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Genesis Chapter 18 A Visit From God

Last week we finished up with Genesis chapter 17, and this week we will be venturing into Genesis chapter 18. And so, as we always do the very first thing that we need to do is to actually turn to Genesis chapter 18, and read it, so that we can know two things. Number one, what it says. It's always important to know exactly what the Scripture says. And number two, what it does not say. It is always just as equally important, to know what the Scripture does not say, because there are always people out there who are all too ready, to add to, and take away from, God's word. And so therefore, as true biblical scholars, we want to make sure that we guard ourselves against such things. And the only way that we can guard ourselves against such things, is to read it for ourselves. And so, let's turn to Genesis chapter 18:

Gen 18:1 And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

Gen 18:2 He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth

Gen 18:3 and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant.

Gen 18:4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree,

Gen 18:5 while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

Gen 18:6 And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes."

Gen 18:7 And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly.

Gen 18:8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

Gen 18:9 They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent."

Gen 18:10 The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

Gen 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

Gen 18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"

Gen 18:13 The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'

Gen 18:14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about

this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Gen 18:15 But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Gen 18:16 Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way.

Gen 18:17 The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,

Gen 18:18 seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

Gen 18:19 For I have chosen him, 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 to Abraham what he has promised him.”

Gen 18:20 Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave,

Gen 18:21 I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

Gen 18:22 So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD.

Gen 18:23 Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

Gen 18:24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it?

Gen 18:25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”

Gen 18:26 And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Gen 18:27 Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.

Gen 18:28 Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”

Gen 18:29 Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.”

Gen 18:30 Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.”

Gen 18:31 He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.”

Gen 18:32 Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

Gen 18:33 And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

As we begin to dig a little deeper into this particular chapter, I want us to start out by identifying who it was that Abraham was speaking to exactly. There are all kinds of Bible translations out

there. There's the Hebrew roots Bible, there's the King James Bible, there is the English standard Bible, and then you have the NIV, and the NASB, and the Septuagint, and the complete Jewish Bible, and we could go on and on and on, and with all of these different Bible translations..., there are a wide variety of names found in Genesis chapter 18 verse one concerning just who it was that Abraham was talking to. And so, I would like us to go to our parallel, so that we can see what some of these different names are.

In the English standard version, we find that the "Lord" appeared to Abraham. In the King James version, we once again see that the "Lord" appeared to Abraham. But when we move into the American Standard version, we see that "Yahovah" appeared to Abraham. And yet again, when we move to the complete Jewish Bible, we find that "Adonai" appeared to Abraham. And yet again, in the Hebrew roots Bible, we found that "Yahweh" appeared to Abraham. So, who in the world was it that appeared to Abraham?

Now most of you that have been with us for any length of time here at Holy Impact Ministries, already know the answer to this question. But for the sake of our brothers and sisters who may be new, or may not have the proper answer to this question, we want to very quickly bring them up to speed alongside of us, so that we're all on the same page, and we all have the same understanding of truth.

As we have said many times in the past, so now we say again... A "LORD" is a 16th-century British land Baron. When they wrote the King James version of the Bible back in the 1600s, they covered up the very name of God, that God had written within his God breathed Scripture well over 7000 times. Now my friends, if God did not want us to know his name, he would not have written his name in his God breathed Scriptures over 7000 times. In fact, if you do a word search for the word "Lord" just in the Old Testament alone... you will find the word "Lord" is repeated 7888 times. And that's just in the Old Testament.

The reason that the word "Lord" is used, is because of Judaism... which is a man-made Jewish religion... which in many cases is in direct opposition to what the true word of God says... has proclaimed that by simply saying the name of God, is to use God's name in vain.

Now my friends you will not find this anywhere, in the Torah, you won't find it in the Tanakh, or the writings of the prophets, or the brit Hadasha (which is also known as the New Testament) anywhere. The idea that saying the very name of God is to use God's name in vain, is not found anywhere in the 66 books of the Bible. But once again, man has added to, and taken away from, God's word. Which is expressly forbidden according to the word of God in several places. Deuteronomy chapter 12 verse 32 to start with.

