

THE LIFE OF ABARAHAM



6. Abraham's Intercession Saves Lot

(Leader's Notes)

Introduction

Abraham had given Lot a choice of which part of the land he would like. He chose the well-watered, fertile valley, near the city of Sodom. It wasn't long before he and his family were living right inside the city. However Sodom was a wicked city and God was about to destroy it. Abraham pleaded with the Lord to spare the city for the sake of his nephew Lot. Let's read this story now and see what we can learn from it.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:16-33

A. ABRAHAM'S INTERCESSION FOR SODOM

- ☆ Who were the three men visiting Abraham? Genesis 18:1-2, 22, 19:1
(Two of the men were angels, but the other was the Lord himself.)
- ☆ Why does the Lord reveal his plan concerning Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham? Genesis 18:17-19
(The Lord had chosen Abraham and wanted him to direct his children to keep the way of the Lord, so God could fulfil the promise he had made to him. God wants us to have a close relationship with him too, so we can teach our children the way of the Lord and his promises will be fulfilled in our lives.)



Describe Abraham's relationship with God. Genesis 18:22, 25, 27
How did that impact his prayer for Sodom do you think? James 5:15
What can we learn about prayer from Abraham's life?
(He obviously had confidence to stand before the Lord and speak boldly to him. Abraham had a close relationship with God, and we are told in James 5 that God responds to the prayer of a man who is walking closely with him.)

Sometimes our prayers are not answered in the way we expect. Abraham's were not, and yet God saw the cry of his heart and saved Lot. As it says in James 5, "the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

Scripture Reading: Genesis 19:1-29

B. GOD'S JUDGEMENT ON SODOM

- ☆ Describe the situation the two angels find in Sodom in Genesis 19:4-8.
(The city of Sodom was full of men who were involved in sexual relationships with one another. They even wanted Lot to give them his two visitors so they could have sex with them.)
- ☆ What was God's attitude to what was happening in the city and how did he judge the city? Genesis 18:20, 24-25
(It was a grievous sin to the Lord. God rained down burning sulfur on the land. Possibly this came from a volcano or an earthquake, nevertheless it came exactly when God said it would.)

☆ Why did God spare Lot's life, even though he had compromised by living in the city? Genesis 18:23, 19:29

(Although Lot had compromised by moving into the city, he was not wicked like the men who lived there. However if Abraham had not interceded for him he probably would have perished like the others. Ultimately he was saved because Abraham had interceded for him and because of the mercy of God.)



The city of Sodom faced judgement, and yet we also see God's mercy in this story. In what ways did God show mercy? Discuss. Genesis 18:32, 19:10-13, 16

- (i. *We see God's mercy in the way he was willing to listen to Abraham's prayer.*
- (ii. *Also in the way the angels saved Lot from the men of Sodom by striking the men blind so they could not harm him.*
- (iii. *When Lot was reluctant to leave Sodom the angels pulled him and his family away.*)

Conclusion

The Bible predicts that in the last days the world will become more and more corrupt and God's judgment will fall, like it did in the time of Sodom. Although we live in the world, we are not to be like those in the world. Lot had compromised, yet God spared his life because Abraham had interceded for him. God is looking for those who will be like Abraham and intercede, or 'stand in the gap' for others. Will you be like Lot, or like Abraham?