

## Genesis Ch. 18

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This is another pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus – a Theophony or Christ-ophony, and two angels who later move onto Sodom and Gomorrah.

V: 1 *“Then”* – building on the events from chapter 17.

- Abraham obeyed the Lord immediately, and right after that – the Lord appears to him again.

- A fulfillment of the promise that Jesus has made to us:

Jesus told us:

**John 14:21** “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

- Abraham is sitting in the door of his tent in the middle of the day, in the heat of the day: Abraham appears to be watching and waiting.

**Proverbs 8:34** “Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.”

**Titus 2:13** “Looking for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

- Living in anticipation of His soon return!

V: 2 Abraham lifted up his eyes / he looked up and he saw three men, and Abraham knew that it was the Lord.

- Abraham is 99 years old, he see’s the Lord – and he runs to meet him.
- We don’t see “old men” running like this very often in the Bible. The only other time that I can remember is in the parable that Jesus spoke about the prodigal son whose aged father ran to greet & protect his son who had repented and returned from a life of reckless dissipation.
- This is very un-dignified: similar to King David when he danced before the presence of the Lord when the Ark of His presence was being returned to Israel. David didn’t care what others thought as he worshipped the Lord. Abraham doesn’t seem to care either.
- Abraham bows down before them, he humbles himself before them, an act of worship. (1<sup>st</sup> mention of bowing down.)

*“bowed down”* – (H7812) shachah, shaw-khaw’ – obeisance, homage, worship.

- Abraham has plenty of servants, yet he runs to get to the Lord before they can, and Abraham immediately assumes the role of a servant, bowing before them – personally ensuring that their feet are washed, that they are fed, and that they are properly received.

V: 3 *“My Lord”* – Abraham knows who the Lord is, and by using this term he knows who he is – all in proper order.

- *“Favor”*: (H2580). chen, (hen): favor, grace, acceptance.
- The same word used for when Noah found grace in the sight of God. **Gen. 6:8**
- Please, don't pass me by!

V: 4-5 Abraham is lovingly extending the hospitality of the day.

- Abraham see's the Lord and immediately “runs” or springs into action.
- Abraham has water brought to wash their feet, he has food prepared to strengthen them on their journey.
- They are given a place of rest in the shade, out of the harsh sun.
- Abraham as a believer seeks to minister / serve our Lord in all the same things that He would later be denied at the hands of the Jews.

**Luke 7:36-50**

Jesus, dinner at the house of a Pharisee.

**V: 44-46** *“<sup>44</sup>Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. <sup>45</sup>You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. <sup>46</sup>You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.”*

V: 6 Abraham is not done “running” – he hurries to the tent and speaks to Sarah and has her take 3 measures of fine meal and knead it into cakes.

- Sarah is 90+ years old, they have probably had servants doing this kind of stuff for years – but this has a level of importance and Abraham wants her to do it.
- They must have had a wonderful relationship – Abraham trusts her with this task above all the other servants.

- 3 measures of fine flour later becomes a standard part of the sacrifices offered along with a bullock, and other offerings.

V: 7 Abraham runs to the herd. Selects a “tender and good” calf and has it prepared quickly.

- Abraham took the best of what he had, no leftovers – no sacrifice of convenience.

V: 8 Abraham adds butter & milk to this meal. No prohibition against dairy products and meat being served together.

**Exodus 23:19 & 34:26** “Do not seethe / boil a kid in its mother’s milk...”

- The calf is slaughtered, prepared, and served while they wait: fresh!
- The meal is set before them, then Abraham stands near by – waiting on them, looking to meet any perceived need with personal service – a picture of devotion!
- Abraham gives us a different perspective on the phrase “waiting on the Lord.”
- Abraham didn’t presume to join them in the meal.

V: 9-10 “Where is your wife” – bringing Sarah or an awareness of her into the conversation.

- In the Bedouin tradition, the tents were sectioned off. The women had their compartment, while the men had a “living room” where they entertained their guests.
- Regardless of “tradition” – God asks Abraham about his wife, because He is responsible for her and perhaps contrary to the tradition of men, because the two are one flesh – it was somehow expected that as Abraham presented himself to the Lord, that it was expected that Sarah would be there also.
- While there is a functional hierarchy, God values women just as much as He values men – He sacrificed Himself for both.

**Ephesians 5:25-31** “<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup>that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup>that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup>So husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. <sup>30</sup>For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup>For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

- In essence, Abraham only presented ½ of himself before the Lord, and the Lord said “where’s your wife?”
- I will return to you according to the time of life – in 9 months – and Sarah shall have a son.
- Jesus is the ultimate give of life:

**John 6:33** “For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

- We see a little bit of Eve in Sarah as she was listening, or eavesdropping.
- Abraham & Sarah had already been told that within a year, they would have a son. **Genesis 17:21**

V: 11-12 The emphasis that Abraham and Sarah were both old, too old.

- Speaking of Sarah that she has passed the age of child bearing, literally that the manner of women had ceased to be with Sarah – or that she had gone through menopause.
- Sarah laughed in her heart – thinking that both she and Abraham were way too old for that.
- This is a different laugh, as we see by the response of the Lord to call her on it.
- Sarah is also a little more graphic in her assessment of the situation:

“pleasure” (H-5730) eden / ednah (1X)

Eden - is a masculine noun usually translated as luxury, pleasure, delight, or enjoyment.