And this is exactly why we have to read the book for ourselves. Just as we stated at the beginning of today's study, we cannot trust anyone to tell us what is in our own God breathed Scriptures. We must, and I emphasize "must"... read the book for ourselves, not just so that we can know what it says... but so that we can also know what it does not say. And I daresay my

friends, it does not say “Lord” (at least not always, and we’ll get to that in just a moment). But only those of us who truly pray for discernment, and truly study to show ourselves approved, and are truly digging through the dung heap of deception, will know this biblical truth. And so, let’s go together and let’s see what the actual Hebrew word for “Lord” is in Genesis chapter 18 verse 1.

If we go to the King James numbered version of our Bibles, we can see that the word “Lord” here in Genesis chapter 18 verse 1, is Strong’s number H3068. And if we click on that, and click on our Brown driver Briggs Hebrew definitions concordance, we can clearly see the true Hebrew name of God.

יהוה
yehôvâh

BDB Definition:

Jehovah = “the existing One”

1) the proper name of the one true God

1a) unpronounced except with the vowel pointings of H136

Part of Speech: noun proper deity

As we can see in this concordance, there are four Hebrew letters that spell the name of God. They are the yud, hei, vav, and the hei. And they spell from right to left, the very name of God, which is “Yahovah”. Now you will notice the “J” here in Jehovah. But there is no “J” sound in the ancient Hebrew language. As we can clearly see here in Brown driver Briggs Hebrew definitions... the proper pronunciation is therefore “Yahovah”.

Now I want us to understand that many of our brothers and sisters who are also coming back to the truth of God’s word will sometimes pronounce this name a little differently. Some will pronounce it Yahweh. Some will pronounce it “Yahveh”, some will pronounce it Yahhua. And there are all kinds of exotic ways that many of our brothers and sisters believe that it is pronounced. And the reason that everybody seems to pronounce it a little bit differently, is because no one was standing next to Moses with a tape recorder when Moses asked God “who should he say sent him.”

There are a multitude of linguists in the world today, most of which, cannot come to a conclusion concerning the proper pronunciation of the name of God. Over time, languages change. Even the ancient Hebrew letters, look nothing like today’s modern-day Hebrew letters. The Karaite Jews, for the most part pronounce the name of God as “Yahovah”. And Karaite Jews do not follow after Judaism in the Talmud and the ancient writings of the rabbis and the sages. They stick very closely to the Torah itself. And so as for me and my house, we pronounce the name of God the way that we are told here in Brown driver Briggs Hebrew definitions.

This all goes back to doing exactly... what we are told within our God breathed Scriptures. And

we do not waver from that. Although I will say, that we do not chastise our brothers and sisters who choose to pronounce the name of God a little bit differently than we do. What the Jewish Rabbis fail to understand, is how you truly profane the name of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. As we read through our Fathers Torah, we will find that we do not profane the name of God by speaking his name. We do not profane the name of God by mispronouncing his name. We do not profane the name of God by misspelling his name. It is written all throughout the Scriptures, that we profane his name by not keeping his commandments. We profane his name by not keeping his sabbaths. We profane his name by not keeping his appointments. We profane his name among the nations through our disobedience. This my friends... is how we profane the name of God. Not by misspelling it, or by speaking it, or even by speaking it improperly. There is not one example of God chastising, or shaming anyone for misspelling his name, or for mispronouncing his name. And we can see these things all throughout our God breathed Scriptures, from the beginning of Genesis all the way through to the end of Revelation.

But once again... The Jews, and the house of Israel could not achieve righteousness through the law, not because the law would not lead them to righteousness... but because they were keeping the law by works... and not keeping the law by faith. Most of the house of Israel were not only keeping the letter of the law because they thought that by keeping the letter of the law they could earn their way through the Gates of heaven... but they were adding to, and taking away from... his law. And this is why they continuously stumbled and fell.

