

Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Genesis 18:23–33

Characters: Narrator, Abraham, the Lord

Narrator: ²³And Abraham came near and said,

Abraham: 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?

The Lord: ²⁶If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

Narrator: ²⁷Then Abraham answered and said,

Abraham: Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: ²⁸Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?

The Lord: If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it.

Abraham: ²⁹Suppose there should be forty found there?

The Lord: I will not do it for the sake of forty.

Abraham: ³⁰Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?

The Lord: I will not do it if I find thirty there.

Abraham: ³¹Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?

The Lord: I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty.

Abraham: ³²Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?"

The Lord: I will not destroy it for the sake of ten.

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