

God Tells Abraham About His Decision to Destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (2067 BC)

Genesis 18

“Is anything too hard for the LORD?”

- 1 And Yahweh appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre. And he was sitting in the doorway of the tent at the heat of the day.
- 2 And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, three men were standing near him. And he saw *them* and ran from the doorway of the tent to meet them. And he bowed down to the ground.
- 3 And he said, “My lord, if I have found favor in your eyes do not pass by your servant.
- 4 Let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest under the tree.
- 5 And let me bring a piece of bread, then refresh yourselves. Afterward you can pass on, once you have passed by with your servant.” Then they said, “Do so as you have said.”
- 6 Then Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and he said, “Quickly—make three seahs of fine flour for kneading and make bread cakes!”
- 7 And Abraham ran to the cattle and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, and he made haste to prepare it.
- 8 Then he took curds and milk, and the calf which he prepared, and set *it* before them. And he was standing by them under the tree while they ate.
- 9 And they said to him, “Where *is* Sarah your wife?” And he said, “Here, in the tent.”
- 10 And he said, “I will certainly return to you in the spring, and look, Sarah your wife *will have* a son.” Now Sarah *was* listening at the doorway of the tent, and which *was* behind him. [[Rom 9:9](#)]
- 11 Now Abraham and Sarah *were* old, advanced in age; the way of women had ceased to be for Sarah.
- 12 So Sarah laughed to herself saying, “After I am worn out and my husband is old, shall *this* pleasure be to me?”
- 13 Then Yahweh said to Abraham, “What *is* this *that* Sarah laughed, saying, ‘Is it indeed true *that* I will bear a child, now *that* I have grown old?’
- 14 Is anything too difficult for Yahweh? At the appointed time I will return to you in the spring and Sarah *shall have* a son.”
- 15 But Sarah denied *it*, saying, “I did not laugh,” because she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”

- 16 Then the men set out from there, and they looked down upon Sodom. And Abraham went with them to send them on their way.
- 17 Then Yahweh said, “Shall I conceal from Abraham what I *am going* to do?
- 18 Abraham will surely become a great and strong nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed on account of him.
- 19 For I have chosen him, that he will command his children and his household after him that they will keep the way of Yahweh, to do righteousness and justice, so that Yahweh may bring upon Abraham that which he said to him.”
- 20 Then Yahweh said, “Because the outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah *is* great and because their sin *is* very serious,
- 21 I will go down and I will see. Have they done altogether according to its cry of distress *which* has come to me? If not, I will know.”
- 22 And the men turned from there and went toward Sodom. And Abraham *was* still standing before Yahweh.
- 23 And Abraham drew near *to Yahweh* and said, “Will you also sweep away the righteous with the wicked?
- 24 If perhaps there are fifty righteous in the midst of the city, will you also sweep *them* away and not forgive the place on account of the fifty righteous in her midst?
- 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing as this, to kill *the* righteous with *the* wicked, that the righteous would be as the wicked! Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do justice?”
- 26 And Yahweh said, “If I find fifty righteous in Sodom, in the midst of the city, then I will forgive the whole place for their sake.”
- 27 Then Abraham answered and said, “Look, please, I was bold to speak to my Lord, but I *am* dust and ashes.
- 28 Perhaps the fifty righteous are lacking five—will you destroy the whole city on account of the five?” And he answered, “I will not destroy *it* if I find forty-five there.”
- 29 And once again he spoke to him and said, “What if forty are found there?” And he answered, “I will not do *it* on account of the forty.”
- 30 And he said, “Please, let not my Lord be angry, and I will speak. What if thirty be found there?” And he answered, “I will not do *it* if I find thirty there.”
- 31 And he said, “Please, now, I was bold to speak to my Lord. What if twenty be found there?” And he answered, “I will not destroy *it* for the sake of the twenty.”
- 32 And he said, “Please, let not my Lord be angry, and I will speak only once more. What if ten are found there?” And he answered, “I will not destroy *it* for the sake of the ten.”
- 33 Then Yahweh left, as he finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (2067 BC)

