



## **MESSAGE/SERIES:**

**Series: BIBLICAL BEGINNINGS**

**Message: "Pleading for the Righteous"**

**Text: Genesis 18:16-19:38**

**DATE: July 19, 2020**

## **SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:**

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

**Genesis 18:16-33, Romans 4:13-15, 16, Romans 4:20-22, Psalm 1:6, Genesis 13:13, James 2:23, Luke 17:28-30**

## **OPENING SCRIPTURE:**

**[Genesis 18:16-33, 19:1-38]**

**18** <sup>16</sup> Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. <sup>17</sup> The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, <sup>18</sup> seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? <sup>19</sup> For I have chosen him, 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 to Abraham what he has promised him." <sup>20</sup> Then the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, <sup>21</sup> I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” <sup>26</sup> And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

<sup>27</sup> Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup> Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup> He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup> Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” <sup>33</sup> And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ge 18:16-33.

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## **BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:**

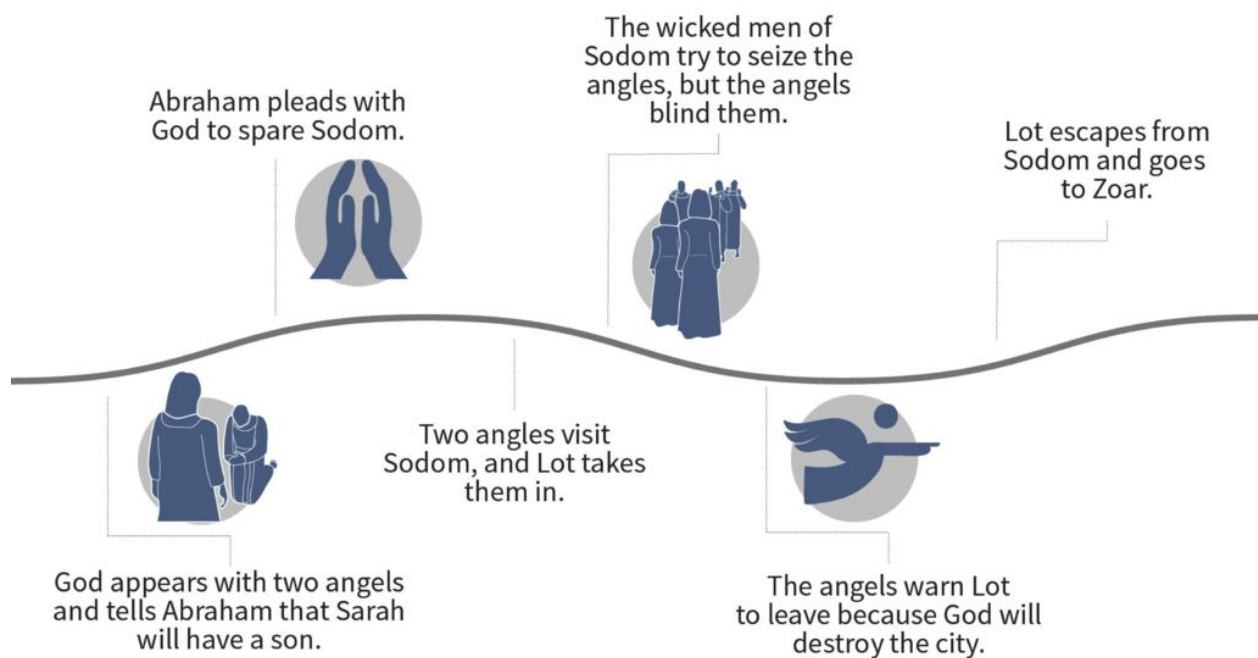
**[v20-21] [ANTHROPOMORPHISM]** “18:20–21. judge collecting evidence. There is a combination of anthropomorphism (God being given humanlike qualities) and theodicy (explanation of divine action) in this story and in the Tower of Babel episode (Gen 11). In both cases, to demonstrate divine justice and fairness, God “comes down” to investigate a situation before taking action.

Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*, electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Ge 18:20–21.

**[v22-23] [ABRAHAM'S BARGAINING]** "Haggling is a part of all Middle Eastern business transactions. In this case, however, Abraham's determination of the exact number of righteous persons needed to prevent the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah provides a repeated demonstration of God's just actions. A just God will not destroy the righteous without warning or investigation. Even the unrighteous, in this early period, can be spared for the sake of the righteous. On the other hand, however, justice is not served by overlooking wickedness. The discussion of the number of righteous people may concern not whether they can balance the wickedness of the rest but whether, given time, they might be able to exert a reforming influence."

Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*, electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Ge 18:22–33.

### [TIMELINE]



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“If God does not punish America and the world,  
He will have to apologize to Sodom & Gomorrah”

-Phillipps

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## OUTLINE:

THIS MISSION OF THE LORD AND THE 2 ANGELS WAS A 2 PART MISSION... The first leg of the mission was to build faith in Sarah and now this second leg is to judge the wickedness of these 5 plain cities with the kingpin city of Sodom as the representative city.

