

## Abraham's Intercession in spite of God's Imminent Judgment upon Sodom

(Gen 18:16-22)

- A** - The men rose up and looked [*pondered judgment*] toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.
- B** - Shall I (the Lord) hide from Abraham that thing which I do;
- C** - Seeing Abraham shall surely become a great nation and all the nations shall be blessed in him?
- D** - **For I know him, that he shall command his family after him**
- D** - **and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment** {righteousness and justice}
- C** - That the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him.
- B** - The cry of Sodom & Gomorrah is great—their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see if cry is what is come to me.
- A** - The men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom; but Abraham stood yet before the Lord.

That “thing” is the work of Judgment {involves 3 phases}

An interesting question arises: Why would the Lord “hide” from Abraham “that thing” considering the Lord knew him and would command his family in right paths? Further it would have deprived him of the privilege of intercession for Sodom.

Going down to “see” is a final investigation of the “cry”. If so, a verdict will be made.

Much can be said in these few verses, but without knowing the rest of the story, we can truly deduce that it would be in harmony with the spirit of justice and judgment for Abraham and the benevolent spirit Abraham had, to intercede for Sodom for he was a righteous man and kept the way of the Lord.

### *Chiastic explanation:*

*This was a test for Abraham, due to the question the Lord asked the angels with Him. And though the rest of the chapter will bring this test to the forefront, yet, we can discern based on the Lord's question that some sort of test was forth coming.*

*In keeping with the promise the Lord made to Abraham that he would become a great nation, we see also the principle of ‘corporate solidarity,’ that is, “the one stands for the all—Abraham equates to a great nation. But as is prevalent all throughout Scripture, God only required Abraham to exercise faith in God's promise. As a result the individual relationship was highly esteemed as the words of the Lord indicate, “For I know him, that he shall command his children and his household after him and they shall keep the way of the Lord.”*

*In essence, God could fulfill His promise to Abraham because a) Abraham said yes to God {permitted God to fulfill His promise to him to make of him a great nation} and b) he exercised his faith by trusting God, teaching his children and household the principles of righteousness and justice—those principles that govern the government of heaven.*

*It is not by accident that the pinnacle of the passage {the D statements} are at the core to the fulfillment of God's promise. This is the ‘take away’ from this short study. Question is, will we each take it to heart, each family inculcate these same principles as Abraham exhibited in his household. Only eternity will reveal the degree to which each family unit so did.*