

Genesis 18:16-33 the LORD said, if I find...

Genesis: God and Man

We've seen a lot

Creation, provision, sin, judgment, mercy and grace

Creation again... A&E, Cain, Noah, Abraham's life and mistakes

No matter what we've done, what the consequence is, when God does bring judgment, he doesn't love it. *He was grieved before the flood.*

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Ezekiel 33:11 KJV

When judgment does come, God is intimate with it.

The greatest example: the cross

When God judges...it is just...because he is just.

They say justice is blind - being equal, only weighing the matter, not considering a person's stature

Not today. Not in man's economy.

Let us not attribute man's perverseness in judgment to the Holy God who makes holy judgments.

:16-22

The men...the two angels and the Lord again the form that they were in, as men, humans, relatable. Blending in.

Heb 13:2 NKJV - Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so [doing] some have unwittingly entertained angels.

Wild alien conspiracy theories...probably have roots in reality

**Abraham, a good host and friend, goes with them, to show them out
Doesn't let the door hit them on the way out**

Hospitality

Desiring more fellowship with them...he needed it...he wanted it

Do we get enough fellowship with the Lord and his servants?

As they're headed out, i like that Genesis gives us a glimpse into what God is thinking.

Perhaps he's saying it to the angels, perhaps he's thinking it in and of himself (it doesn't make much sense that this first part is said directly to Abram)

Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?

Friends don't keep things from each other

Jhn 15:15 NKJV - "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

Especially since the matter was a big deal for the region and God was going to make Abraham a big deal in the region.

...and all the nations in the earth shall be blessed by him...

What a statement!

Israel, Iran, Syria, north Korea, South Korea, Vietnam, America, England, Guatemala, Cuba, The Roman Empire, the Greek Empire, Ancient Babylon, ALL!

Jesus. The Messiah would come from Abraham's lineage. The word of God would be passed down through his descendents. His descendents as a nation would be the light of the world until the light of the world came.

Gal 3:7-9, 14 NKJV - Therefore know that [only] those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, [saying], "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then those who [are] of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. ... that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

[Gen 18:19 NKJV] 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."

The point of God's relationship with Abraham, was bigger than just Abraham. It was his immediate family and children.

- It was his descendants.
- It was the region.
- It was the world.
- It was all of history.

And the same goes for you and me. God's plan for you is bigger than just you. It's bigger than just your job or your family. It's something that impacts all of eternity.

V20- this is why God was walking on earth...where he was going when he stopped by Abraham's house

Gen 18:20-21 NKJV - And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, "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."

The outcry against Sodom...reminds me of the blood of Abel and the ground crying out...

God doesn't take the outcry lightly. He doesn't just take the complaint either. When it's serious. When it's leading to the grave...God steps in to see for himself.

A morning report from his intelligence team (like a president) isn't enough

1Jo 5:16 NKJV - If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin [which does] not [lead] to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not [leading] to death. There is sin [leading] to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

Most of the time it's ok to just pray about something we hear or see or affecting someone else. But sometimes, we shouldn't just pray, we need to act. And sometimes it's so grave, even a prayer or action can't reverse it.

Judgment was coming to Sodom and Gomorrah from Jesus...he's going to have to stamp out the wildfire of sin before it spreads

Wildfire issues in the west

But look what he says when the people reject the gospel:e

Mat 11:21-24 NKJV - "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. "But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. "And you, Capernaum, who are

exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. "But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

S&G would receive an awful earthly judgment...but eternal judgment is far worse!

...and if not, I will know...all things are obvious to the Lord

Luk 8:17 NKJV - "For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor [anything] hidden that will not be known and come to light.

Heb 4:13 NKJV - And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things [are] naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we [must give] account.

Num 32:23 NKJV - "But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.

