

Genesis 18:16-33 (NKJV)

16Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way.

17And the Lord said,

“Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, 18since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”

20And the Lord said,

“Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, 21I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know.”

22Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord.

23And Abraham came near and said,

“Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? 25Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

26So the Lord said,

“If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.”

27Then Abraham answered and said,

“Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:

28“Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?”

So He said, “If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it.”

29And he spoke to Him yet again and said,
“Suppose there should be forty found there?”

So He said, “I will not do it for the sake of forty.”

30Then he said, “Let not the Lord be angry, and I will
speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?”

So He said, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”

31And he said, “Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself
to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found
there?”

So He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty.”

32Then he said, “Let not the Lord be angry, and I will
speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?”

And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of ten.”

33So the Lord went His way as soon as He had finished
speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his
place.