

Faith Intercedes (Abraham Part 8) March 11, 2018

Abraham's intercession and Sodom's destruction (Gen 18:16 - 19:38)

The Lord informs Abraham (18:16-22)

Abraham's faithfulness (18:16-19)

"the Lord said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?'" (Gen 18:17)
The Lord was addressing this question to Himself.

The Lord answered His own question (Gen 18:19).

God speaks to His people about the concerns of His heart, telling them what He is going to do, and involves and uses them to bring His purposes to pass.

Why does God reveal what He's about to do to Abraham?

To teach his descendants to do righteousness and justice.

Because Abraham was "the friend of God" (2Chr 20:7; Isa 41:8; Jas 2:23).

So that Abraham would intercede on their behalf.

Gen 20:7 "Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

Sodom's sinfulness (18:20-22)

The Lord tells Abraham about the wickedness of Sodom and His plan to destroy.

Abraham's intercession for Sodom (18:23-33).

Abraham asks if the Lord will spare the city for the sake of:

50 righteous people found there. The Lord answers yes. (18:23-26)

45 righteous people found there. The Lord answers yes. (18:27-28)

40 righteous people found there. The Lord answers yes. (18:29)

30 righteous people found there. The Lord answers yes. (18:30)

20 righteous people found there. The Lord answers yes. (18:31)

10 righteous people found there. The Lord answers yes. (18:32-33):

Pre-destruction events (19:1-14)

Lot and the two angels (19:1-3)

Two angels visit Lot, and he invites them to spend the night in his home.

They find Lot at the gate of Sodom.

The gate of a city was the place where the town elders met (Ruth 4:1).

Lot had become so enmeshed in the life of the city that he had become a ruling elder

Lot and the people of Sodom (19:4-11)

They demand that Lot hand over the two men (angels) so that they can sexually molest them.

Lot and his family (19:12-14)

In vain Lot warns his daughters' fiancés to flee the city (19:14).

Lot's oppression

2Pt 2:7-8 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men 8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds),

Destruction events (19:15-29)

Reluctance to leave, the firmness and compassion of God (19:15-17)

Gen 19:16 But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the LORD was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.

The fear (19:18-22)

Lot begs that they be allowed to live in Zoar, a small village near Sodom.

The fiery wrath of God (19:23-25)

God's judgment falls upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

The fatality (19:26)

Lot's wife becomes a pillar of salt because she looks back.

Lk 17:31-32 "On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. 32 "Remember Lot's wife.

The firestorm (19:27-29)

Abraham sees smoke rising from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Post-destruction events (19:30-38)

The supposition of Lot's daughters (19:30-31)

They fear they will never marry and raise children.

The sins of the sisters (19:32-36)

They get their father drunk to become pregnant.

The sons of the sisters (19:37-38)

Moab (father of the **Moabites**) is born to Lot's older daughter.

Ben-ammi (father of the **Ammonites**) is born to Lot's younger daughter.

Notes:

Lot's wife and daughters aren't named.

Lot offers his own daughters to be abused (19:8, 12-14, 30-38).

Lot had been afraid to flee to the mountains (19:19) so he went instead to Zoar (19: 22).

Ironically, he left Zoar for the mountains and lived in a cave (19:30).

Contrast between Abraham and Lot

Abraham	Lot
God, Himself visits	Only the angels visit
God has a message of joy for Abraham	The angels gave a message of judgment to Lot
Abraham was visited in the daytime	Lot was visited in the evening
Abraham was at a tent door	Lot was at the city gate
Abraham had influence with God	Lot had no influence even with his own family
Abraham lost nothing	Lot lost everything, only his life was spared
Abraham brought the world blessing	Lot's descendants brought trouble into the world

Note the progression of Lot's tragic fall

1. Lot looked longingly at Sodom (13:10).
2. Lot chose the area of ground near Sodom (13:11).
3. Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom (13:12).
4. Lot moved right into the city (14:12).
5. Lot gave his energies to Sodom as a governing official (19:1-11).

References used in this study:

The Outline Bible
Willmington's Bible Handbook
The NKJV Study Bible
The Preacher's Commentary Series