

Far Be It from You to Do Such a Thing
(Genesis 18)

And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am going to do, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed through him and shall bless themselves by him? And the Lord said, Because the shriek of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is exceedingly grievous, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether as is the cry of it which has come to Me; and if not, I will know. And Abraham came close and said, Will You destroy the righteous together with the wicked (Gen. 18: 17-20-21)?

Abraham, from whom all the nations would be blessed, was without a doubt considered a friend of YAHWEH, Who did not hide from him His plan of judgment against Sodom and Gomorra, the place where his nephew lived with his family. Lot and his family suffered much in that environment of moral decay as Peter mentioned in one of his letters. He said, And He (God) rescued righteous Lot, and greatly worn out and distressed by the wanton ways of the ungodly and lawless; for that just man, living among them, tortured his righteous soul every day with what he saw and heard of [their] unlawful and wicked deeds (2 Peter 2:7,8). When YAHWEH revealed to Abraham His plan to destroy the city, Abraham came close to Him to intercede for his nephew, Lot and his family; he stood before the Lord and came closer to him and said, Will You destroy the righteous together with the wicked? **Far be it from You to do such a thing** – to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous **fare** as do the wicked! **Far be it from You!** Shall not the judge of all the earth execute judgment and do righteously? Abraham brought YAHWEH to remembrance of Who He was- a righteous and just Judge. Perhaps Abraham remembered the judgment of the days of Noah; he knew that God was consistently just in all His judgments and would judge Sodom and Gomorrah accordingly. Abraham as a friend of God was privileged to know God's secret plan of that day, for it involved him through his nephew, Lot.

Prophecies of the Old and New Testaments warn us of judgment coming to this earth specifically to fall on the wicked people. YAHSHUA described this time saying: For then there will be great tribulation such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now- no, and never will be (Matt. 24:21); Daniel prophesied it to be a time of trouble, straightness and distress such as never was since there was a nation till that time (Daniel 12:1b); the prophet Joel describes it as a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and of thick mists and darkness, like the morning dawn spread upon the mountains; so there comes a people numerous and mighty, the like of which has never been before and shall not be again even to the years of many generations (Joel 2:2). The seven seals of Revelation, which will open the time of judgment, will bring the antichrist riding on a white horse carrying a bow and a crown riding forth conquering and to conquer. Peace will be taken from the earth, men will kill each other, famine, death, earthquake, the sun will be turned black, the moon like blood, the stars will be dropped to the earth, the sky will be rolled up like a scroll and vanished, and every mountain and island will be dislodged from its place; men will call to the mountains and the rocks to fall on them to hide from the face of YAHWEH and from His indignation (Rev. 6:1-17);

and these are only the first half of the tribulation. The second half of the tribulation will be worse than the first. If this information were given to Abraham he would come close to the Lord, the place for intercession, and ask Him the question: Will you destroy the righteous with the wicked? Far be it from You! He would argue with God that the idea to destroy the righteous with the wicked was inconsistent with Him. He would not be satisfied until he would receive the answer from the Lord, as it happened when he interceded for his nephew. Like Abraham we believer must come closer to our God to ask the question, Will You destroy your bride with the wicked people before You come to fetch her, as many believers think? You, God of loving-kindness, merciful, just, never changing, always the same, faithful to His promise; a righteous God, holy and true, will You do that? Far be it from Lord, to do such a thing! For it is written in Your Word that You have not appointed us to [incur your] wrath, but obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (I Thess. 5:9)! I would like to ask the question to those believers who say we are going through the tribulation, How are we to encourage one another as Paul recommended at the end of His teaching concerning the rapture, if we are to suffer the wrath of God? How is YAHSHUA going to rescue us and deliver us out of and from the wrath which is coming [upon the impenitent] and draw us to Himself, if we are destined to suffer under His wrath with the wicked? How are we, His bride, to be rejoicing and shouting for joy, celebrating and ascribing to Him glory and honor, being ready for the marriage with Him by dressing in fine linen, dazzling and white, which is the righteousness of His bride, when we will be suffering the judgment of His wrath? How are we to follow Him on white horses, to come to earth with Him, if we are on earth beaten under His wrath?

The Psalmist David made this his personal prayer: **Gather me not with sinners and sweep me not away**, nor my life with **bloodthirsty men** (Psalm 26:9); **drag me not away with the wicked** with the workers of iniquity, who speak peace with their neighbors, but malice and mischief in their hearts (Psalm 27:3). If the life we live is right with our God, then it is right to disengage ourselves from God's judgment upon the wicked, for the Word of God made a distinction between the righteous and the wicked people in Psalm 1: it says, Blessed is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down where the scornful gather; but his delight and desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law he habitually meditates by day and by night; he shall be like a tree firmly planted by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade or wither; and everything he does shall prosper; not so the wicked. But they are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand [justified] in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows and is fully acquainted with the way of the righteous, but the way of the **ungodly shall perish** (Psalm 1).

To the Church of Philadelphia YAHSHUA had this to say, Because you have guarded and kept My word of patient endurance, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which is coming on the whole world to try those who dwell upon the earth; I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one may rob you and deprive you of your crown (Rev. 3:10).

Far be it from You, O God to do such a thing— to slay the righteous with the wicked! To drag him away with the wicked; to gather him with the wicked! Far be it from You, O God!