

“ANGELS UNAWARE”  
(Genesis 18:1-33)

- I. The Lord’s VISIT (Gen. 18:1-8)
  - A. Appeared in HUMAN form: the pre-incarnate CHRIST (18:1-2)
    - 1. He came UNANNOUNCED
    - 2. He came with two ANGELIC COMPANIONS (cf. 19:1)
  - B. Received in HOSPITALITY (18:3-8; cf. Heb. 13:2)
    - 1. Abraham TREATED them with RESPECT
    - 2. Abraham PROVIDED them with a MEAL
- II. The Lord’s PURPOSES (Gen. 18:9-33)
  - A. His LOVING purposes concerning SARAH (18:9-15)
    - 1. They INTRODUCED her to the CONVERSATION (v. 9)
    - 2. He RESTATED His promise of a SON (v. 10-12; cf. 17:15-16)
    - 3. He REPROVED her DISTRUST (vv. 13-15)
  - B. His WRATHFUL purposes concerning SODOM (18:16-21)
    - 1. The REASONS for His revelation to Abraham
      - a. Because He’d CHOSEN to work THROUGH Abraham
      - b. So Abraham would INSTRUCT his HOUSEHOLD
      - c. So Abraham would PRAY for SODOM

2. The CONTENT of His revelation to Abraham--it is stated briefly (vv. 20-21)
  - a. His EVIDENCE of the SIN of Sodom and Gomorrah
  - b. His INTENTION to INVESTIGATE
- C. Abraham's INTERCESSION for SODOM (18:22-32a)
  1. He KNEW their WICKEDNESS was great
  2. He EXPECTED God's JUSTICE
  3. He showed COMPASSION for the SODOMITES
  4. He showed CONFIDENCE in God's MERCY
- D. God promised to SPARE the CITIES for the sake of TEN righteous inhabitants (18:32b)
- E. The Lord DEPARTED, and Abraham went HOME (18:33)

### III. Lessons

- A. God is not EAGER to DESTROY sinners
- B. A TINY MINORITY can have a powerful IMPACT for GOOD
- C. Prayer should be PERSISTENT, DEFINITE, and always REVERENT
- \*D. Prayer is often a response to needs GOD brings to our ATTENTION
  1. His answer was both LESS and MORE than Abraham asked
  2. Abraham's prayer changed ONLY ABRAHAM