

## GENESIS 19:29      ANSWERED PRAYER

<sup>29</sup> *So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.*

The angels of the Lord went to Sodom and experienced its decadence first hand. However, like Abraham under the great trees of Mamre, Lot recognized them, offered them hospitality and ultimately protection, even to the point of offering his own daughters as substitutes. When it became clear that nothing would dissuade the population, the angels went into action. There were not even ten righteous persons in Sodom, but Lot, his wife and his daughters were delivered (forcibly) by the angels before the sentence against the valley people was executed. As Abraham had prayed for the righteous in Sodom and Gomorrah, God had answered his prayer, keeping his mercy and justice in balance. He had mercy on the righteous remnant and executed justice on the rest.

God always answers our prayers. However, God's answer to our prayers will be conditioned by God's nature, the fullness of which is unfathomable to human understanding. We do not know what God knows, see what he sees, or are holy as he is holy. Much of the time this causes us to miss the movement of his hand on our behalf. When we pray, our only expectation should be that God will be the God he has revealed himself to be. He has repeatedly demonstrated that he listens to human prayers and that he is perfectly loving and just. In short, the vital petition of our prayers to God is that he will be God in the particular situation and make himself known for the eternal health of our neighbors and ourselves. That is a prayer that God always answers. Perhaps we should also pray for the eyes to see his answer.

**My Father, as you have revealed yourself to be truly and absolutely loving and just, strengthen the eyes of my faith to see you at work in the world around me. Weaken my legs so that I might humbly kneel before you. Breakdown my pride so that I might grow in my dependence on you. May my trust and knowledge of you develop to a level where I can rest assured in your perfect answer to my prayers even when I am unable to recognize it. Amen.**