**Ednah** – is a feminine noun that indicates sexual delight or ecstasy; referring to the enjoyment of intimate relations with one’s spouse which in context implies the ability to become pregnant.

- Zacharias and Elizabeth are well advanced in years and childless; when they are told that they too will have a child in their old age – a child consecrated from the womb for the Lord’s service – John the Baptist.

**Luke 1:18** “And Zacharias said to the angel, how shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.”

V: 13 Why did the Lord ask Abraham why Sarah laughed? (I don't know)

Speculative: Abraham was being held responsible for Sarah's spiritual condition, faith or lack of faith?

- Whether Sarah's laughter in her heart was disbelief or sarcasm we're not told, but she apparently didn't know or recognize the visitors in the same way that Abraham did.
- The Lord then reveals Himself to her by reading her thought out loud.

V: 14 "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" – No.

Also translated as "wonderful" or "wondrous".

Jesus tells us:

**Matthew 19:26** "With God, all things are possible."

- Often times we look at a difficult situation and when considering God's role, we assign Him our limitations – which is not a right concept of God.
- We cannot carry over man's limitations to God – He is able to do all things.

**Ephesians 3:20** "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,"

AW Tozer – "The Knowledge Of The Holy"

- The Lord will visit them again "according to the time of life" – and Sarah will have a son.
- Are there things that God cannot do?

*Can God make a rock so big that He can't lift it?* – No, (He doesn't do stupid things!)

**There are some things that God cannot do?**

1. God can't learn. He is omniscient, He already knows everything.
2. God can't lie: He is Truth, He is Righteousness.
3. God can't remember the sins of the forgiven, of those washed in the blood of the Lamb.

**Psalm 103:12** "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

4. God can't – not love us, because God is love – He cannot deny who He is.

**1 John 4:16** "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

V: 15 Even though Sarah denies that she laughed – the Lord doesn't let her off the hook – “No, but you did laugh!”

- A gentle rebuke.

**Hebrews 11:6** “Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts...”

**Psalm 139:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>O Lord, You have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup>You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.”

- Sometimes we do silly or foolish things when we are afraid, things perhaps that we might not normally do.

V: 16 The three are finished with their meal, and are ready to resume their mission.

V: 17-19 Conversation between the Lord and the other two persons / angels, or between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Jesus told His disciples:

**John 15:15** “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

**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.”

V: 19 The Lord knows Abraham.

**John 10:27** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

- It is very important that the Lord “knows” each of us.

**Matthew 7:21-23** “<sup>21</sup>Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name? <sup>23</sup>And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

- The Lord Himself testifies to Abraham's witness, and entrusts Abraham with the information knowing that he will use it to minister to his family and to us.

V: 20 Who is crying out?

The blood, the ground, the widows & poor? Lot?

- Maybe Lot was praying and crying out.

**2 Peter 2:6-8** “<sup>6</sup>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; <sup>7</sup>and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked <sup>8</sup>(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds).”

- We can at times look at the sin of Sodom & Gomorrah, the sin of homosexuality and perhaps looking down on those who are caught up in this sinful lifestyle and wash our hands of it / them.
- Homosexuality is a sin, but it is just an outward manifestation of a deeper issue – the sin of self.

**Ezekiel 16:49-50** “<sup>49</sup>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. <sup>50</sup>And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.”

- The iniquity of the Amorites (Gen. Ch. 15) might not yet be full, but apparently the iniquity of those in Sodom & Gomorrah was full.
  1. They had Abraham’s witness, and the patriarchs before him.
  2. They had the witness of Melchizedez.
  3. They had been delivered from Chedorlaomer.
  4. Lot was in their midst – part of Abraham’s family & witness.

V: 23-33 Abraham approaches the Lord – not on his own behalf but on behalf of his nephew Lot. – picture of intercessory prayer.

- God does not want to bring judgment upon any man or nation. He does respond to intercessory prayer if there is a basis to do so.

**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.”

- A few people or a small minority have incredible influence for good, 10 people could have saved Sodom & Gomorrah.

- Abraham’s prayer is reverent, never presumptuous, and persistent. He appeals to God’s righteousness, His love and kindness.
- On the Lord’s part: He is showing the patience of a Father with Abraham’s pleadings:

**James 5:16b** “... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

**1 John 3:22** “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”

V: 25 Abraham understands that Jesus is the Judge & Ruler of the earth.

- Notice that Abraham approaches God, and makes his request based on who God is – the righteous judge, the Holy One – and not because of who Abraham is.

50-45-40-30-20-10

V: 32 Lot and the Lord get down to 10 people, and that is where they stop.

- From Chapter 19 we learn that there were 10 people in Lot’s family.

Lot & his wife:	2
Lot’s two married daughters and their respective husbands:	4
Lot’s two sons:	2
Lot’s two un-married daughters:	<u>2</u>
	10

V: 33 Abraham has been communing with the Lord.

- As they leave off Abraham rests in the Lord still, by faith trusting that the Lord would do the right thing – and leaving it to Him.
- This is a model of the rapture: before the judgment / tribulation period.
- We see “righteous Lot” pulled out just prior to God’s judgment.

**2 Peter 2:7-9** “The Lord knows how to deliver the Godly out of temptations, and to preserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”