

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Genesis 18: 20-32

20. And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and they disturbeth my slumber, and because their sin is very grievous, (though it is not as people will think in future times, hint hint,)

21. I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know, because I shall be there to see it, and mine eyes shall behold. Yes, I know that's a difficult sentence, but lots get lost in translation. Or was it lot gets lots? Or even lost. Whatever.

22. And the men (for men they were) who were with Abraham turned their faces from thence, in an most dramatic pre-exilic way, and went quickly toward Sodom to see what kind of grievous sin was being practiced, for it was a Saturday night and there were many rumours, but nothing that would cause stiff necks. But Abraham stood yet before the Lord.

23. And Abraham drew near, and as he was yet standing said, Ehem. May I make so bold as to ask, wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

24. Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

25. And warming to his argument he was emboldened to add, That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: and that those who practiseth not the sin that grieveth thee shouldst suffer as those who do the evil thereof? Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And he took three steps backward, for this was somewhat forward. And complicated by Hebrew standards.

26. And the Lord said, I don't think I got all of that last bit, but okay - if I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. Now go forth and multiply or something, for I must get on down to the city for the lamps of evening are lit and there is a sound of music and singing.

27. And Abraham answered, even though there had not been a question, and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes and I grovelleth before thy majesty:

28. So, peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he – that is the Lord (please keep up -) said, If I find there forty and five who welcome the stranger and share their bread with the needy, I will not destroy it. Are you done now?

29. And he spake unto him (look, just follow the rhythm of the text) yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. And he questioneth, Why useth thou the word peradventure? It is a silly word. Not very kosher. Oops – you don't know that word. Just forget I said it.

30. And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak, and I apologise in advance for my choice of language; but peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there, but I suspect I shall have to search diligently for them. Finished?

31. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, Fine! I will not destroy it for twenty's sake, but mention peradventure one more time and my anger shall blaze forth as a consuming fire.

32. And he said, Oh let not the Lord be cross, and I will speak this word but this once more: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, All right, all right, you win. I will not destroy it for ten's sake. And Abraham was relieved and he said, Before thou depart down unto the city, what about Gomorrah? And the Lord did sigh and rumbled a bit, and said unto him, Peradventure thou hast a ram or something to attend to. I'm off to town.