Abraham Before the Judge of all the Earth

Lesson 7: Genesis 18-20

October 15, 2017
Review

- Creation
- Fall
- Flood
- Tower of Babel, Scattering
- Terah, Abraham, Sarah, Lot
- Ishmael, Isaac
- Jacob, Esau
- Joseph then the Jews go to Egypt
These are the generations of...

- 2:4 the heavens and the earth
- 6:9 Noah
- 10:1 Shem, Ham, and Japheth
- 11:10 Shem
- 11:27 Terah
- 25:12 Ishmael
- 25:19 Isaac
- 36:1 Esau
- 36:9 Esau
- 37:2 Jacob
Outline

• 18:1-15 The visit to Abraham and Sarah
• 18:16-22 The revelation about Sodom
• 18:23-33 The intercession for Sodom
• 19:1-11 The visit to Sodom and Lot
• 19:12-26 The outcome of Sodom
• 19:27-38 After the destruction
• 20:1-7 Abimelech warned
• 20:8-18 Abraham rebuked and blessed
The visit to Abraham and Sarah
Genesis 18:1-5

1Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day.  
2When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth,  
3and said, “My lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass Your servant by.  
4Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree;  
5and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant.” And they said, “So do, as you have said.”

The LORD...three men
- Two are angels 19:1

Offer of Abraham
- Water for their feet
- Rest
- Food
The visit to Abraham and Sarah
Genesis 18:6-10

6So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Quickly, prepare three measures of fine flour, knead it and make bread cakes.” 7Abraham also ran to the herd, and took a tender and choice calf and gave it to the servant, and he hurried to prepare it. 8He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed it before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.

9Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” 10He said, “I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him.

• The hospitality of Abraham
• Sarah is the point of the visit
• Ishmael was not the son of promise
• Sarah would bear a child
The visit to Abraham and Sarah
Genesis 18:11-15

11Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. 12Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?” 13And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?’ 14Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.” 15Sarah denied it however, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. And He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

• The promise does not come by sight
• Take comfort that what God promises He will do
• Sarah sins like Adam
The revelation about Sodom
Gen 18:16-21

16 Then the men rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off. 17 The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, 18 since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? 19 For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.” 20 And the LORD said, “The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. 21 I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know.”

- Abraham had rescued Sodom about 15 years ago
- Abraham’s special relationship with God
- God does not act without knowledge
The intercession for Sodom
Genesis 18:22-26

22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the L ORD. 23 Abraham came near and said, “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? 25 Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?” 26 So the L ORD said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account.”

• Abraham is concerned for the righteous
• God will do right even in judgment
The intercession for Sodom
Genesis 18:27-31

27 And Abraham replied, “Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am but dust and ashes.
28 Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?” And He said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”
29 He spoke to Him yet again and said, “Suppose forty are found there?” And He said, “I will not do it on account of the forty.”
30 Then he said, “Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; suppose thirty are found there?” And He said, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”
31 And he said, “Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord; suppose twenty are found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it on account of the twenty.”

- Abraham continues praying
  - He prays humbly
  - He acknowledges his position
  - He decreases the number

- Distinction between the city and the place
The intercession for Sodom
Genesis 18:32-33

32 Then he said, “Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it on account of the ten.” 33 As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the LORD departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

• The final appeal, 10
Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

And he said, “Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant’s house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.” They said however, “No, but we shall spend the night in the square.”

Yet he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter;
The visit to Sodom and Lot
Genesis 19:5-9

5 and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.” 6 But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him, 7 and said, “Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly. 8 Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof.” 9 But they said, “Stand aside.” Furthermore, they said, “This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them.” So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door.

• Lot protects the angels
• Lot’s actions are resented
• The men plan to treat Lot worse than the angels
• The wicked always mistreat God’s messengers
The outcome of Sodom
Genesis 19:10-13

10But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. 11They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway.

12Then the two men said to Lot, “Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place; for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it.”