### I. THE LORD'S EYES ON JUDGEMENT (v16-21)

The Lord had dealt with His people (Abraham & Sarah) and now He turns to deal with the world

1. **Grace** is currently extended because of God's chosen people in Christ (those who will believe)
  - a) Once the last one comes to Christ the Lord will return in His glory
2. **Judgement** is promised after Christ deals with His people
  - a) The Lord dealt with Abraham and Sarah first before He turned toward Sodom
    - (1) *Tribulation (current)- Great tribulation (coming)- resurrection & removal of the saints- the Lord's return (the Apostles view of eschatology-a Historic premillennial view)*
  - b) This passage teaches us that **there is an end to God's longsuffering** and patience with the world
  - c) This passage re-emphasizes that God is grace but **He is also Justice**
3. The Lord **shares His plan with Abraham**
  - a) (v17-19) Because of Abraham's faithfulness---
    - (1) *The Lord knew Abraham would continue to seek to obey Him and seek Him*

*(2) The Lord knew Abraham would train His descendants to keep the ways of the Lord*

4. The Lord reveals the judgement of the world with (believers)
  - a) The Holy Spirit **makes us aware of coming judgement**
    - (1) giving a sense of urgency to His people (evangelism)*
    - (2) Giving as a compassion for those who are blind (Spiritually)*
  - b) Abraham stood between the Lord and Sodom as He sensed the coming judgement
    - (1) The Lord Jesus saw Himself coming after Abraham to die for people from cities like Sodom (Romans 3:23)*

## II. ABRAHAM'S PLEA FOR THE RIGHTEOUS (v22-33)

Abraham's plea and intercession for Sodom was on behalf of Lot and His family. His plea was on behalf of a people he had earlier rescued from the kings of the North (he knew them)

Abraham's pleading was common to the culture of the day where you bargained for everything. In an effort to gain the best deal people would bargain.

A. But here Abraham pleads and bargains ***with reverence for the Lord and love for the people of Sodom (especially his nephew Lot)***

- Pleading for fifty (18:23–26): Abraham asks if the Lord will spare the city for the sake of fifty righteous people found there. The Lord answers yes.
- Pleading for forty-five (18:27–28): For forty-five? Yes.
- Pleading for forty (18:29): For forty? Yes.
- Pleading for thirty (18:30): For thirty? Yes.
- Pleading for twenty (18:31): For twenty? Yes.
- Pleading for ten (18:32–33): For ten? Yes.

H. L. Willmington, *The Outline Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), Ge 18:23–33.

B. We know the Lord will return and judge the world this is assured from scripture so we plead through

- a. **Intercessory prayer** (represented in Abraham’s dealings with the Lord here)
- b. Careful **Witness in the World**
- c. Determination to **Warn of the coming wrath**

### III. **SODOM’S WITNESS TO US (Luke 17:28-30, Jude 7)**

- 1) The Lord has given us the record of Sodom to remind us of coming judgement

**Luke 17:28-30** <sup>28</sup> *Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, <sup>29</sup> but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, **fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—** <sup>30</sup> **so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.***

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Lk 17:28–30.*

- 2) The Lord gave us the record of the Fallen Angels to remind us of coming judgement

**Jude 1:7** *“And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has **kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—** <sup>7</sup> just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, **serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.**”*

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jud 6–7.*

- a) God deals with the evil in the world in general as there will be a judgement of all sinners & the Redeemed (Saved) in the end
- b) God deals never sternly with the Sexual and moral depravity of man displayed in Sodom and prior to the flood
  - i) **Example:** God wiped out the entire planet with a flood due to the immorality that was rampant before the flood (God’s wrath is great and complete)
  - ii) **Forewarning:** Hell will be total and complete (**eternal**)

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**Interactive Application:**

1) The Lord loved Abraham and shared His plan with him. God shares His plan with us through the Gospel... how are you currently viewing the information you have about the coming judgement?

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2) When we hear messages about hell what do we think about? (1) The world is going to get what it deserves or (2) Intercessory prayer-- Lord please have mercy and deal with my lost friends with compassion?

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3) Do we too often get out of balance forgetting either God's grace and mercy or His wrath?

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4) What are the dangers in forgetting God's wrath?

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-----Message from Pastor Michael-----  
Church,

As always we see God's grace and justice on display in the record of The Lord headed to Sodom. Our nation is not much different than Sodom and Gamorrah... we have twisted marriage and sex so that the kids born today do not know what God's design. Do we sit back and say judgement is coming and God is through with us or do we plead and witness and warn? I believe God is the complete author of salvation, and I believe He calls His people to pray for salvation in our wicked nation. Where are you? When you see the news do you just shake your head and go to bed or do you pray Lord use me to be a witness and warn of your coming judgement and you grace? It's time to get busy being a light in this dark world.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Michael

