

# Israel's Patriarch

## A Study in Genesis 12-24

The Prayer of Abraham  
Genesis 18:16-33  
October 4, 2020

Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" - **Genesis 18:23**

### I. ABRAHAM—THE FRIEND OF GOD

- God's open question is a word of encouragement and hope to Abraham (Vss. 17-19; Gen. 12:2-4, 15:1-6).
- Abraham is one who has been "chosen" of God (Gen. 17:1-8; John 15:16; 2 Thess. 2:13).
- God's choosing of Abraham was not random, but purposeful—that Abraham might command his children/household, remain faithful, be righteous and just, and so that he might obtain all that God promised him (Vs. 19).

### II. GOD COMES DOWN

- Here we see the second purpose for the strangers' visit. God has come down to see if Sodom's sin is as outrageous as he has heard (Vs. 20).
- When God "comes down," things take an ominous turn toward judgment (Gen. 11:5, 18:21; John 9:39, 16:1-11).

### III. DARING TO DRAW NEAR

- When the angels turn toward Sodom, Abraham "still stood before the LORD." He was in no hurry to close his communion with God (Vs. 22; Luke 11:1-14).
- Abraham's plea before God concerned justice, and the character of the God whom he had come to know (Vs. 25; Luke 18:1-8).

### IV. PRAYERS THAT PREVAIL

1. Are consistent with the character/will of God (John 14:12-14)
2. Come from a life of righteousness and faith (James 5:13-20)
3. Believe that God exists and hears (Heb. 11:6; James 1:6-8)
4. Involve work when there is work to be done (Neh. 4:9)
5. Are honest (Mark 9:24)
6. Leave the results to God (Gen. 18:33)

**KNOW:** Prayer is communion with God. Although mysteries remain, we know that it is effective, and that our God is a God who hears and responds.

**DO:** Develop your prayer life. Know God better as a result.

### Suggested Reading:

\**The God Who Hears* by W. Bingham Hunter (LifePoint Library #248.3 HUN)

\**Waiting on God* by Andrew Murray (LifePoint Library #248.32 MUR)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

**Please Read Genesis 18:16-33**

1. What is the overall "sweep" of this narrative? Its main point?
2. Why does God ask his question out loud, so that Abraham can hear?
3. When the angels leave, Abraham stands with the LORD, or the LORD stands with him. Does this teach you anything?
4. Why is Abraham so concerned about God's justice and character?
5. Are you concerned about God's justice and character?
6. Did you learn anything about prayer from Sunday's passage/message? If so, what?