

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Intercession"
Genesis 18:16-33
Study-41

Genesis 18:16-24, 32-33

This is the first time in the Bible that we see a person **Interceding On Behalf of Others**, known as **"Intercessory Prayer"** - *"To fall-in with another person, to fall in line with another."*

Abraham belonged to a select company within God's people known as "Intercessors" - Moses, Samuel, Elijah, Jeremiah, the Apostles, and the Lord Himself.

Lord's ministry today in heaven is **"Intercession" Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25**

Thought Of Our Passage: "When A Believer Is In Fellowship With God, God Reveals His Heart Thus Leading Us To Be Intercessors For Others"

- 1. Verses 16-22 The Proven Man**
- 2. Verses 23-33 The Praying Man**

1. Verses 16-22 The Proven Man:

Genesis 18:16 Then the men rose up from there, Context – Abraham is having an encounter with God and two angels.

Genesis 18:1-2 The Lord told Abraham and Sarah that next year, at this time, Sarah was going to have a son.

Abraham and Sarah both laughed so God said his name will be called **Isaac** – which means *"Laughter."* **Genesis 18:14 Context** –Is the salvation of sinners too difficult for the Lord? (Sodom is the prototype for the worst of sinners)

and looked down toward Sodom; The place Sodom is going to become the focus through **Genesis 19**. Sodom was about 35 miles away.

Genesis 18:17 Abraham inherited the land, and he would need to explain why God destroyed the cities. **James 2:23**

Prayer And Intercession Start With Fellowship: Abraham had been fellowshiping with the Lord. **Through Fellowship We Learn God's Heart:**

No Intercession Without Obedience To God's Word: Isaiah 59:2

Genesis 18:18 Abraham Needed To Know Because He Would Become A Great Nation: since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation,

and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? Jesus Galatians 3:8

Genesis 18:19 "For I have chosen him, It was God's doing

Abraham Was To Teach Righteousness And Justice: household after him to keep the way of the LORD Genesis 17:26-27

Notice the respect and leadership ability that Abraham possessed.

Genesis 19 Lot has no respect in his house as a spiritual man.

by doing righteousness and justice; Notice here that God speaks about justice.

so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."

God was going to do the work. He said, **"I will"** that meant it was going to be the Lord!

Verses 20-22 The Need Of Intercession: Genesis 18:20

Sodom's Sin Was Great: "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, Cain killed Abel, the Lord said something in **Genesis 4:10**

outcry – *"cries of the oppressed and brutalized"* **Ezekiel 16:49 Sodom** – self-centered, living for self, and pleasure.

Sodom – *"to scorch, burnt"*

Gomorrah – *"a (ruined) heap"*

Genesis 14:2 tells us 5 cities: **Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim,** and **Bela (or Zoar).** the corruption of the Canaanites had not yet matured (**Genesis 15:16**).

their sin has come from the city name **Sodom** which we get *"Sodomy,"* which speaks of homosexuality. **is exceedingly grave.** The words are **exceedingly grave** – *"utterly heavy, utterly burdened, utterly hardened"* **Genesis 13:13**

Jesus used Sodom as a warning for the future judgment of sinners.

Luke 17:28-30

Genesis 18:21 "I will go down now, and see Why would God have to do this if He is omniscience? God went down to Babel **Genesis 11:5**. The two angels will go down

Genesis 18:22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, What an awesome sight this was as these men (Angels) walking towards the city

while Abraham was still standing before the LORD. Abraham's heart.

2. Verses 23-33 The Praying Man:

Genesis 18:23 came near. *"not only physical, but mind and heart reaching to God in confession and worship"* **James 4:8; Hebrews 4:16**

"Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Righteous – *"right standing before God, to declare holy, just innocent, perfect rightness"*

A Reminder - That People Belong To God, They Are God's Work Not Ours: (God wants us to seize His willingness not His reluctance)

James 5:16

Verses 24-26 If 50 Righteous Can Be Found: Genesis 18:24 Surely Lot had affected 50 people!

Great Question For Us "Do We Really believe in Judgment (Hell) and do we Care?"

Genesis 18:25 Lot was righteous **2 Peter 2:7**

Abraham did not have a Bible as we have. The righteous do suffer – **Matthew 5:45**

Abraham Prays For The Glory of God: (His Character) "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. God is a God of righteousness

Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" The basis of the prayer was the justice of God. **Deuteronomy 32:4**

Genesis 18:26

God Loves The Sinner And Wants Them To Turn To Him: Ezekiel 33:11; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9

Verses 27-28 If 45 Righteous Can Be Found: Genesis 18:27 although I am but dust and ashes.

David said, Psalm 22:6 But I am a worm and not a man, Prayer Changes Me!

Genesis 18:28

Abraham loved people:

Verse 29 If 40 Righteous Can Be Found: Genesis 18:29

Verse 30 If 30 Righteous Can Be Found: Genesis 18:30

"Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; Humility in his requests

Verse 31 If 20 Righteous Can Be Found: Genesis 18:31

Verse 32 If 10 Righteous Can Be Found:

Persistence In Prayer: "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; Don't be afraid to ask God! God is not reluctant, but God wanted Abraham to pray. **(God wants us to seize His willingness not His reluctance)**

"I will not destroy it on account of the ten." That's the number that Abraham is looking for: Lot and his wife, two sons (4) 19:12, two married daughters and 2 husbands (4) 19:14, 2 unmarried daughters (2) 19:8 totals (10) **Romans 3:26**

Lot was barely saved, his wife (Lost), and his 2 daughters were delivered by grace.

1. Sodom reveals the nature and extent of human depravity:
2. God's absolute holiness required Him to judge unbridled wickedness:
3. God's judgment is perfectly just:
4. God responds to intercession for others:

Romans 3:10, 22

Genesis 18:33

Application:

1. Prayer And Intercession Start With Fellowship: Abraham Had Been Fellowshiping With The Lord.
2. Nothing's More Offensive To Unsaved People Than The Message Of God's Judgement Upon Sin; Reason Being, Sinners Are Involved In Sinning.
3. God Wants Us, Through Intercession, To Seize His Willingness Not His Reluctance.