

## **Abraham Pleads for Sodom**

Genesis 18:16-33

by Don Falkos

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When Abraham's three visitors were ready to leave, he walked with them for a while. Stopping and looking down into the valley toward Sodom, the Lord said, "Abraham, I have heard that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah are terribly wicked. I am going down there to see for myself. If it is true, I will destroy them."

As the Lord spoke with Abraham, the other two visitors, who were angels, turned and started down toward Sodom.

Abraham was thinking of his nephew Lot who lived in Sodom. "Lord, will you destroy the good people along with the bad? Suppose there are even just fifty good people in Sodom. Will you still destroy the city?"

The Lord replied, "If I find fifty good people in Sodom, I will not destroy the city."

"Suppose there are not quite fifty good people in Sodom but only forty-five."

"If I find forty-five good people, I will not destroy the city."

"What if there are only forty?"

"If I find forty, I will not destroy the city."

"Lord, I know I shouldn't be asking, but what will you do if you find only thirty good people in Sodom?"

"If I find thirty, I will not destroy the city."

"Twenty?"

"Even then, I will not destroy the city."

"Lord, please don't be angry with me as I ask just once more. Suppose you find only ten good people in Sodom."

"For the sake of ten good people, I will not destroy the city."

After speaking with Abraham, the Lord left and Abraham went back home.