The men continue... but the Lord hangs back to talk with Abraham
*God in his omniscience knew what Abraham was going to say and ask.
 But He also cares about Abraham's heart. About Abraham's concern.
 About having a relationship with Abraham.*

The mystery of our relationship with the Lord, how our intercessory prayer has an active voice in eternal matters even though our vision is temporal. That God would act through our prayers.

The truth is, in some way, our prayers are an echo of God's will to act.

:23-33

Abraham came near...leans in, like John at the last supper.
 Maybe asks quietly...penitently...

Lord, would you? It's not like you to do this.

Lot was on Abraham's heart. Abraham I'm sure had heard of all the outcry against Sodom. Maybe even from Lot.

But he knew Lot was there.

Who do we know who is living in a place where judgment is coming?

Russia telling it's people in England to get out. People in NK to come home.

2Pe 2:4-9 NKJV - For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast [them] down to hell and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, [one of] eight [people], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; **and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned [them] to destruction, making [them] an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, [who was] oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented [his] righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing [their] lawless deeds)--** [then] the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

But what about a spiritual place of judgment? A sinful life? A sinful path?

Putting their job, their family, their life, their relationship with the Lord in jeopardy?

We must intercede directly to the Lord for them.

Abraham, starts with his bargaining again...doing only what he knows how to do.

How often do we ask God for something more than reasonable just to get to our one main request? Ask him.

But...maybe a small request wasn't enough...

Abraham knew the attributes of God...that he would not destroy the righteous.

Rom 11:2-5 NKJV - God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

When we pray, it's important to understand the heart of God. It will help us direct our requests aright...of course God wants to heal, wants to bless...it just doesn't always look the way we think

Starts at 50...but there weren't 50 righteous

"If I find..." will God find 50 righteous on earth when he returns? Will there "be faith?"

Abraham got an answer...but he's got to keep praying...his heart isn't satisfied with the broad request...he knows to approach the king is a serious matter

(Esther, death approaching the king uninvited)

Ecc 5:1-2 NKJV - Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God [is] in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.

45...destroy for a lack of 5? Like what's five less Lord, please don't do it for just a few less. Same answer...IF I FIND...I WILL NOT DESTROY

The effect of a few righteous upon an utterly wicked city.

Our influence as believers might seem like a little, or non existent in these last days. But that's to a blind world. God sees our influence. And absolutely God forestalls judgment because of it...because of us.

40...if I find...i will not...

30...if i find...i will not

20...I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty (maybe God is letting on to the truth that he knows he's not going to find 20)

Kids asking the same question over and over...after five or ten times your answer can be more direct.

10! The last time...ten...I will not destroy it for the sake of 10.

However many thousands or millions of people in Sodom and Gomorrah...God would have spared them all because of just TEN righteous people.

With the Lord, there is no need for mega numbers to do a saving work.

Big numbers are not important.

But being righteous, holy, full of faith...is.

Jas 1:26-27 NKJV - If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion [is] useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, [and] to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

We must be pure in these last days. We must not give in to the ways of the world, to the ways of the church...but we must stay true to God and His word. His commands.

It's not just our fate that rests upon it. It could be the entire country's...it could be the entire world's.

Billy Graham...God owe's S&G and apology

America is split in two.

The world is bursting at the seams.

Millions of people slaughtered in the last century from national socialism, communism, dictatorships

Millions of babies slaughtered in the womb.

Millions of little boys and girls abused and put into perverse slavery

God removed

The rise of Islam and terrorism (a sign of God's abandonment judgment, like when the Israelites were taken away)

The loss of morality, the sense of right and wrong, of simple things about being human

Yet judgment hasn't come yet.

Mat 5:13-16 NKJV - "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all [who are] in the house. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Salt preserves.

Light shines in the darkness.

2Pe 1:19 NKJV - And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a **light that shines in a dark place**, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

There's a reason the rapture happens...the world is so wicked that God cannot spare it from judgment any longer for the sake of a few.

There will be tribulation saints...saints who come to faith as judgment rains down.

Judgment must come.

Judgment will come.

But until then, we must intercede.