

## **GENESIS 18:1-15 "THE SON OF PROMISE" - ISAAC**

8/5/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, ptwente@gmail.com

**IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO** -- Jim Reeves

*The chimes of time ring out the news another day is through. Someone slipped and fell was that someone you.  
You may have longed for added strength your courage to renew. Do not be disheartened for I bring hope for you.*

*(Refrain) - It is no secret what God can do. What He's done for others He'll do for you. With arms wide  
open He'll pardon you. It is no secret what God can do*

*There is no night for in His light you'll never walk alone. Always feel at home wherever you may roam. There is  
no power can conquer you while God is on your side. Just take Him at His promise, don't run away and hide. (Refrain)*

**Gen 18:1-5 Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. [2] So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, [3] and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. [4] Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. [5] And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant." They said, "Do as you have said."** - Abraham invites the LORD and two others to a meal.

**Then the LORD appeared:** Apparently, this happened a short time later. In Gen 17:21, God said Sarah would give birth one year later, and at this time, she is not yet pregnant. So this couldn't be more than three months after the events in Gen 17:1-27.

**to him by the terebinth trees:** Here again, the LORD came to Abraham in human appearance. This is another presentation of Jesus in human form before His incarnation. We can assume that this was God, in the Person of Jesus Christ, appearing to Abraham before His incarnation and birth at Bethlehem. We assume this because of God the Father it says, No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him (Joh 1:18), and no man has ever seen God in the Person of the Father (1Ti 6:16). Therefore, if God appeared to someone in human appearance in the Old Testament (and no one has seen God the Father) it makes sense the appearance is of the eternal Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, before His incarnation in Bethlehem.

**Behold, three men were standing by him:** We don't know if Abraham immediately recognized who these visitors were. Though the LORD (in the Person of Jesus Christ) appeared to Abraham twice before (Gen 12:7; Gen 17:1), we don't know if Jesus looked the same each time, or if Abraham could just know who this was.

**He ran from the tent door to meet them:** According to his godliness and the customs of that culture, Abraham offered the hospitality of his house to these travelers.

**Gen 18:6-8 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes." [7] And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it. [8] So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.** - Sarah and Abraham prepare a meal for their visitors.

**Abraham hurried into the tent:** Again, to us this may seem to be overdoing it, but ancient culture had an extremely strong sense of hospitality to visitors. And it is also likely Abraham knew it was the LORD visiting him.

**Gen 18:9-10 Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" So he said, "Here, in the tent." [10] And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.)** - God reconfirms His promise of a son.

**I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son:** We may wonder why God repeated the promise again, so close to the time when He said it previously. After all, it seems God was silent about the promise for more than 13 years. Now He came personally to repeat it twice in three months.

**Sarah your wife shall have a son:** We need to hear God's promises over and over again. It is a way God uses to encourage and develop our faith: So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom 10:17). Perhaps also, Abraham and Sarah needed this visit to be an encouragement for them to do what they needed to do in

bringing God's promise to pass - to have sexual relations. **Heb 11:11** *By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.* **Gen 18:11-12** *Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. [12] Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"* Sarah's reaction to God's promise.

***Sarah had passed the age of childbearing:*** By all outward circumstance, there was good reason for Sarah to "spiritualize" the promise and laugh at its literal meaning. She **had passed the age of childbearing**, which literally seems to mean, "the manner of women had ceased to be with Sarah." She had stopped menstruating and had gone through menopause. Even accounting for their long lives (Abraham lived to be 175 and Sarah 127), they were both well past middle age. It would take a miracle of God for them to have literal children through normal means.

***Therefore Sarah laughed within herself:*** This is what Sarah (and Abraham) **most wanted all their lives**. Yet, they find it so hard to believe God's promise when He says He will grant it to them.

***After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure?*** Sarah laughed within herself at this promise. She could not believe God would literally grant this child as the result of normal sexual relations. It may be, even after the dramatic promises of **Gen 17:1-27**, Abraham and Sarah had a way of "spiritualizing" God's promise, making it mean something other than what God intended. Here, God made it plain: Abraham and Sarah will have normal sexual relations and produce a baby. It is strangely characteristic of us to believe God's promise for a long, long, time, and endure through much discouragement along the way, until the promise is *almost there*, and then we find doubt. We are grateful that He is greater than our doubts.

**Gen 18:13-15** *And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' [14] Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." [15] But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"* - God answers Sarah's laugh.

***The LORD said to Abraham:*** God dealt with **Abraham** about this, not Sarah herself, because Abraham was the head of his home.

***Why did Sarah laugh:*** God heard Sarah's laugh even though she *laughed within herself*. There **was nothing hidden before the LORD**. We might live differently if we remembered that God hears and knows everything we think and say.

***Is there anything too hard for the LORD?*** Thankfully not, and God can also triumph even over our weak faith.

***Also see Jer. 32:17, 27. Hard*** (wonderful, marvelous) **is the same word for wonderful in Isa 9:6** : *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given . . . And His name will be called Wonderful.* Jesus is our "wonderful" One, and He isn't too **hard** or wonderful for God to give unto us.

***At the appointed time I will return to you:*** The promise is repeated not merely for the confirmation of Abraham's faith, which staggered not, **but to remove Sarah's unbelief, and to encourage her faith in the divine promise**. We might think God would say, "I gave you this promise twice and twice you laughed at it. That's it! No more promise. Instead, God **responded by dealing with her sin of unbelief, but not by taking away the promise**. *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself (2Ti 2:13).*

## **SUMMARY – GOD PROMISES TO ABRAHAM:**

- How often do we doubt God's promises, even when He reminds us over and over?
- Do you ever think that there are things that are "too hard" or too wonderful, for God?
- Can you imagine the fear Sarah must have felt – barren for 89 years, now a son!
- May we, like Sarah, have faith to believe His promises, though they seem impossible!
- May we pray, "Lord, I believe, **but help my unbelief**"! Help me to trust and obey!

**Pray Today For:** Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. General James Kelly. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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