

## Genesis 18



Scriptures:

Notes:

The Lord is on His way to Sodom.  
Why did He appear to Abraham  
first?


Genesis 18:1-15 -

Scriptures:

   
<sup>1</sup> Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth

Notes:  
Mamre is near Hebron.

'heat of the day' – sensible people  
would take a break in the middle of  
the day and get out of the heat – a  
siesta.

  
trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door

  
in the heat of the day.

Scriptures:  
Hebrews 13:2 - Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

<sup>2</sup> So he <sup>A</sup> lifted his <sup>A</sup> eyes and looked, and behold,

<sup>3</sup> three men were standing by him; and when he <sup>A</sup> saw

<sup>3</sup> *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet <sup>A</sup> them, and

bowed himself <sup>A</sup> to the ground,

<sup>3</sup> and said, “My Lord, if I have now found favor in

2580 –  
graciousness,  
kindness – “A  
feeling of  
favorable regard.”

<sup>t</sup> Your sight, do not pass on by <sup>t</sup> Your <sup>A</sup> servant.

Notes:  
‘three men’ = the Lord and two unnamed angels.

Abraham did not hear them approach. It is possible that they just appeared.

‘he ran’ – Abraham is 100 years old. He sensed that these men were to be respected.

This is the right response and posture of someone in the presence of God. In a way we should have a similar attitude any time we gather, for the Lord is in our midst ([Matt. 18:20](#)).

“No gathering of the Lord’s people is to be regarded as a routine, ordinary event.” (Phillips, 1980) page 152

There is a lesson in the contrast of the hospitality shown here by Abraham and then later by the Sodomites in chapter 19.

Notes:

Scriptures:

<sup>4</sup> Please let a little water be brought, and wash

Notes:

<sup>3</sup> your feet, and rest yourselves <sup>3</sup> under the tree.

Scriptures:

<sup>5</sup> And <sup>A</sup> I will bring a morsel of bread, that

Notes:

<sup>3</sup> you may refresh <sup>3</sup> your <sup>3</sup> hearts. After that you may

5582 – “To make  
to feel fresh.”

pass by, inasmuch as <sup>3</sup> you have come to <sup>3</sup> your

<sup>A</sup> servant.” They <sup>3</sup> said, “Do as <sup>A</sup> you have said.”

Scriptures:

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and

Notes:

said, “Quickly, make ready three measures of fine

meal; knead *it* and make cakes.”

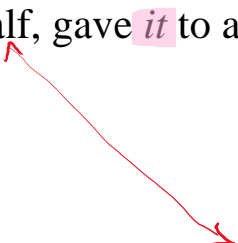
Scriptures:

<sup>7</sup> And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and

Notes:

good calf, gave *it* to a young man, and he

hastened to prepare it.



Scriptures:  
James 2:23 - And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

2 Chronicles 20:7 - Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

Isaiah 41:8 - But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen,  
The descendants of Abraham My friend.

<sup>8</sup> So <sup>A</sup>he took butter and milk and the calf which <sup>A</sup>he

Notes:  
This is the only occurrence before the incarnation of the Lord eating with humans.

Jesus' last meal (the Last Supper [Luke 22](#)) was the last time the Lord will eat with humans until His return.

Eating a meal with someone is an act of intimacy. Abraham would later be described with the title 'friend of God' ([Jam. 2:23](#); [2 Chron. 20:7](#); [Isa. 41:8](#)).

had prepared, and set <sup>3</sup>it before them; and <sup>A</sup>he stood

by them <sup>3</sup>under the tree as they <sup>3</sup>ate.

Scriptures:

<sup>9</sup> Then they <sup>3</sup>said to <sup>A</sup>him, "Where <sup>5</sup>is <sup>A</sup>Sarah your

Notes:

wife?"

So <sup>A</sup>he said, "Here, in the tent."

Scriptures:

10 And He said, "I will certainly return to you

Notes:  
This is the first time Sarah has heard  
this promise directly from the Lord.