If the law had been written in their hearts, and in their minds, and if their hearts had been circumcised, they would have kept the law because of their love for God, because they loved Yahovah, and the word of God would have become flesh because of the word of God that lived in them. But they did not love Yahovah the way that he commanded them to love him. His word was not written in their hearts, and in their minds. And it became nothing more than a stumbling block to them because it really didn't mean anything to them. As soon as a new God, or a new hip and cool thing came along... off they went, like a bigmouth Bass with a hook set in their jaws. And I dare say that to many modern-day professing Christians have done the same things. They're always looking for something new, something shiny, some brand-new understanding, or denominational dogma to believe in.

And this is exactly why many of the Jews in Israel to this very day, reject their Messiah. They're still keeping the law by their works. And the ironic thing, is that they're not even really keeping the law by works anymore. According to the law, they still have to sacrifice animals for the remission of sin. According to the law, they still have to have a temple, and they still need an earthly high priest, and they still have to have a Levitical priesthood, which they no longer have. And this is exactly why they are trying to build a third temple. Because they think in their small human minds, that their Messiah has not come yet. And this is exactly why most of us believe that a third temple will indeed be built. Not because God commands it to be built. But because the unbelieving Jews still think, that they need to build one. And this temple will be built in Jerusalem which in the exact same place that our Father has put his name. And this is most likely where we will see the abomination of desolation written about by the prophet

Daniel that our Messiah speaks about in Matthew chapter 24.

And that's another whole Bible study that were not to get into here today, but I do want us to understand why it is that the name of God was covered up in his Scriptures. The Jews began to cover up the name of God, because they had taken it upon themselves to hide the name of God from the world so that they themselves would have more authority, and so that they themselves would be the only ones that could speak it, or even know it for that matter.

You see this is why the devil whispers into the ears of men and causes them to add to, and take away from, the word of God. It takes away from the authority, and the glory, and the power of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, and it transfers it to men. Every time that the word of God is added to, or taken away from, man gains a little bit more authority. Man starts claiming that you can't say the word of God. Man starts making up his own laws, and his own precepts, and his own appointments, and God's children begin to suffer for it, because they listen to the sinful men who have taken away from, and added to, the word of God in order to build their own religious systems and to make themselves God's on earth. And this is exactly what the Pharisees of our Messiah's time had done. And this is exactly why our Messiah absolutely hated, and detested Judaism and the Pharisees who had created the false religion of Judaism.

And so, the Jews began to cover up the very name of God with things like "Adonai" or "Hashem", and several other different little pet names, that they still use to this very day to hide the very name of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. And so, when the King James translators were translating the Bible into English, they too... followed the deceptions of Judaism, and decided to continue covering up the true name of God with the word "Lord". And that's how the word "Lord" came to be in many of our English translated Bibles.

And so, this is why, when we come to the word "Lord" in our English translated Bibles, we use the proper name of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, and we do not say "Lord" most of the time. We use the actual name "Yahovah". And this is very important especially in the 18th chapter of the book of Genesis. Now with all of that being said... there are times when the word "Lord" can be used in the Torah properly, and we're going to see an instance of that as we move forward, but what is important for us to know and to understand here, is that it was indeed the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob who appeared to Abraham in Genesis chapter 18 verse 1. It's important for us to know who Abraham was speaking to. According to our God breathed Scripture, Abraham was talking to Yahovah, the creator of the heavens and the earth.

As we move forward, we can see that Yahovah appeared to Abraham as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. In verse two were told that Abraham lifts up his eyes and sees three men standing in front of him. Now as we read down through Genesis chapter 18, and on into Genesis chapter 19... it should be very clear, and very evident to us who these three men were.

Our Scriptures tell us who these three men were. Abraham immediately bowed himself low before them, and addresses one of these men as “Lord”. Now I want us to understand that this time... the word “Lord” is not the name of God. The Hebrew word for “Lord” being used here in Genesis chapter 18 verse 3, is the Hebrew word “adonay” which does indeed mean something more like “Lord” or “master”. The Hebrew word “adonay” actually does translate as “Lord”.