• The angels protect Lot
• Blindness doesn’t help them see
• The city and place will still be destroyed
• Provision is made for Lot
The outcome of Sodom
Genes 19:14-16

14 Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, “Up, get out of this place, for the LORD will destroy the city.” But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

15 When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.” But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the LORD was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.

• Lot obeys warning his sons-in-law
• God’s judgment is not comprehended by sinners
• Lot sins by hesitating
• God’s compassion doesn’t cease
The outcome of Sodom
Genesis 19:17-21

17 When they had brought them outside, one said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away.” 18 But Lot said to them, “Oh no, my lords! 19 Now behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your lovingkindness, which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, for the disaster will overtake me and I will die; 20 now behold, this town is near enough to flee to, and it is small. Please, let me escape there (is it not small?) that my life may be saved.” 21 He said to him, “Behold, I grant you this request also, not to overthrow the town of which you have spoken.

• Commands
  – Escape for you life
  – Don’t look behind
  – Don’t stay in the valley
  – Escape to the mountains

• This was too hard for Lot

• God continues His kindness to Lot
The outcome of Sodom
Genesis 19:22-26

22Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” Therefore the name of the town was called Zoar.

23The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. 24Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven, 25and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26But his wife, from behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

• Lot protected as he escapes
• Fire used to destroy Sodom
• Overthrew
  – Cities
  – Inhabitants
  – What grew on the ground
• Lot’s wife’s disobedience is punished
After the destruction
Genesis 19:27-29

27Now Abraham arose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the LORD; 28 and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the valley, and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace.

29Thus it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot lived.

- The just will live by faith
- God answered Abraham’s prayer in a different way
After the destruction
Genesis 19:30-33

30 Lot went up from Zoar, and stayed in the mountains, and his two daughters with him; for he was afraid to stay in Zoar; and he stayed in a cave, he and his two daughters. 31 Then the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of the earth. 32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him that we may preserve our family through our father.” 33 So they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn went in and lay with her father; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

- Lot goes to the mountains anyway
- Lot’s daughters’ lack of faith
- They had been influenced by Sodom
After the destruction
Genesis 19:34-38

34 On the following day, the firstborn said to the younger, “Behold, I lay last night with my father; let us make him drink wine tonight also; then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve our family through our father.”

35 So they made their father drink wine that night also, and the younger arose and lay with him; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.

37 The firstborn bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.

38 As for the younger, she also bore a son, and called his name Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day.

• Only one heir would have been needed
• The children
  – From-father
  – Son-of-my-people
Abimelech warned
Genesis 20:1-5

1Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar. 2Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. 3But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married.” 4Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, “Lord, will You slay a nation, even though blameless? 5Did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”

• Abraham moves SW
• Same sin as previously
• Abimelech responds correctly to God
• Sarah lied as well as Abraham
6Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. 7Now therefore, restore the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”

8So Abimelech arose early in the morning and called all his servants and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were greatly frightened.

• God keeps Abimelech from sinning
• God doesn’t rebuke Abraham directly
Abraham rebuked and blessed
*Genesis 20:9-13*

9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.”

10 And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What have you encountered, that you have done this thing?”

11 Abraham said, “Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife; and it came about, when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, that I said to her, ‘This is the kindness which you will show to me: everywhere we go, say of me, “He is my brother.”’”

- Abraham rebuked
- We should not change just because we are among the ungodly
- Abraham tries to justify himself
Abraham rebuked and blessed

Genesis 20:14-18

14Abimelech then took sheep and oxen and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and restored his wife Sarah to him. 15Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; settle wherever you please.” 16To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; behold, it is your vindication before all who are with you, and before all men you are cleared.”

17Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his maids, so that they bore children.
18For the LORD had closed fast all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

• Abimelech’s response
  – Gave gifts
  – Restored Sarah
  – Opened the land to them
  – Vindicated Sarah
Summary

• Show hospitality
• God will accomplish what He promises
• God saves in ways we would never think of
• We should not hesitate to obey
• Worldly influence is too real
• Faith trusts God everywhere with everything