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.)

Scriptures:

<sup>11</sup> Now Abraham<sup>A</sup> and Sarah<sup>S</sup> were old, well

Notes:

Sarah had been infertile her whole life and now she was post-menopausal. She was doubly dead with respect to childbearing. The suggestion that she would bear a son within the next twelve months was absurd.

Abraham and Sarah have probably been together for more than 70 years.

advanced in age; *and*<sup>S</sup> Sarah had passed the age of

childbearing.

Scriptures:

<sup>12</sup> Therefore Sarah<sup>S</sup> laughed within herself<sup>S</sup>, saying,

Notes:

This was unbelieving hopelessness.

Abraham had told her about God's promise of a son for Abraham through her. She wasn't convinced.

'shall I have pleasure' – sex wasn't fun anymore

“After I<sup>S</sup> have grown old, shall I<sup>S</sup> have pleasure, my<sup>S</sup>

5730 -

lord<sup>A</sup> being old also?”



Scriptures:

Psalms 139:1-4 -

O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

2 You know my sitting down and my rising up;

You understand my thought afar off.

3 You comprehend my path and my lying down,

And are acquainted with all my ways.

4 For there is not a word on my tongue,

But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

1 John 3:20 - For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

13 And the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah

laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear *a child*, since I

am old?’

Notes:

Even though Sarah did not laugh outwardly, the Lord knew she had laughed and doubted. Sarah and Abraham learned that God is omniscient or all-knowing (Psa. 139:1-4; 1 John 3:20).

Scriptures:

Jeremiah 32:17 - Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the

1697 -

6381 - too difficult,

appointed time I will return to you, according to

the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Notes:

This is a very mild rebuke. The fact that the Lord rebuked her means that she was aware of God’s promise to bear a son to Abraham through her.

‘Is anything too hard for the Lord?’ This rhetorical question ought to be in the front of our mind all the time. When we are stressed – ‘Is anything too hard for the Lord?’ When we are afraid, worried, confused, sick, desperate, alone – ‘Is anything too hard for the Lord?’

“Nothing is incredible for those in covenantal fellowship with the Lord, because nothing is too marvelous for Him.” Allen Ross (Hughes, 2004) page 257

Isaac’s birth will be miraculous. Just as it is God’s omnipotent power that enabled Sarah to conceive and bear a son by Abraham, the same power will cause the virgin Mary to conceive the Son of God. It is that same power that causes rebirth in everyone who believes on Christ for salvation.

People do not need greater things so that they can believe, they need to believe the great things God has already revealed and promised.

“Is a child from a dead womb too marvelous for the One who called all things into existence?” (John F. Walvoord, 1983) page 59

Scriptures:

15 But Sarah denied *it*, saying, “I did not laugh,”

Notes:

for she was afraid.

And He said, “No, but you did laugh!”

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Title ideas:  
Walking with God in strange  
times!  
Being right in a wrong world!  
Being blessed in a cursed  
world!

Notes:  
The Lord said Sarah would have a  
miraculous son in her old age, she  
laughed in doubting disbelief. Two  
millennia later the angel announced  
to the virgin Mary that she would  
have a miraculous son, her response  
was to ask in faith, 'How will this  
happen?' (Luke 1:34-35) This  
confirms again what the Lord said to  
Sarah, 'Is anything too hard for the  
Lord?'

Genesis 18:16-33

Scriptures:  
Luke 1:34-35 -  
Then Mary said to the  
angel, "How can this be,  
since I do not know a  
man?"  
35 And the angel answered  
and said to her, "The Holy  
Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the  
Highest will overshadow  
you; therefore, also, that  
Holy One who is to be born  
will be called the Son of  
God.

Notes:

<sup>3</sup>  
16 Then the men rose from there and looked

<sup>A</sup> <sup>3</sup>  
toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to

<sup>3</sup>  
send them on the way.