H136

אָדוֹנָי

'ādônây

BDB Definition:

1) my lord, lord

1a) of men

1b) of God

2) Lord - title, spoken in place of Yahweh in Jewish display of reverence

Part of Speech: noun masculine

But we do know that this figure standing before Abraham is indeed Yahovah. How do we know that? We were just told in verse one who he is, and... all we have to do is jump down to verse 13, and once again the name “Yahovah” is used to identify who is speaking to Abraham and to Sarah. Furthermore... when we get down to verse 17 this being who is in the form of a man is once again called “Yahovah”. And as Abraham is bartering back and forth with God concerning how many righteous men there needs to be in Sodom, for God not to destroy Sodom... the name Yahovah is continuously used.

And so, the Scripture leaves no doubt who it was that these three men were. One of them was Yahovah. The one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The other two men were indeed Angels, and we'll see that as we venture into chapter 19.

Now according to Josephus, the Targum Jonathan, and the Talmud, these men were not real men. According to many of the Jewish rabbis, these could not have been real men who sat down and ate food in front of Abraham while Abraham and Sarah watched them with their own eyes sit and eat, right in front of them. According to the Jewish rabbis, these three individuals just gave the appearance of eating, but they really didn't eat at all.

And I say this so that you can understand how twisted and warped men have become when trying to understand what our God breathed Scriptures clearly tell us without stutter. There are actually Jewish Rabbis in Israel today, who do not believe that the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob can manifest himself as a real human being if he chooses to do so.

We're talking about the creator of heaven and earth. We're talking about the creator of all things both seen and unseen. We're talking about the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. And

these rabbis, who call themselves “great ones” can’t seem to get a handle on what God is able to do, according to our God breathed Scriptures. If the God breathed Scriptures that we hold in our hands tells us, that God came to Abraham in the form of a man... then God came to Abraham in the form of a man. For the life of me, I cannot see how a Jewish Rabbi could refute, and reject what is clearly found within the pages of his own Torah. And yet they do. And this is just another example of men who are forever studying but never perceiving. They are forever hearing, but never understanding.

And from this wicked deception, comes all kinds of man-made, man concocted, man fabricated understandings concerning whether or not Abraham had fellowship, and fed, and conversed with the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob or not. Even though that’s clearly what we see found here in Genesis chapter 18.

Now I mention all of this to you, so that we will know, and understand, the deception that we are living in today. And this goes right back to why it is that we must read the Scriptures for ourselves. We must pray for the discernment to understand them. And we must have faith in the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only son, to give us the proper discernment and understanding so that we can understand his written word properly and not be lead astray by every wind of doctrine that comes out of the mouth of a man.

Once again, my friends, truth does not come from any pastor, priest, Bishop, or popish leader... including, but not limited to... a Jewish Rabbi. Truth comes from the Ruach Hackodesh of God, and nowhere else. And if we’re not in prayer, asking for the discernment to understand the truth... and if we’re allowing some man to tell us what the truth is, without reading the Scripture for ourselves and asking our Father and his only begotten Son for the discernment to understand the truth... then were not only leading ourselves into the pit... but we’re going to wind up leading our children and our children’s children into the pit. And so, this is very profound and very important for every single solitary modern-day professing Christian to understand.

Something else that I want us to understand is that many Jewish Rabbis will proclaim that the dinner that Abraham gave to God and his two Angels was not kosher. Those who are entrenched in Judaism believe, that you must keep milk and meat separated, and that you cannot mix milk and meat. You see there is a verse that is written in the Torah that says and I quote “Do not cook a kid in its mother's milk.”. This verse appears in the Torah three times, twice in Exodus (23:19 and 34:26) and once in Deuteronomy (14:21). According to the Talmud, and Jewish tradition, the Jewish word for “kid, or goat” is understood to mean any young domestic animal not only a goat. And according to Jewish tradition, it is forbidden to not only cook meat and milk together, but it is also for bidden to eat a mixture of these two things. In many Jewish homes there are actually two refrigerators. One for the milk, and one for meat.

