

BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD — GENESIS 18

Because God has the ABILITY to do what He wants (**Ge.18:1-15**), that raises the question of His JUSTICE (**Ge.18:16-21**), then God uses Abraham to demonstrate the INTEGRITY of His character (**Ge.18:22-33**).

A Question of Divine ABILITY

OMNIPOTENCE

Ge.18:1-15

- Moses' emphasis is on God's supernatural power at work to fulfill His divine promises in spite of impossible circumstances.
- Sarah's laugh sprang from a spirit of unbelief due to long disappointment.
- God quotes Sarah's very thoughts (v.13, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?') showing His omniscience and giving credence to His promise.
- Sarah does not put her physical situation very delicately. She is blunt! Sarah was not thinking of divine miracle but of divine providence working only within the normal course of life.
- God made it plain: Abraham and Sarah will have normal sexual relations and produce a baby.
- It would take a miracle of God for them to have literal children through normal means. That is what God has in mind.



A Question of Divine STRATEGY

OMNISCIENCE

Ge.18:16-21

- God chose to reveal His intention to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham.
- It is vital to recognize God's purpose in this. This is not "gossip" with Abraham about what He will do, nor is it to satisfy Abraham's curiosity.
- Abraham was to teach his offspring righteousness and justice (what is right and just, **Ge.18:19**) so that they might enjoy God's blessings. The Lord wants a people to reflect His character to the nations.
- God specifically revealed the fate of these cities to Abraham to draw out of him an intercessor's heart of love.

A Question of Divine INTEGRITY

MERCY & JUSTICE

Ge.18:22-33

- MERCY is not getting what you deserve. GRACE is getting what you do not deserve. JUSTICE is getting what you deserve.
- Abraham knew that God is just and that he punishes sin, but he may have wondered about God's mercy.
- God agreed to spare the entire city if only 10 innocent people lived there. Clearly, the presence of the righteous among the wicked is important here.
- The numbers 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10 is not the important thing. It shows the principle that God will not destroy the righteous with the wicked. Abraham is seeking clarification from God as to the extent of His mercy.
- This is the kind of heart God wanted to draw out of Abraham - a heart that cared so much for people made in the image of God that he worked hard to intercede on behalf of a city that deserved judgment.