Scriptures:

17 And the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham

3680 -

Notes:  
God is under no obligation to reveal His will to His creation. He has through His Spirit and the written Word of God, but He is not obligated to do so.

what I am doing,

Scriptures:

18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and

Notes:

mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth

shall be blessed in him?

Scriptures:

Ephesians 4:11-16 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Micah 6:8 -

He has shown you, O man, what is good;  
And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justly,  
To love mercy,  
And to walk humbly with your God?

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

19 For I have known him, in order that he may

3045 -

command his children and his household after

him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do

righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring

3045 -

to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”

Notes:

What does, “For I have known him...” mean? No one on earth had the kind of relationship with God that Abraham had.

The Lord tells us His purpose for choosing Abraham out of the rest of humanity – to teach his descendants obedience to God’s commands, and righteousness and justice.

It is still God’s will that God’s people are taught to obey His revealed Word and to walk in righteousness and to do justice (Eph. 4:11-16, Mic. 6:8, Lev. 19:18).

Do what God says – do what is right – do what is fair!

God’s desire for the people of this world is that they would experience blessings, not His judgment. We experience God’s blessings through obedience, righteousness, and justice.

Righteousness describes what God is – justice describes what God does! God is always right and He always does what is right (just).

‘his children’ = the Jews – ‘his household’ = all who will believe

Scriptures:  
2 Peter 2:6 - ...and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly...

Ezekiel 16:49 - Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

Genesis 4:10 - And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

<sup>20</sup> And the Lord said, "Because the outcry against

2201 -

Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their

sin is very grave,

2403 -

3966 -  
exceedingly

3513 – heavy,  
burdensome,

Notes:

Sodom and Gomorrah were going to experience justice at the hands of God because they did not do what was right and rejected God's commands. Their eternal ruins would be a testimony to God's holiness, righteousness, and justice.

If you want to know what God thinks of a wicked, unjust culture, look for Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Pet. 2:6).

We tend to think of the sins of Sodom as primarily sexual, hence the word 'sodomy' for sins outside normal sexuality. The word outcry carries the idea of oppression and brutality (Ezek. 16:49).

"The sin of Sodom, then, is heinous moral and social corruption, an arrogant disregard of basic human rights, a cynical insensitivity to the sufferings of others." Nahum Sarna (Hughes, 2004) page 263

"Unpunished sin cried out to heaven for vengeance, like the blood of Abel (Gen. 4:10).

It is not hard to see the sin of Sodom in our own culture.

God hears the cry of the oppressed. He hears the wail of the abused or neglected child or wife. He hears the moan of the man stripped of his dignity by a system that doesn't care. He hears the silent cry of the girls abducted and trafficked. He hears the silent desperation of lonely. He hears the cries of the sick, broken, and dying. God hears you!

Scriptures:  
Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

21<sup>†</sup> I will go down now and see whether they have

7200 -

Notes:  
The Lord is speaking anthropomorphically (like a mere human being). The Lord is omniscient, He knows everything – which He proved when He told Sarah that she had laughed to herself.

Nothing is more offensive to the unbeliever than the coming judgment. The occupants of Sodom and Gomorrah would have accused God of being unfair for singling them out for judgment.

All of humanity deserves judgment for rejecting God's commandments, being unrighteous, and unjust. That is why Jesus came to this world. It is why He had to die on the cross. Jesus had to take all of our disobedience, unrighteousness, and injustice upon Himself (Gal. 3:13) to redeem us from our sins (2 Cor. 5:21).

done altogether according to the outcry against it<sup>†</sup>

that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."<sup>†</sup>

3045 -

Scriptures:

22<sup>3</sup> Then the men turned away from there and went

Notes:

toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the

<sup>†</sup> Lord.

Scriptures:  
2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Deuteronomy 32:4 - He is the Rock, His work is perfect;  
For all His ways are justice,  
A God of truth and without injustice;  
Righteous and upright is He.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time...

