

ABRAHAM....III

(Genesis 18:16—25:11)

God decided to destroy the city of Sodom because it was so wicked. Abraham asked the Lord not to destroy the city, getting the Lord to agree to spare the city if ten righteous people could be found there. But the only righteous ones there were Lot and his family. Angels hustled them out to safety before fire destroyed the city (although Lot's wife turned to a pillar of salt when she disobeyed the command not to look back).

Genesis 20 records the amazing story of Abraham once again lying about Sarah, telling King Abimelech that Sarah was his sister. Again, God intervenes and Abraham and Sarah are re-united, ending this embarrassing episode.

As the angels foretold, Sarah became pregnant and gave birth to Isaac. Abraham was 100 years old. In time conflicts arose between Isaac and Ishmael. Hagar and Ishmael were sent away.

Genesis 22 records the great test of Abraham's faith when God told him to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice. The story is familiar: an angel stopped Abraham from killing Isaac. It was a powerful confirmation---to God and to future generations---of the great faith of this man of God.

Genesis 23 records the death of Sarah at age 127 years. Abraham bought the Cave of Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite for use as a family burial site. Sarah was buried there. After the death of Sarah, Abraham re-married and had several more children.

As Abraham was becoming very old he sent his servant to the country of his relatives in order to choose a wife for Isaac, as he did not want him to marry one of the Canaanite women. Finally, at age 175, Abraham died and was buried in the Cave of Machpelah.

(There is a great deal more about Abraham in the New Testament, which will be covered later. The significance of this man is far greater than is apparent in the Genesis record!)