Genesis 19:1–29

The Angels Enter Sodom and Stay with Lot

- 1 And the two angels came to Sodom in the evening. And Lot was sitting in the gateway of Sodom. Then Lot saw *them* and stood up to meet them. And he bowed down *with his* face to the ground.
- 2 And he said, “Behold, my lords, please turn aside into the house of your servant and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you can rise early and go on your way.” And they said, “No, but we will spend the night in the square.”
- 3 But he urged them strongly, and they turned aside with him and came into his house. And he made a meal for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.
- 4 Before they laid down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house.
- 5 And they called to Lot and said to him, “Where *are* the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we may know them.”
- 6 But Lot went out to them at the entrance, and he shut the door behind him.
- 7 And he said, “No, my brothers, please do not do *such a* wrong *thing*.”
- 8 Behold, I have two daughters who have not known a man. Please, let me bring them out to you; then do to them as *it seems* good in your eyes. Only to these men do not do *this* thing, since they came under my roof for protection.”
- 9 But they said, “Step aside!” Then they said, “This fellow came to dwell as a foreigner and he acts as a judge! Now we shall do worse to you than them!” And they pressed very hard against the man, against Lot, and they drew near to break the door.
- 10 Then the men reached out *with* their hands and brought Lot in to them, into the house, and they shut the door.
- 11 And the men who *were* at the entrance of the house they struck with blindness, both small and great, and they were unable to find the entrance.

Lot Tries to Warn His Family

- 12 Then the men said to Lot, “Who *is* here with you? Bring out from the place *your* sons-in-law, and your sons and your daughters, and all who *are* with you in the city.
- 13 For we *are about to* destroy this place, because their cry has become great before Yahweh. Yahweh sent us to destroy it.”
- 14 Then Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law *who were* taking his daughters and said, “Get up! Go out from this place, because Yahweh *is going* to destroy the city!” But it seemed like a joke in the eyes of his sons-in-law.

The Angels Force Lot to Leave

- 15 And as the dawn came up the angels urged Lot saying, “Get up, take your wife and your two daughters who are staying with you, lest you be destroyed with the punishment of the city.”
- 16 But *when* he lingered, the men seized him by his hand and his wife’s hand, and his two daughters by hand, on account of the mercy of Yahweh upon him. And they brought him out and set him outside of the city. [cf. [2 Pet 2:4–9](#)]
- 17 And after bringing them outside *one* said, “Flee for your life; do not look behind you, and do not stand anywhere in the plain. Flee to the mountains lest you be destroyed.”
- 18 And Lot said to them, “No, please, my lords.
- 19 Behold, your servant has found favor in your eyes and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot flee to the mountains, lest the disaster overtake me and I die.
- 20 Behold, this city *is near enough* to flee there, and it *is a* little *one*. Please, let me flee there. Is it not a little *one*? Then my life shall be saved.”
- 21 And he said to him, “Behold, I will grant this favor as well; that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken.
- 22 Escape there quickly, for I cannot do *this* thing until you get there.” Therefore, there name of the city was called Zoar.
- 23 *After* the sun had risen upon the earth and Lot had entered Zoar,

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

- 24 Yahweh rained down from heaven upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from Yahweh.
- 25 And he overthrew those cities and the whole plain, and the inhabitants of the cities and the vegetation of the ground.
- 26 But his wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. [cf. [Luke 17:28–33](#)]
- 27 And Abraham arose early in the morning *and went* to the place where he had stood before Yahweh.
- 28 And he looked down upon the surface of Sodom and Gomorrah, and upon the whole surface of the land, the plain. And he saw that, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a smelting furnace.
- 29 So it was, when God destroyed the cities of the plain that God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out from the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot lived.

Origin of Moabites and Ammonites (2067–66 BC)

Genesis 19:30–38

30 And Lot went out from Zoar and settled in the hill country with his two daughters, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. So he lived in a cave, he and his two daughters.

31 And the firstborn *daughter* said to the younger one, “Our father is old, and there is no man in the land to come in to us according to the manner of all the land.

32 Come, let us give our father wine to drink and let us lie with him that we may secure descendants through our father.”

33 And they gave their father wine to drink that night, and the firstborn went and lay with her father, but he did not know when she lay down or when she got up.

34 And it happened *that*, the next day the firstborn said to the younger one, “Look, I laid with my father last night. Let us give him wine to drink also tonight, then go and lie with him that we may secure descendants through our father.”

35 And they gave their father wine to drink again that night, and the younger got up and lay with him, but he did not know when she lay down or when she got up.

36 And the two daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father.

37 The firstborn gave birth to a son, and she called his name Moab. He *is* the father of Moab until this day.

38 And the younger, she also gave birth to a son, and she called his name Ben-Ammi. He *is* the father of the Ammonites until this day.

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