

**ABRAHAM STANDING
IN THE GAP**
Genesis 18:16-33

INTRODUCTION

Abraham is a godly man keeping the way of the LORD. He has grown in his faith, as God has called him to a life of personal holiness and separation (remember circumcision?). In Genesis 18:16-33, we see God's proper need to judge sin, and how Abraham shows his heart as an intercessor.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 18:16-33 several times, focusing your attention on Abraham's dialogue with the LORD. Abraham is an intercessor, standing before the LORD, praying on behalf of someone else. **"Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"** The LORD's heart is also revealed - He is right to destroy the wicked, but He surely will spare the righteous.

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

- I. Verses 16-19. The LORD can trust Abraham with His plans. The LORD will not hide His plans from Abraham because He knows Abraham to be righteous. Verses 18 & 19 reveal Abraham's character - he **"keeps the way of the LORD"**. Today, many believers are not being separated to the LORD. *2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1*. They have lost their saltiness and their light has grown dim. Do not give in to influences of this evil age. *Matthew 5:13-16*.
- II. Verses 20-22. The Lord's plan to judge Sodom is revealed. God knows what is going on, yet He is not hasty in judgement. We need to understand what God thinks about sexual perversion - and those who overlook or accept it.
- III. Verses 23-26. Abraham asks a great question. He understands that a person is only made righteous by faith. God's character is to be merciful & gracious. But now Abraham needs clarification. He is concerned about God's reputation in seeming to judge the righteous with the wicked. **"Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"**
- IV. Verses 27-28. Abraham understands his position before the Lord. Abraham is not negotiating here, but coming to the LORD wanting to understand His heart. Not being presumptuous, he is speaking to the LORD as a friend. *James 2:23* We have this same privilege, beloved! *John 15:15*
- V. Verses 29-33. Abraham's persistence in intercession is revealed. Rather than rush off to Sodom and warn the city of coming judgement, Abraham communicates with the LORD He is persistent - a necessary characteristic for intercession.

CONSIDER God intended to teach Abraham - and us - several lessons about intercession.

Intercession is simply praying to God on behalf of someone else, **Standing In The Gap** for others.... He desires that you have:

- **Humility** - Be always respectful of God, knowing your own inferiority. *Genesis 18:27, Psalm 8:4*
- **Boldness** - Be confident in and before God. *Ephesians 2:18, Hebrews 4:16, Hebrews 10:19-22*
- **Persistence** - pray until the answer is received. *Luke 18:1-8, Mark 14:37-38, Romans 12:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Reflect upon Jesus, our Great Intercessor! *Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, Hebrews 9:24*

The Bible records many intercessors - Moses, Samuel, David, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel..... how about you?

Who would the Lord have you to stand in the gap for?

PRAY

- Shepherd School 10/24-11/4. Pray for the men assembling, the School of Ministry serving, and the Pastors teaching.
- Veteran's Day Assembly 11/11 to honor our service men & women. Pray about inviting a friend.
- Church fast 11/28-12/2. May the Holy Spirit move upon all our hearts to desire personal holiness.
- Many Church Bible studies are available - Pray that each person will find a regular small group Bible study to participate in.
- Prayer ministry - Church Sunday evenings, Women's Tuesday, Men's Saturday, During church services in prayer room
- Local & regional outreaches - St. John in Exile presentations; Venison Donation Ministry; Pastor Ben in Newark
- International missions (info in foyer) - Pastor Peter Will in Germany; Ethiopia; Middle East missionaries