



Genesis 18:16-33

INTERCESSION ACCORDING TO GOD

The main importance of this incident is in the wonderful picture of Abraham's intercession... The friend of God is compassionate even of the sinful and degraded. Abraham did not intercede for Lot, but for the sinners in Sodom. He had periled his life in warfare for them; he now pleads with God for them. Where had he learned this brave pity? Where but from the God with whom he lived by faith? How much more surely will real communion with Jesus lead us to look on all men, and especially on the immoral and outcast, with His eyes who saw the multitudes as sheep without a shepherd—torn, panting, scattered, and lying exhausted and defenseless! Indifference to the miseries and impending dangers of Christless men is impossible for any whom He calls not servants, but friends. —Alexander MacLaren

Genesis 18-19 form one story in the life of Abraham with all the events in these two chapters occurring in a span of a little more than 48 hours (except the actual births of Lot's daughters' sons, 19:36-38).

- A **Miraculous Birth of Isaac Revealed** (18:1-15)
 - B Abraham's Visitors Look Toward Sodom (18:16)
 - C Yahweh Considers Judgment on Sodom (18:17-21)
 - D Abraham Intercedes for Sodom (18:22-33)
 - E Angels Visit Lot in Sodom (19:1-3)
 - F **Sodom's Great Sin against Yahweh** (19:4-14)
 - E Angels Rescue Lot from Sodom (19:15-16)
 - D Lot Pleads for Zoar (19:17-22)
 - C Yahweh Executes Judgment on Sodom (19:23-26)
 - B Abraham Looks Toward Sodom (19:27-29)
- A **Incestuous Births of Moab and Ammon Revealed** (19:30-38)

THE OUTCRY AGAINST SODOM (18:16-21)

- The Lord reveals His plans to Abraham.

*The secret counsel of the Lord is for those who fear Him,
And He reveals His covenant to them. (Psalm 25:14)*

- The Lord reveals the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah.

*When He avenges blood, He remembers them;
He does not forget the cry of the afflicted. (Psalm 9:12; cf. Gen. 4:10)*

- The Lord reveals the full knowledge behind His judgment.

*He judges the world with righteousness;
He executes judgment on the nations with fairness. (Psalm 9:8)*

Theological traditions have noted a special designation for "sins crying to heaven" ... Sins committed against helpless, defenseless, or innocent people; sins of oppression or injustice more generally; or sins against "the helpless, strangers, widows, orphans, the poor, the enslaved... who cannot help themselves and therefore cry out to God that he would intervene."

—Thomas H. McCall

Outcry. Hebrew, *ze'aqah*, "a cry, esp. that which is an expression of sorrow or the cry for aid" (cf. Ex. 2:23; Jud. 3:9; Prov. 21:13).

Righteousness is a way of living in community that promotes the life of all its members... A righteous person rightly orders community, and a just one restores broken community, especially by punishing the oppressor and delivering the oppressed. —Bruce Waltke

To demonstrate divine justice and fairness, God "comes down" to investigate a situation before taking action [cf. 11:5]. —John Walton

The Lord's judgment is based on full and accurate information.

—Allen Ross

THE PRAYER FOR SODOM (18:22-33)

1. Effective prayer is rooted in a true _____ with the Lord (18:19; cf. Hebrews 4:14-16).
2. Effective prayer _____ to the Lord (18:23).
3. Effective prayer seeks the _____ of others (18:23-25).
4. Effective prayer _____ to the righteous character of God (18:25).
5. Effective prayer acknowledges our _____ and mortality and God's greatness and sovereignty (18:27).
6. Effective prayer _____ (18:27-33).
7. Effective prayer understands the moral _____ of the righteous upon their city and culture (18:32).

HOW TO APPLY GOD'S WORD THIS WEEK

- Develop the daily discipline of praying to the Lord.
- Pray faithfully for your family, church, city, and nation.
- Pray for the persecuted church around the world.
- Pray for those who need to know Jesus Christ.

The Lord of far-flung galaxies, the Creator of life and all that exists, the All-Powerful, the All-Knowing, the Inscrutable, the Judge of angels, demons, and people is taking the trouble to explain his actions to an individual... Whatever else prayer may be, it is intended to be a sharing and taking counsel with God on matters of importance to him. God has called you to attend a celestial board meeting to deliberate with him on matters of destiny. —John White

A man who has himself received mercy seeks to secure mercy for others. —H. C. Leupold

Intercessory prayer might be defined as loving our neighbor on our knees. —Charles Bent

The real business of your life as a saved soul in intercessory prayer. —Oswald Chambers

The measure of our love for others can largely be determined by the frequency and earnestness of our prayers for them. —A. W. Pink

Christians are the salt of the earth in this sense...that they save corrupt communities from swift destruction... We are bound together in mysterious community, and a good man is a fountain of far-flowing good. The truest "saviors of society" are the servants of God. —Alexander MacLaren

A nation may be preserved because of a righteous remnant. —Allen Ross

Prayer apps like **Operation World** and **Joshua Project** can help you pray effectively and consistently for needs around the world.