

# TSADAQ - TSAAQ

Genesis 18-19



# Scriptural Literary Device: Chiasm

- “A literary device in which a sequence of ideas is presented and then repeated in reverse order. The result is a “mirror” effect as the ideas are “reflected” back in a passage.
- Each idea is connected to its “reflection” by a repeated word, often in a related form.

## Genesis 18:1-23 NIV

- “The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

## Genesis 18:1-23 NIV

- 3 He said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, [\[a\]](#) do not pass your servant by. 4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.”

## Genesis 18:1-23 NIV

- “Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.”
- 6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”
- 7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

## Genesis 18:1-23 NIV

- 9 “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.
- “There, in the tent,” he said.
- 10 Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”
- Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

## Genesis 18:1-23 NIV

- 13 Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”
- 15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.”
- But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.””

## Genesis 18:1-23 NIV

- **16** When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. **17** Then the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? **18** Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. **19** For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

## Genesis 18:1-23 NIV

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- But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.””


## Genesis 18:1-23 NIV

- **20** Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous **21** that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”
- **22** The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord.

## Genesis 18:1-23 NIV

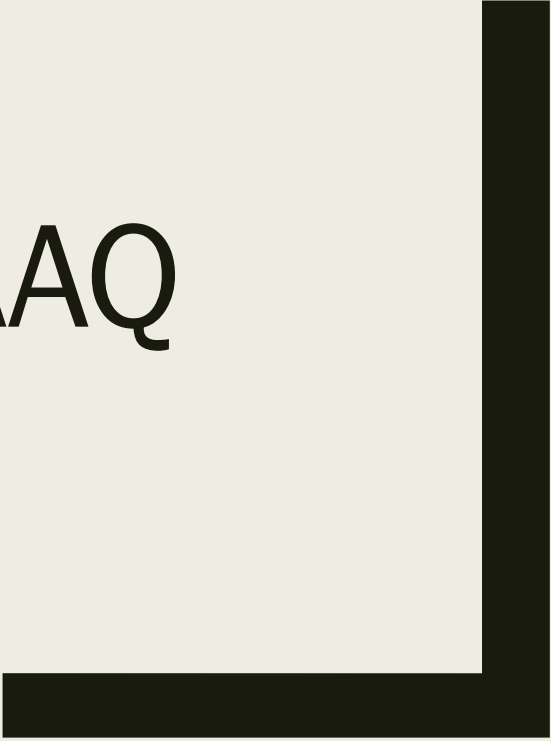
...approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”

- Speaker: “This is the word of the Lord”
- All: (Thanks be to God)



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## Important Words

- Tsachaqah from “Tsachaq” - Laugh/Laughter
- Issac: Yitsechaq

## Important Words (2)

-”Keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just”

Right: Tsadaq – honesty/justness; Community-loyalty

-To ”do right by” (God & others)

-God calls His people to be a blessing to others.

## God is Near Us – God Hears Us (2)

-God invites Abraham to speak (pray) about Sodom/Gomorrah.

## Important Words (3)

- "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah"

Outcry: "Tsaah" – to cry out because of how you are treated by others

- Gen 4:10 (Cain & Abel)

- Exodus 2:22 (Egypt & People of Israel)

## Important Words (4)

-Tsa - ch - aq (Laughter)

-Tsa - d - aq (do right by others/bless others)

-Tsaa - ' aq (cry out because of treatment from others)

## God is Moved By Our Prayers

- Abraham progresses in his asking for God to spare Sodom/Gomorrah
- Abraham likely thinking of Lot (God knows us)
- Abraham's prayers cause God to move (rescue Lot)
- If God is moved by Abraham's prayers, God is moved by ours as well.

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# Chiastic Structure:

- God meet Abraham in front of his tent
  - God invited into the home
- God speaks for Sarah to hear (Good things)
- Abraham (and us) are to be Right/Just (Tsadaq)
- Due to outcries (Tsa'aq) Abraham prays/God intervenes

## Chiastic Structure:

- Lot sat in the gateway of the city
- God invited into the home

## Sodom/Gomorrah Tsa'aq

- The men surround the house demanding access to Lots male guests.
- The angels were able to defend themselves, but what about those who were not?
- How corrupt would a city be that normalized such violent behavior?

# Chiastic Structure:

- Lot sat in the gateway of the city
  - God invited into the home
- God speaks for Sarah to hear (Good things)
- Lot closes the door so God cannot hear (Bad things)
- Abraham (us) are to be right/just (Tsadaq)
- Sodom/Gomorroh practice harming others (Tsa'aq)

## Important Words (4)

-Tsa - ch - aq (Laughter)

-Tsa - d - aq (do right by others/bless others)

-Tsaa - ' aq (cry out because of treatment from others)

## Jesus' Words (Luke 17:26-33)

- **26** “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. **27** People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.
- **28** “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. **29** But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

## Jesus' Words (Luke 17:26-33)

**30** “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. **31** On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. **32** Remember Lot’s wife! **33** Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.

## The Heart of God

-Gods desire is for His people to practice “Tsadaq” to God and others (Two Great Commandments)

-Are there any people you struggle to practice Tsadaq to?

-What can you do to greater practice Tsadaq to others?

## The Heart of God (2)

-God wants His people to care and intercede where there is “Tsa’aq” (Gen 18:17-22)

-As you think of our world/country/stage/city/workplace/home, where can you identify “Tsa’aq”

-Pray about these things continually believing God is moved by prayer

## The Heart of God (3)

-We might not be in a place where we can consistently practice “tsadaq” but God is with us and will give us strength to walk in God’s ways

-In what ways are you leaning on God this season to form you? Be encouraged, faith is a journey. Pray for God to hold your hand day by day.

## The Heart of God: A Prayer

- Ask God to help us to do the things that make His heart happy with abundance.
- Ask God to help us be more aware of the outcries that we may move God to act in response to our prayers.
- Thank God that we are His people and God does right (Tsadaq) by us in saving us from Sin and being faithful to His promises.
- Ask God to help us live as His people that others can see and know Him through us.