

**Raising Abraham Pt 2**

We left off with Sarah laughing about God's message concerning her giving birth to a child in her old age. She won't be the only one. We learn in the New Testament about another woman named Elisabeth who would give birth to a child in her old age. It would be John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, the Son of God.

Now the downside of the upper/downer day in Abraham's life.

**Genesis 18:16-21**

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

(17) And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,

(18) since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

(19) For 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."

(20) And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

(21) I 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."

Guess who is in Sodom and guess who is in trouble again? If you're thinking of Lot, then you are right. The Lord stayed with Abraham and the two angels traveled on to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Abraham is thinking of his nephew and once again comes to his rescue.

**Genesis 18:22-23**

**(22) Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD.**

**(23) And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"**

Abraham was worried for Lot and concerned for the people of Sodom. In this account Abraham asks the Lord if He would spare the city if 50 righteous could be found, then 45, and lower until he got the number down to 10.

**Genesis 18:32-33**

**(32) Then 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."**

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

Many sermons were based on this passage with the sad note that God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because not even 10 righteous people could be found.

**Principles for Today**

1. Be aware that some people you encounter may be angels.

**Heb 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels**

2. Be Confident that nothing is too hard for the Lord.

3. Remain Sensitive to the Lord

***The One who did miraculous things for Abraham and Sarah is the same one who loves you as His Child***

4. Be Passionate in Prayer

How to Begin a Relationship With God

1. Recognize your Spiritual Condition Romans 3:10 As it is written: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE" We are all sinners through and through—totally depraved. Now, that doesn't mean we've committed every atrocity known to humankind. We're not as *bad* as we can be, just as *bad off* as we can be. Sin colors all our thoughts, motives, words, and actions.

If you've been around a while, you likely already believe it. Look around. Everything around us bears the smudge marks of our sinful nature. Despite our best efforts to create a perfect world, crime statistics continue to soar, divorce rates keep climbing, and families keep crumbling.

Something has gone terribly wrong in our society and in ourselves—something deadly. Contrary to how the world would repackage it, "me-first" living doesn't equal rugged individuality and freedom; it equals death. As Paul said in his letter to the Romans, "The wages of sin is death" ([Romans 6:23](#))—our spiritual and physical death that comes from God's righteous judgment of our sin, along with all of the emotional and practical effects of this separation that we experience on a daily basis. This brings us to the second marker: God's character.

**Our Need**

So here we are, sinners by nature and sinners by choice, trying to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps to attain a relationship with our holy Creator. But every time we try, we fall flat on our faces. We can't live a good enough life to make up for our sin, because God's standard isn't "good enough"—it's *perfection*. And we can't make amends for the offense our sin has created without dying for it.

Who can get us out of this mess?

If someone could live perfectly, honoring God's law, and would bear sin's death penalty for us—in our place—then we would be saved from our predicament. But is there such a person? Thankfully, yes!

Meet your substitute—*Jesus Christ*. He is the One who took death's place for you!

[God] made [Jesus Christ] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#))

**God's Provision**

God rescued us by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins ([1 John 4:9-10](#)). Jesus was fully human and fully divine ([John 1:1, 18](#)), a truth that ensures His understanding of our weaknesses, His power to forgive, and His ability to bridge the gap between God and us ([Romans 5:6-11](#)). In short, we are "justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus" ([Romans 3:24](#)). Two words in this verse bear further explanation: *justified* and *redemption*.

*Justification* is God's act of mercy, in which He declares righteous the believing sinners while we are still in our sinning state. Justification doesn't mean that God *makes* us righteous, so that we never sin again, rather that He *declares* us righteous—much like a judge pardons a guilty criminal. Because Jesus took our sin upon Himself and suffered our judgment on the cross, God forgives our debt and proclaims us PARDONED.

*Redemption* is Christ's act of paying the complete price to release us from sin's bondage. God sent His Son to bear His wrath for all of our sins—past, present, and future ([Romans 3:24-26](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). In humble obedience, Christ willingly endured the shame of the cross for our sake ([Mark 10:45](#); [Romans 5:6-8](#); [Philippians 2:8](#)). Christ's death satisfied God's righteous demands. He no longer holds our sins against us, because His own Son paid the penalty for them. We are freed from the slave market of sin, never to be enslaved again!

**Placing Your Faith in Christ**

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#))

We accept God's gift of salvation simply by placing our faith in Christ alone for the forgiveness of our sins.