<sup>23</sup> And Abraham came near and said,

“Would You also destroy the righteous with

5595 – scrape, shave, ruin,

6662 – just, lawful

the wicked?

7563 – morally wrong, bad person

Notes:  
Abraham is revealed a God-like compassion for others (2 Pet. 3:9). Friendship with God should produce compassion for others.

“He was convinced that God cannot and will not do wrong.” (Hughes, 2004) page 265 (Deut. 32:4)

It is very likely that Abraham has Lot on his mind as he begins to intercede on behalf of the righteous in Sodom.

Abraham on the Christ-like role of mediator (1 Tim. 2:5) to intercede on behalf of the righteous people in Sodom.

You can almost picture Abraham standing there with arms outstretched barring the way – striving to keep judgment from falling upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Jesus would later stretch out His arms on the cross to bar the way to judgment for all who would believe.

Abraham believed there were some righteous people in Sodom.

Scriptures:  
John 3:14-18 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

<sup>24</sup> Suppose there were fifty righteous within the

city; would You also destroy the place and not

spare *it* for the fifty righteous that were in it?

5375 – forgive,

Notes:  
Abraham is praying that the lord would refrain from judging the righteous and wicked if fifty righteous can be found in the city. That is God’s heart, that none should perish (John 3:15-16).

God already knew how many righteous people were in Sodom.

Praying for God to refrain from judgment of the wicked is a hard thing. On the one hand it is an expression of God’s compassion upon the lost but on the other hand it is means the sinner is likely to keep sinning.



Scriptures:

<sup>25</sup> Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to

Notes:  
Abraham's intercession is based on his understanding of God's righteousness. Unfortunately, his understanding of God is limited. To him it was not possible that the righteous could suffer the same fate as the righteous at the hands of God.

slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the

4191 – to kill,

“Righteousness is an attribute of God's moral being, and because of that, all His actions are just.”  
(Hughes, 2004) page 266

righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from

You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do

8199 – to  
pronounce  
judgment, to  
vindicate or  
punish, to govern,  
to litigate,

right?”

4941 – justice,

Scriptures:

<sup>26</sup> So the Lord said, “If I find in Sodom fifty

Notes:

righteous within the city, then I will spare all the

place for their sakes.”

Scriptures:

<sup>27</sup> Then Abraham answered and said, “Indeed

Notes:

now, I who *am but* dust and ashes have taken it

upon myself to speak to the Lord:

Scriptures:

<sup>28</sup> Suppose there were five less than the fifty

Notes:

righteous; would You destroy all of the city for

*lack of five?"*

So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not

Notes:

destroy *it*."

Scriptures:

<sup>29</sup> And he spoke to Him yet again and said,

Notes:

“Suppose there should be forty found there?”

So He said, “I will not do *it* for the sake of forty.”

Scriptures:

<sup>30</sup> Then he said, “Let not the Lord be angry, and I

Notes:

will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?”

So He said, “I will not do *it* if I find thirty there.”

Scriptures:

<sup>31</sup> And he said, “Indeed now, I have taken it upon

Notes:

myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty

should be found there?”

So He said, “I will not destroy *it* for the sake of

twenty.”

Scriptures:

<sup>32</sup> Then he said, “Let not the Lord be angry, and I

Notes:

will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be

found there?”

And He said, “I will not destroy *it* for the sake of

ten.”

Scriptures:

<sup>33</sup> So the Lord went His way as soon as He had

finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham

returned to his place.

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Notes:

“As His people, we are to live lives of righteousness and justice. As God’s people we reach out to the needy, we love the sinner, we give of our resources, we sacrifice ourselves for the lost, we petition Heaven for their souls. And through Christ God calls a people to Himself.” (Hughes, 2004) page 267

“When Abraham could no longer pray, judgment fell.” (Phillips, 1980) page 158

This week:

Don’t forget to vote!

Be safe out there! Things might get more weird after the election. Pray for peace in this nation!