And so once again, according to the Rabbis, Abraham was sinning by giving God milk and meat for the dinner that he prepared for them. Do you see how ridiculous that these man-made laws,

and commandments of men are? Instead of simply obeying what God had told them concerning a young goat and its mothers milk... they completely turned that commandment into another man-made commandment not found anywhere in the scripture. If there was something wrong with the dinner that Abraham made for God and his Angels... do you not think that God or his Angels would not have said something to Abraham and to Sarah? Do you think that God and his Angels would have allowed Abraham and Sarah to sin right there in front of them without saying anything? Do we think that God or his Angles would have partaken of a sinful meal? Because according to these Jewish Rabbis... that's exactly what happened. And this is just another example of why our Father in Heaven says not to add to, or take away from, his word.

Now with that in mind I want us to understand that when God said that Sarah was going to have a son by this time next year, Sarah laughed. And we can see that in verse 12. We're told that Sarah laughed to herself. And God asked Abraham, "why did Sarah laugh?". And what did Sarah say? Sarah tried to deny it by lying and saying "I did not laugh" in verse 15. But God immediately corrected her and said "no, but you did laugh." So, we see here that God did indeed correct Sarah when she sinned in front of him. So, if God corrected Sarah when she sinned in front of him, he certainly would have corrected Abraham if he would've sinned in front of him by giving him unkosher, or sinful food to eat. And so once again these Jewish Rabbi's have no ground for adding to, and taking away from, Gods word.

In verse 16 we're told that the men set out from there, and that they looked down towards Sodom. And at this point in time, I want us to understand the relationship between our heavenly Father and Abraham. Abraham had truly become a friend of God. And I'd like us to turn to the book of James chapter 2 versus 20 through 23:

Jas 2:20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

Jas 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

Once again, we see that faith was active along with the works of Abraham, and that faith was completed by his works. So, it wasn't just that Abraham believed in God... it was because of the works that Abraham did... and because he believed in God, that Abraham was counted as righteous and called a friend of God. Abraham truly loved God, and Abraham truly new that Yahovah was indeed his true Father. And Yahovah truly new, that Abraham was his son. And so, what we see here in Genesis chapter 18 versus 17 through 33, is this banter that goes on back and forth between Father and Son.

The love of God truly does not know any bounds. And I want us to take note of how bold Abraham was with the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. Sometimes, we as Christians see our Father in Heaven as being so powerful, and so mystic, and so far away from us, sitting on his throne in Heaven, that we can't possibly even conceive of having a conversation with him. And this is a very common mistake that many Christians make.

During one of our fellowships, we once had a sister who said that she didn't know how to pray. She said "I don't know any of these big fancy words, and I don't know how to pray the way I ought to pray". She felt that way because she didn't understand, that our Father in Heaven is not interested in how pious we are. He's not interested in whether or not we are great orators, who speak in 16th century Shakespearean language. He's not interested in hearing us chant or recite rehearsed phrases or rehearsed scripts. All our Father wants from us, is to hear from our hearts. He wants to hear what we have to say. He wants to hear us ask him for what we need. He wants to hear us worship him and love him the way that he wants to be worshiped, and the way that he wants to be loved, and Abraham knew these things.

Abraham spoke to God with great respect, but he also spoke openly with God. When God and his Angels turned towards Sodom, you can only imagine what Abraham was thinking. We have to remember that Lot and his family was down there in that city of Sodom. Abraham had a great love for Lot and his family. Abraham went to war with the Kings of the North who had kidnapped Lot and his family, and Abraham had put his life on the line, and the life of his men to go rescue Lot when he was kidnapped by the Kings of the North, and so we can rest assured, that Lot was indeed on Abraham's mind when God revealed his plan to destroy Sodom because of its wickedness.

And so, we have the privilege of being able to listen on into a conversation between Abraham and our Father in Heaven as Abraham begins to barter with God. Abraham starts at 50 righteous people, and he asks God, "what if there are 50 righteous people within the city, will you destroy the city if there are 50 righteous people in it?" And of course, our Father in Heaven says "no, I will not destroy the city if there are 50 righteous found within it."

