

He knows Abraham is troubled about the promise and He brings to him a renewed confirmation. He is not indulgent of weakness but ministers with care, love, and knowledge. We find this a big point in Psalm 103 but with the added help He gives there should come added trust from us.

B. He informs us of His will

Not in every aspect, of course, but His word to Abraham regarding Sodom is the point. The Lord wonders (!) if He should tell Abraham or not and we know that His telling Abraham was to strengthen him not to fill him with doubt. He is just in the exercise of His will and the discussion with Abraham shows us that in graphic fashion. It no doubt had a similar affect on Abraham who is willing now to leave the whole thing in God's hands. It does not make us indifferent but allows us to live trusting God.

C. He extends mercy to the utmost

We are not nearly so merciful as is the Lord but in this sequence Abraham does set a good example. He knows that the wicked must be judged---there is no question about that. But will God be general or particular in His judgment and the answer is that He will be particular. There is a very good example of this in Ezekiel 9.

III. Conclusion: As your rely on God's justice and mercy one learns how perfectly God may be trusted. He deals righteously with all parties and there is no partiality with God in being right and true. This episode in the history of Sodom teaches us all to live in trust and if it looks sometimes as though the evil doers are getting away with things, that is not the case at all. A just God will bring everything to order in His time.

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## MESSAGE # 4: ISAAC

Biblical Passages: Genesis 26