

Genesis: God and the Originals

THREE VISITORS AND SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Hospitality to Three Visitors (18:1-12)

Vv. 1-8

1. What is odd about the occurrence of the three visitors and Abraham's response (consider time, number, Abraham's deference, choice of food, etc.)? And how is Abraham's response quite normal considering ancient hospitality practices?

BONUS: How is great food (feasts) important for hospitality even to this day and in what other stories in the Bible are feasts important?

Vv. 9-12

2. Considering the different use of pronouns and now "YHWH," who are these visitors?
 - a. The Trinity
 - b. Jesus and two angels
 - c. The angels Micheal, Gabriel and Raphael
 - d. Three human prophets
 - e. Other: _____
3. What is the promise the visitor brings in v. 10? How is it similar to chapter 17 and yet different?
4. Is Sarah's response of laughter positive or negative?

BONUS: Verse 14 asks a rhetorical question about God's power: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" How might this question bring reassurance to God's people in every age (see Luke 1:37 for a similar Christmas story)?

Abraham and Justice and Righteousness (18:16-33)

Vv. 16-19

5. God does a little self-talk in these verses. What is God debating and how is it a kind of "compare and contrast" of Abraham and Sodom/God's people and the unrighteous?

"Right and just" in v. 19 is the often repeated phrase throughout the Old Testament to describe _____: with "righteousness and justice."

Vv. 20-33

6. When's the last time God "came down" to check out the grievousness of humanity? What does this imply then that God might do?
7. What is Abraham's line of argument according to v. 25? Why do you think this affects God to the point of changing God's mind? (BONUS: Does God ever really change God's mind?)

Ten is the number of Hebrew men needed to establish a "_____," a quorum for public Jewish worship.

BONUS: How is Abraham's discussion with the Lord like intercessory prayer?

The Perversity of Sodom (19:1-9)

8. How does Lot show hospitality in vv. 1-3 to the two "angels"?
9. Who comes to Lot in vv. 4-5 and what do they want to do with the two "angels"?
10. What is Lot's offered solution in vv. 6-8 and how is it any better?
11. Lot discovers his worth in v. 9. What do the people of Sodom consider him?

BONUS: Lot is rejected as a stranger to the city and culture of Sodom. How is this like the modern day Christian in many places? What does Jesus have to say about this in Matthew 10:14-15?

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (19:10-29)

12. What happens to Lot, his family, the town, the "angels," and presumably the townsfolk?

Lot shows stupidity in dithering, but he speaks of the "great kindness" of the "angels" in 15. This is the first time the Hebrew word "_____" is introduced which describes the _____ of God throughout the Old Testament.

Concluding Question:

BONUS: Is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah about homosexuality or something more?