And Abraham even begins to tutor God in verse 25. Let's go back and listen to what Abraham says to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob:

Gen 18:25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

Now that's a pretty strong statement coming from a puny little man, to the creator of the heavens and the earth and everything seen and unseen. But what is more astonishing, is that God allows it. Yahovah allows Abraham to speak openly to him. And this is just another example of the love of God. It's just another example of how much our Father in Heaven truly does indeed love each and every single one of us. Our Father in Heaven is not a tyrant. He's not

like other gods who could care less about their servants. The difference between the little “g” god of this world, and all the other man-made gods, and our God... is that our God truly is our Father. We truly did come from him. It is his breath that fills our lungs. Our God truly is someone who cares, someone who is involved, someone who has a stake in our lives, someone who truly loves us with every fiber of his being. And you can almost picture Abraham standing next to God having this conversation. Can you imagine standing next to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and speaking so openly? And if not... why not? Think about that for just a moment.

Abraham spoke his mind to our Father in Heaven, and our Father in Heaven allowed him to speak his mind. Abraham was genuinely concerned about the righteous. His Father was also genuinely concerned about the righteous. And our Father in Heaven knew full well, that this was a learning experience for Abraham. Our Father in Heaven was training Abraham, by allowing Abraham to get to know him on a personal level. My question to us, is do we know God on a personal level? When we speak to him, do we speak to him all piously, using 16th century Shakespearean language? Do we speak to him as though we are holier than he is? My prayer is that we do not.

It is written that David was a man after God’s own heart. And yet we see David sinning over, and over, and over again. David continuously stumbles and falls. David commits adultery with Bathsheba. David arranges the death of Bathsheba’s husband. David failed to discipline his sons. David made mistakes, and David stumbled and fell, and yet it is written, that David was a man after God’s own heart. Our very own Messiah comes from the very loins, and the very body of David. That’s how much God loved David. Where sin abounds... grace abounds more. Where sin abounds... the patients of God abounds more. Where sin abounds... the mercy of God abounds more. Sin has no hold over the love of Yahovah.

It’s important that we understand the love that Abraham had for God. It’s important that we understand the relationship between Abraham and God. Abraham barter with God from 50 righteous people down to 10 righteous people, and our Father in Heaven tells him that for the sake of 10, he will not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. And when we get right down to it, we see that God would not only not destroy the city for 10 righteous people... but that God would not destroy the city for even one righteous person. We have to remember that the Angels were not allowed to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah until after they had rescued Lot from Sodom and Gomorrah. And just so that we can clearly see that, I want us to take a sneak peek ahead, and turn to Genesis chapter 19 versus 15 through 22. Now this is where the Angels were rescuing Lot and his family from Sodom and Gomorrah because the Angels were about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of the wickedness that was found in it. And so once again let’s turn to Genesis chapter 19 versus 15 through 22:

Gen 19:15 As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.”

Gen 19:16 But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

Gen 19:17 And as they brought them out, one said, “Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away.”

Gen 19:18 And Lot said to them, “Oh, no, my lords.

Gen 19:19 Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die.

Gen 19:20 Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!”

Gen 19:21 He said to him, “Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken.

Gen 19:22 Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there.” Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

Notice that we’re told in verse 16 that Lot lingered. So, the Angels seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand. They actually took hold of them and brought them outside the city. And I want us to notice what the Angel says here in verse 22. He says and I quote “escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there.” The Angels had been instructed not to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah until Lot and his family were removed from the city. And so, my point in all of this is that God was not going to destroy that city even if one righteous person was found within its Gates. Abraham had bartered God down to 10 righteous people. But in reality, God was not going to destroy that city until every single, solitary, last righteous person was out of that city. And before we go, I also want us to understand that Lot was indeed seen as righteous according to Peter. Let’s turn to second Peter chapter 2 versus four through 10:

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

2Pe 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

2Pe 2:8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

2Pe 2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

2Pe 2:10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

And so once again I just mention this, so that we can clearly see that Lot was indeed seen as righteous according to our God breathed Scripture. And this is exactly why our Father in Heaven's Angels had to remove Lot and his family before they could destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.

Next week we'll venture into the rest of the story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and we'll see the importance of not looking back. Next Wednesday evening at 7pm Eastern standard time.