

## Judgment ~ Genesis 18:16-33

1. Abraham and Sarah have had an amazing opportunity!
  - a. How many people are allowed to entertain God?
    - i. Jesus, in a pre-incarnate form, has come to the camp of Abraham
    - ii. He has once again declared His promises to Abraham and to Sarah
  - b. Now, after this short encounter, there is something else for Abraham to see
    - i. There is a consequence, a judgment, for sin
2. An Investigation ~ **Genesis 18:16-21**
  - a. As we see this unfold, we have to realize that all of this is for the benefit of Abraham
    - i. It is a lesson and a guide to his future as the father of a multitude, of a great nation, and as the source of blessing for the world
    - ii. The Lord already knows of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah—He has no need to investigate it for Himself
  - b. As was customary, as Abraham's guests rise to leave, he follows them
    - i. The entire thought process of the Lord is laid before us
      1. Abraham will bear the responsibility of teaching his children
        - a. To keep the way of the Lord—a course of conduct
          - i. A way of righteousness—a correct moral standard
          - ii. A way of justice—without hint of favoritism
  - c. The mission is shown to Abraham—Sodom's sins will be revealed
    - i. The phrasing is clear in the Hebrew
      1. The Lord will "go down and see"
        - a. This is a clear statement—the Lord's investigation is meant to reveal what is happening
        - b. Again, this is not for His benefit—it is so Abraham will see their sin and the following judgment as being proper
      - ii. Remember also, something that the Lord said before revealing to Abraham what was about to happen—Abraham had been chosen by God
        1. Chosen for what?
          - a. To be God's friend
          - b. To be God's fulfillment of a promise made to Adam and Eve
          - c. To be the founder of a nation of people that would seek God
        2. None of this is being done on accident—it all has a purpose in God's plans
3. The Intercession ~ **Genesis 18:22-33**
  - a. Abraham is also, obviously, not unaware of Sodom's sins

## Judgment ~ Genesis 18:16-33

- i. Why else would he enter into intercession on their behalf?
  - 1. He also knows that his nephew, Lot, has taken up residence in Sodom
- b. The negotiations
  - i. Abraham appeals on a sense of justice—not mercy
    - 1. When he draws near, it is in the sense of someone approaching a judge in order to argue a case
    - 2. Remember, Abraham already knows of the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah
      - a. Their reputation was known throughout the region
        - i. It would be impossible for it not to be known
        - ii. We all know the reputation of the cities around us
          - 1. For example, if there has been a shooting in KCMO, we all pretty much know where it has probably happened
          - 2. The reputation of a city, even of a neighborhood, is generally well-known to the local inhabitants
    - 3. An appeal to mercy, in the face of rampant sin, is probably not the best appeal
      - a. So Abraham appeals to the justice of the Lord
        - i. Should someone who is righteous receive the same judgment as someone who acts in an evil manner?
        - ii. Abraham reminds (as if that is necessary) the Lord that He is the judge of all the earth, and that He should only do that which is right
        - iii. He then asks a question—what if there are 50 righteous people in Sodom?
          - 1. Will the Lord destroy them along with the wicked people?
        - iv. The Lord's answer is certain
          - 1. Of course not—He would never destroy 50 righteous people because of the sins of the rest of the city
        - v. Then—Abraham gets bold
          - 1. What if there are only 45?
          - 2. What if there are only 40? 30? 20? 10?
          - 3. Abraham stops at 10, because I believe at that point Abraham knew that the Lord was fully committed to doing right—not just judging

## Judgment ~ Genesis 18:16-33

- vi. It is interesting how Abraham describes himself during this exchange
  - 1. He calls himself dust and ashes
    - a. He acknowledges that he is not eternal
    - b. He acknowledges that he is not a righteous judge
    - c. He acknowledges his own limitations
      - i. Yet he boldly speaks and negotiates with the Lord—for the sole purpose of saving his nephew, most likely
- c. The heart of Abraham is clear
  - i. He desires his nephew be saved
    - 1. What a heart we should seek to have...