פרשת וירא פרק י״ט עניין רעת סדום בפירוש הרמב"ן

Part I:

Read this passage of פּסוקים and highlight any words or statements that trouble you (in both the Hebrew and English). Then, in the lines underneath, briefly explain why you were bothered by those words.

1 And the two angels came to Sedom in the evening and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sedom; and Lot saw them, and got up to greet them; and he bowed his face down towards the ground.	א וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׁנֵי הַמַּלְאָכִים סְדֹמָה בָּעֶרֶב, וְלוֹט יֹשֵב בְּשַׁעַר-סְדֹם; וַיַּרְא לוֹט וַיָּקָם לִקְרָאתָם, וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַפַּיִם אָרְצָה.
2 and he said: "See now, my masters, please turn into your servant's house, and stay overnight, and wash your feet, and you can wake up early, and go on your way." And they said: "No, we will sleep in the street."	בּ וַיּאמֶר הִנֶּה נָּא-אֲדֹנַי, סוּרוּ נָא אֶל-בֵּית עַבְדְּכֶם וְלִינוּ וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם, וְהִשְׁכַּמְתֶּם, וַהְלַכְתֶּם לְדַרְכְּכֶם; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹּא, כִּי בָּרְחוֹב נָלִין.
3 And he urged them very greatly; and they did follow him in, and came into his house, and he made them a feast, and baked matzot, and they ate.	גּ וַיִּפְצַר בָּם מְאֹד וַיָּסֵרוּ אֵלָיו, וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ, וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם מִשְׁתֶּה, וּמַצּוֹת אָפָה וַיֹּאכֵלוּ.
4 But before they could lie down, the men of the city, the men of Sedom, circled around the house, from young to old, all the people from every quarter.	דּ טֶרֶם יִשְׁכָּבוּ, וְאַנְשֵׁי הָעִיר אַנְשֵׁי סְדֹם נָסַבּוּ עַל-הַבַּיִת, מִנַּעַר וְעַד-זָקֵן, כָּל-הָעָם, מִקָּצֶה.
5 And they called out to Lot, and said to him: "Where are the men that came in to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we may know them."	הּ וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל-לוֹט וַיּאמְרוּ לוֹ, אַיֵּה הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-בָּאוּ אֵלֶיךְ הַלָּיְלָה; הוֹצִיאֵם אֵלֵינוּ, וְנַדְעָה אֹתָם.

6 And Lot went out to them to the door, and shut the door behind him.	ו וַיֵּצֵא אֲלֵהֶם לוֹט הַפֶּתְחָה, וְהַדֶּלֶת סָגַר אַחֲרָיו.
7 And he said, "Please don't, my brothers, do such evil.	.ז וַיֹּאמֵר אַל-נָא אַחַי תָּרֵעוּ
8 See now, I have two daughters that have not known any man; let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them that which is good in your eyes; just do nothing to these men, because they have come under the safety of my roof."	ּח הִנֵּה-נָא לִי שְׁתֵּי בָנוֹת, אֲשֶׁר לֹא יָדְעוּ אִישׁאוֹצִיאָה נָּא אֶתְהֶן אֲלֵיכֶם, וַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶן כַּטּוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם, רַק לָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵל, אַל-תַּעֲשׂוּ דָבָר, כִּי עַל כֵּן בָּאוּ בְּצֵל קֹרָתִי.

Part II:

Working with a חברותא, read and translate the commentary of the רמב", which is printed below. Pay particular attention to the underlined passages.

Translation	פירוש הרמב״ן (פסוק ה-"ונדעה אותם")
	<u>כוונתם לכלות את הרגל מביניהם, כדברי</u>
	<u>רבותינו (סנהדרין קט א), כי חשבו</u>
	<u>שבעבור טובת ארצם, שהיא כגן ה', יבאו</u>
	<u>שם רבים. והם היו מואסי הצדקה, אבל</u>
	<u>לוט בעשרו וממונו בא אליהם, או שבקש</u>
	<u>מהם רשות או שקבלוהו לכבוד אברהם.</u>

והכתוב מעיד שזאת כוונתם, שנאמר
יחזקאל טז מט): "הנה זה היה עון סדום"
אחותך גאון שבעת לחם ושלות השקט היה
לה ולבנותיה ויד עני ואביון לא החזיקה".
ומה שאמר (לעיל יג יג): " <i>רעים וחטאים</i>
<i>לה' מאד"</i> , שהיו מכעיסים ומורדים
בשלותם ובענוי האביונים, והוא שאמר
יחזקאל טז נ): "ותגבהינה ותעשינה)
תועבה לפני ואסיר אתהן כאשר ראיתי".
ועל דעת רבותינו (סנהדרין קט א),
<u>היו בהם כל מדות רעות, אבל נגמר דינם</u>
<u>על אותו העון מפני שלא החזיקו יד עני</u>
<u>ואביון,</u> כי היו תדירים באותו עון יותר
מכולם, <u>וגם כי כל העמים עושים צדקות עם</u>
ריעיהם ועם ענייהםלא היה בכל הגויים
<u>כסדום לאכזריות.</u>

Part III:

Answer the questions thoughtfully, in complete sentences

SW(er the questions thoughtfully, in complete sentences.	
1.	According to the רמב", why were the people of סדום so determined to know who טוֹי visitors were? What were they so opposed to?	
2.	Why might they have made an exception for לוט and allowed him to live amongst them?	

3.	How do the פסוקים quoted from ספר יחזקאל help support the 'רמב"; understanding of what was really so evil about סדום?
4.	Contrast the mentality of the population of סדום with that of אברהם אבינו towards strangers and other people in need.
5.	Does לוט belong in such a place? Why or why not?

Part IV:

Read <u>this article</u> from 2014 by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, זצ"ל, entitled "There Can be no Place in the Immigration Debate for Xenophobia and the Appeal to Fear". Then record a short video of yourself answering the following questions in our <u>flip.com</u> group.

- What are some of the challenges faced by many immigrants throughout history, as described by Rabbi Sacks?
- How is this connected to the רמב"ן understanding of the root of סדום 's evil?
- "There is no place in the debate for prejudice, xenophobia, and the appeal to baser instincts of fear toward the stranger. The history of the twentieth century should remind us what can happen if we begin to blame this or that group for our misfortunes." How would you apply this quote to the mentality and deeds of the people of DITO?
- Consider the outcome that befell the entire population of חודס immediately following the incident with לוט and his visitors. Was it a tragedy? Why or why not? Explain your answer.