

GENESIS 18-19

PROMISE, INTERCESSION, JUDGMENT, AND MERCY

GENESIS 18 - PROMISE AND INTERCESSION

The Lord appears to Abraham near the oaks of Mamre through three visitors. Abraham welcomes them with humble, generous hospitality and serves them a lavish meal. The Lord promises that Sarah will have a son within the coming year. Sarah laughs because of their age, but the Lord asks, **“Is anything too hard for the LORD?”**

- **The visitors:** Genesis moves between three men, two angels, and the Lord speaking.
- **Abraham's calling:** He must teach his household righteousness and justice.
- **Sodom's outcry:** The wording suggests the cries of victims reaching God.
- **Intercession:** Abraham asks God to spare the whole city for the sake of the righteous, moving from fifty people down to ten.

GENESIS 19 - JUDGMENT AND MERCY

Two angels arrive in Sodom, and Lot welcomes them into his home. A violent mob surrounds the house and attempts to assault the visitors. The angels strike the men with blindness and warn Lot to flee because Sodom's judgment has come. Lot hesitates, but the angels take the family by the hand because of the Lord's mercy.

- **Escape:** Lot, his wife, and two daughters flee; his sons-in-law treat the warning like a joke.
- **Judgment:** The Lord destroys Sodom and Gomorrah with sulfur and fire.
- **Lot's wife:** She looks back and becomes a pillar of salt.
- **Abraham:** God remembers Abraham when He rescues Lot from the destruction.
- **The ending:** Lot's daughters become pregnant by their father, leading to Moab and Ammon. The ending shows the lasting damage caused by Sodom and Lot's compromises.

KEY THOUGHT: The Lord keeps impossible promises, listens to humble intercession, rescues in mercy, and judges evil with perfect justice.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does Abraham's hospitality teach us about serving people?
2. Why did Sarah laugh, and how is her response similar to ours?
3. Was Abraham challenging God or praying on the basis of God's character? Explain.
4. What does Sodom's “outcry” teach us about the kind of evil God sees and judges?
5. What choices show that Lot had become too comfortable in Sodom?
6. Why do you think Lot hesitated even after the angels warned him?
7. What does Lot's wife teach us about physically leaving sin while our heart still looks back?
8. Why does Scripture include the disturbing ending involving Lot and his daughters?

READ: Genesis 18-19 KEY VERSES: Genesis 18:14, 18:25; 19:16, 19:29