

## Genesis 18:16-33 **God discussed Sodom with Abraham**

16 Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. 17 And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, 18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." 20 And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, 21 I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. 23 And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? 25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" 26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." 27 Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: 28 Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?" So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it." 29 And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty." 30 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." 31 And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty." 32 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten." 33 So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place." NKJV

### Facts revealed:

- ✧ The men rose and went toward Sodom and Abraham went with them to send them on their way. It is a good custom to walk a ways with guests as they are departing.
- ✧ As they walked, **Yehowah** said, "**Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing**, since **Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation**, and **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?**" The Almighty does nothing without first revealing His secrets to His servants the prophets, [see Amos 3:7; Job 24:1; Psalms 25:14]
- ✧ Here we see that it is God Himself identified by His own revealed name Yehowah, Who was talking with Abraham as a man talks with a friend.
- ✧ This tells Abraham that God is on a mission after He leaves Abraham and He puts it in the first person as He says, "Shall **I** hide from Abraham what **I** am doing?"

Yet the ones who arrived in Sodom were the two angels who had gone on from Abraham who also spoke in the first person and did what only God can do. This is another suggestion that the three represented the trinity of God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit.

- ✧ Here God reconfirms His friendship with Abraham and His original promise to Abraham when He called Abram out of the land of the Chaldeans. [Genesis 12:1-3] And demonstrates the

extra *exalted blessing* that the promise entails. Confirming that Abraham will be; **a mighty nation, and one whose descendant will be a blessing for all the nations of the earth.**

- ✧ Then God gives His **reason** for choosing Abraham, which is; “For **I know him**, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of Yehowah to do **righteousness** and **justice.**”

This is the most important thing a person and a nation should strive for after first acknowledging that God is God and we must strive to please Him in righteousness, justice, and mercy. This is the thing Jesus required of the Pharisees who placed themselves as religious leaders of their time. [[Matthew 6:23; 23:23](#)]

These are also two ingredients that are swiftly losing their place in the judicial system of the United States of America of today and especially in the US Supreme Court, as judges are appointed who lack a firm commitment to the righteous laws that God gave to Israel and they are even attempting to remove the knowledge of God from public attention.

This is evident in the present war attempting to remove the monuments and plaques bearing the “Ten Commandments” from all public and governmental buildings and places. Not to mention all the other laws forbidding the things that our government has made legal that are clearly and blatantly defiant against the Laws of God.

- ✧ Then God demonstrated the contingency of His promises to Abraham which tie the promises to the obedience of the people involved, when He says; “**That Yehowah may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.**”
- ✧ After confirming His relationship with Abraham, then God told Abraham what His mission was besides confirming the expectation of a son by Sarah. So God told Abraham about the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah and the pending judgment against them.
- ✧ Here again God spoke in the first person, “**I** will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to **Me**, and if not, **I** will know.”

Notice here that it is **Yehowah** Who is talking to Abraham and saying, “**I** will go down and see,” and at this point the other two “men” go on toward Sodom, and when they arrive it is still only the two Who left as Yehowah was talking to Abraham but they speak in the first person as if they are Yehowah.

- ✧ Abraham knows that Lot is in the city of Sodom and when Lot went to Sodom he was rich in property and persons. Abraham fears that Lot has fallen into the ways of the wicked people of the city, so he asked God if He would spare the place for Lot and those who had gone with him.

Beginning at fifty which would be a drop in the number of people who had gone with Lot to Sodom, Abraham continued down to just ten which would include only Lot and his immediate family as those possibly who had remained faithful.

- ✧ Yehowah said, “**If I find ten righteous people there I will not destroy the place for the sake of the ten.**” The Holy One will pardon the one who *executes judgment* and *seeks truth*. [[Jeremiah 5:1](#)]
- ✧ God still says, "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?' [[Ezekiel 33:11](#)]

- ✧ When Yehowah finished speaking with Abraham, He went His way and Abraham returned to his place. However the third person Who had stayed behind and was talking with Abraham and was identified as Yehowah, did not show up in Sodom, but only the two who left as Yehowah was still talking to Abraham.
- ✧ Still, the two Who arrived in Sodom, fully represented Yehowah in what they *did* and what they *said*.