved	Noah/wife, sons/wives	Lot/wife, daughters/husbands
Cause	God/YHWH sees ruin and violence on the earth caused by humans	YHWH hears an outcry against human evil/sin
Key role of “ruin” (Heb, <i>shchth</i>) as a divine response to human evil/sin	6.11, 12, 13, 17; 9.11, 15	13.10 (in anticipation); 18.28, 31, 32; 19.13, 14, 29 (only 38.9 elsewhere in Genesis)
Category of exemption from divine punishment	Noah is “righteous” (Heb, <i>tsaddiq</i>)	Abraham asks YHWH about “righteous” (Heb, <i>tsaddiq</i>) people who should be saved
Means of destruction	“rain” (Heb, <i>mtr</i>) of water	“rain” (Heb, <i>mtr</i> , only 2.5 elsewhere in Genesis) of sulphur and fire
Container to protect from evil	Ark, surrounded by the evil people	Lot’s house, surrounded by the evil people
Post-destruction action	Noah plants a vineyard and gets drunk	Lot’s daughters get him drunk