

“Intercession”
Genesis 18:16ff

Quick review of 18:1-15 – “Sarah”

v. 16 Q. When the men get up to leave where to they set their gaze?

A.

v. 17 Q. Why do you think the LORD asks this question of himself?

A. The question is a _____ question that is designed to express the type of _____ that God has with Abraham. It requires a negative response. It does not convey a sense of God _____ something.

vv. 18-19 Q. How do these verses connect with verse 17?

A.

1. This is in reference to the _____ covenant God made with Abraham. This decision to reveal something _____ (near fulfillment) was to be an _____ of that special relationship.
2. This revelation was to serve as a _____ and _____ moment for his own family to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right.
3. It is part of _____ the promise he received from God.

Q. How does Amos 3:7 fit into this conversation?

A. God's heart is to _____ so that people may _____ or be _____.

Q. How does Ezekiel 18:32 fit into this conversation?

A. God is not a heavenly ogre looking for ways to make people's lives _____. In His holiness, He cannot tolerate _____. He must be a God of _____ as well as love and compassion.

Q. How does it fit in with the total prophetic/eschatological plan of God?

A. At the end of the age and at the end of this earthly time, God will _____ the righteous and _____ the unrighteous. Our job is to tell them the plan and call people to _____.

v. 20 Q. What do we learn about the cities of the plain?

A. It appears that the people were _____ wicked (cp. 13:13). They not only tormented each other but those around them.

[From an old Clarke's English commentary, ca. late 1800's]

"[The residence of S. and G. were, by the etymology of their name,] those who break down and afflict; those who break down the _____ order of things, destroy and _____ the distinction between right and wrong, and tormented both themselves and others."

v. 21 Q. Where have we seen the words “go down” or “came down” in connection to the LORD? What was it connected to?

A.

Q. What does this verse mean?

A. It is the same as in chapter 11 – God takes _____ interest in His creation, especially in circumstances that seek to _____ it or bring it into debauchery.

Q. What does it mean in conjunction with his omniscience?

A. It is not that God is _____, but that He is demonstrating to Abraham that He is aware. Nothing _____ His notice.

Note: The two _____ would represent Him.

v. 22 Q. What did the men do?

A.

Q. What did Abraham do?

A.

v. 23 Q. What two conclusions/assumptions did Abraham come to regarding God?

A.

1. God will _____ the wicked.
2. Will He _____ the righteous to be collateral damage?

Q. What do we know about Abraham's belief system from these questions?

A. He held to a _____ sense of justice: there is a _____ right and wrong.

v. 24 Q. What was the first test question?

A.

v. 25 Q. What was a further conclusion/assumption on Abraham's part?

A. He _____ his belief that God is righteous in the way that he deals with people.

v. 26 Q. What does God affirm?

A. God affirms that He is a _____ God who will show mercy.

v. 27 Q. What does Abraham say about himself in this dialogue?

A. He verbalizes his own _____ position before a holy, sovereign God.

vv. 28-32 Q. What does Abraham proceed to do?

A. Abraham _____ reduces the number down to ten. Many scholars believe that Abraham was getting down to a _____ issue for him: His extend family.

Lot, his wife, his two daughters, their two would be husbands, and perhaps two other children and their spouses (speculative) or Abraham was just _____ to go any further.

v. 33 Q. How does the occasion conclude?

A. The LORD departed, and Abraham went home – probably _____ what would happen because there was no conclusion to the “if.”

Application Questions:

Q. God has revealed to us the ultimate end of the age plan. Are we interceding:

For our country...

For our state...

For our community...

For our families...

For our churches...

Or...have we thrown up our hands in resignation (what will be, will be)?

A.

Q. What might our intercession on behalf of the righteous look like, sound like?

A.

Q. What happens we see terrible things happen collectively, like hurricanes, or terrorist attacks, etc...where God allows the death of the righteous with the wicked? Does our belief in a righteous God weaken?

A.

Q. What does our intercession for others tell us about our own belief system regarding the judgment of God and the salvation of others who find themselves in the midst of the wicked?

A.

Q. How does a close relationship with the Lord and a deep understanding of His Word help us with these issues?

A.