

In The Beginning

True Intercession

Abraham dines with the Lord ...Gen.18:1-8

What is clearly stated about (1) of the (3) men who approach Abraham? vs.1-2

Plainly one is the Lord, a theophany. The other two are Holy Angels (19:1)

Describe the scene in verses 3-8.

Abraham invites the Lord to dinner! Note his urgency, at 99! He knew it was the Lord...

What must be going through Abraham and Sarah's minds?

Why is the Lord here, personally? Perhaps suspicion about Sodom??

When the Lord repeats that Sarah will have a son, within the year, what's the reaction? vs.9-12

Sarah hears and laughs to herself. How incredible! Had Abraham not told her??

After the Lord confronts her laughter (to "herself"), what is her reaction? vs.13-15 Is.55:8-9

She denied laughing because she was afraid. Who is this that knows our thoughts??

Describe the Lord's conversation in verses 17-19. What attribute(s) of God do you see here?

Very much a friend-to-friend talk. God gives great honor to Abraham...

Then the Lord tells Abraham plainly what is about to happen. Why? vs.20-21

To not hide what He is going to do. Shows justice, grace, invites intercession.

The great model of intercession...Gen.18:22-33

As the angels start toward Sodom (about 20 miles), what does Abraham specifically do? vs.23

He draws near to the Lord. All intercession begins with that. Heb.10:19-15

The Lord is clearly sharing His heart with Abraham. What attribute do we see? Ez.33:11

For one, we see His dislike for judgment and death. This is not what pleases Him.

Summarize Abraham's words to the Lord in verses 23-25.

The Judge of all must deal justly! If only 50 righteous, they must be saved!

And what is the gracious promise from the Lord? vs.26 James 5:16

He will spare the whole city for the sake of 50 righteous. The power of a little salt.

What had to be at the heart of Abraham's intercession? IIPet.2:6-9

He knew Lot was there and that he was righteous. Certainly he had 'converts'?

What may we observe about the Lord in verses 27-32? Prov.15:8; Lu.11:5-13

The Lord loves to hear the prayers of the righteous! And He LOVES persistence.

Abraham would be ridiculed in Sodom. Yet he interceded. What's the application? Jude 1:17-23

Understanding the Grace given to us, snatch others from the fires of judgment.

Comment on Abraham's respect for the Lord in his intercession. vs.27,30,31,32

He shows reverential fear, and yet is not paralyzed! What a model for us...