



# By Faith

Genesis 12-25

The ancient man approached God (or even the gods) as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man the roles are reversed. He is the judge: God is in the dock.... The trial may even end in God's acquittal. But the important thing is that man is on the bench and God in the dock.

— C.S. Lewis

## MAIN IDEA

In Genesis 18:16–19:29, we see three revelations of the just Judge of the whole earth so we would trust His justice, tremble before His holiness, and seek refuge in His mercy.

# The Approachable Just Judge (18:16-33)

## Two Scenes

1. God Welcomes (18:16-21)
2. Abraham Draws Near (18:22-33)

16 The men got up from there and looked out over Sodom, and Abraham was walking with them to see them off. 17 Then the LORD said, "Should I hide what I am about to do from Abraham? 18 Abraham is to become a great and powerful nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. 19 For I have chosen him so that he will command his children and his house after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. This is how the LORD will fulfill to Abraham what he promised him." ...

20 Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is immense, and their sin is extremely serious. 21 I will go down to see if what they have done justifies the cry that has come up to me. If not, I will find out.”

— Genesis 18:16-21

“13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD,  
or who gave him counsel?

14 Who did he consult?

Who gave him understanding  
and taught him the paths of justice?

Who taught him knowledge  
and showed him the way of understanding?”

— Isaiah 40:13-14

“**For** I have chosen [lit. *known*] him **so that** he will command his children and his house after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just.”

— Genesis 18:19

# The Approachable Just Judge (18:16-33)

## Two Scenes

1. God Welcomes (18:16-21)
2. Abraham Draws Near (18:22-33)

22 The men turned from there and went toward Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. 23 Abraham stepped forward and said, “Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”

— Genesis 18:22-23

“You could not possibly do such a thing: to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. You could not possibly do that! Won’t the Judge of the whole earth do what is just?”

— Genesis 18:25

“24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away instead of sparing the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people who are in it?” ...

26 The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

— Genesis 18:24, 26

“19...since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus... 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.”

— Hebrews 10:19, 22

# The Holy Just Judge (19:1-11, 23-26)

## Two Scenes

1. The Blindness of Sin (19:1-11)
2. The Fire of Holiness (19:23-26)

1 The two angels entered Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in Sodom's gateway. When Lot saw them, he got up to meet them. He bowed with his face to the ground 2 and said, "My lords, turn aside to your servant's house, wash your feet, and spend the night. Then you can get up early and go on your way." "No," they said. "We would rather spend the night in the square." 3 But he urged them so strongly that they followed him and went into his house. He prepared a feast and baked unleavened bread for them, and they ate." — Gen 19:1-3

4 Before they went to bed, the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old, the whole population, surrounded the house. 5 They called out to Lot and said, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Send them out to us so we can have sex with them!”

— Genesis 19:4-5

6 Lot went out to them at the entrance and shut the door behind him. 7 He said, “Don’t do this evil, my brothers.”

— Genesis 19:6-7

“Look, I’ve got two daughters who haven’t been intimate with a man. I’ll bring them out to you, and you can do whatever you want to them. However, don’t do anything to these men, because they have come under the protection of my roof.”

— Genesis 19:8

You cannot live in Sodom without Sodom  
eventually living in you. (i.e., 1 Cor. 15:33)

...7 and if [God] rescued righteous Lot, distressed by the depraved behavior of the immoral 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day by day, his righteous soul was tormented by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)...

— 2 Peter 2:7-8

Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.

— 1 Peter 2:11

9 “Get out of the way!” they said, adding, “This one came here as an alien, but he’s acting like a judge! Now we’ll do more harm to you than to them.” They put pressure on Lot and came up to break down the door. 10 But the angels reached out, brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. 11 They struck the men who were at the entrance of the house, both young and old, with blindness so that they were unable to find the entrance.

— Genesis 19:9-11

# The Holy Just Judge (19:1-11, 23-26)

## Two Scenes

1. The Blindness of Sin (19:1-11)
2. The Fire of Holiness (19:23-26)

23 The sun had risen over the land when Lot reached Zoar. 24 Then out of the sky the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah burning sulfur from the LORD. 25 He demolished these cities, the entire plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and whatever grew on the ground.

— Genesis 19:23-25

God's wrath is His holy and just response to sin.

A perfectly holy God must oppose evil.  
And a perfectly just God must deal with it.

16 And they said to the mountains and to the rocks,  
“Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one  
seated on the throne and from **the wrath of the  
Lamb**, 17 because the great day of their wrath has  
come! And who is able to stand?

— Revelation 6:16-17

But Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt.

— Genesis 19:26

“Don’t look back and don’t stop anywhere on the plain! Run to the mountains, or you will be swept away!”

— Genesis 19:17

23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;  
24 they are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Him as the mercy seat by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. 26 God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.

— Romans 3:23-26

# The Merciful Just Judge (19:12-21, 27-29)

## Two Scenes

1. Mercy that Grabs (19:12-21)
2. Mercy through Intercession (19:27-29)

12 Then the angels said to Lot, “Do you have anyone else here: a son-in-law, your sons and daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of this place, 13 for we are about to destroy this place because the outcry against its people is so great before the LORD, that the LORD has sent us to destroy it.

— Genesis 19:12-13

So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were going to marry his daughters. “Get up,” he said. “Get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city!” But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

— Genesis 19:14

15 At daybreak the angels urged Lot on: “Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.” 16 But he hesitated. Because of the LORD’s compassion for him, the men grabbed his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters. They brought him out and left him outside the city.

— Genesis 19:15-16

As soon as the angels got them outside, one of them said, “Run for your lives! Don’t look back and don’t stop anywhere on the plain! Run to the mountains, or you will be swept away!”

— Genesis 19:17

18 But Lot said to them, “No, my lords—please. 19 Your servant has indeed found favor with you, and you have shown me great kindness by saving my life. But I can’t run to the mountains; the disaster will overtake me, and I will die. 20 Look, this town is close enough for me to flee to. It is a small place. Please let me run to it—it’s only a small place, isn’t it?—so that I can survive.”

— Genesis 19:18-20

21 And he said to him, “All right, I’ll grant your request about this matter too and will not demolish the town you mentioned. 22 Hurry up! Run to it, for I cannot do anything until you get there.” Therefore the name of the city is Zoar.

— Genesis 19:21-22

# The Merciful Just Judge (19:12-22, 27-29)

## Two Scenes

1. Mercy that Grabs (19:12-22)
2. Mercy through Intercession (19:27-29)

27 Early in the morning Abraham went to the place where he had stood before the LORD. 28 He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the plain, and he saw that smoke was going up from the land like the smoke of a furnace.

— Genesis 19:27-28

So it was, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham and brought Lot out of the middle of the upheaval when he demolished the cities where Lot had lived.

— Genesis 19:29

“21 Yet I call this to mind, and therefore I have hope:  
22. Because of the LORD’s faithful love we do not  
perish, for his mercies never end. 23 They are new  
every morning; great is your faithfulness!”

— Lamentations 3:21-23

“Won’t the Judge of the whole earth  
do what is just?”

— Genesis 18:25