
Genesis 17:15-23; 18:1-17

Scripture is written to learn and apply to our daily lives. If we don't apply the lessons physically in our daily lives, the bible just becomes a history book. Take the lessons and apply them please. Chapter 17 is probably the pivotal chapter in the book of Genesis, if not the entire bible. This chapter sets precedence for the rest of the bible.

- 15 ¶ And God said to Abraham, As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall her name be*.** The word Sarah means Princess. The word Sarai means Contentious. She had an attitude change as well as a name change.
- 16 And I will bless her, and give you a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be *a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her*.** God goes over this promise to Abraham many times, about his lineage being great. The repetition means it is very important.
- 17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall *a child* be born to him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?** Abraham laughs because he can hardly believe what God is telling him, at his age of 100 years old, and Sarah is 99 years old. Abraham thinks they are beyond childbearing age. Abraham is astonished at God's news.
- 18 And Abraham said to God, O that Ishmael might live before you!** Abraham already has Ishmael who is now 13 years old, and Abraham loves him. He asks God, why not consider Ishmael?
- 19 And God said, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son indeed; and you shall call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and with his seed after him*.** Sarah thought it was hilarious that she should have a child at 99 years of age. God differentiates between the child Isaac that's coming and the child that is already in the tent, Ishmael.
- 20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.** The Mideast nations have come from Ishmael, the troubled ones.
- 21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear to you at this set time in the next year.** God makes His promise with Isaac, not Ishmael, and He promises Sarah that she will bear a child.
- 22 And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.** Conversation finished.
- 23 ¶ And Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and all that were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house; and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the same day, as God had said to him.** Abraham immediately does what God told him: he circumcised all his blood male relatives; all his bought male family, and all his male slaves and servants. They all got circumcised that very day.
- 24 And Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.**
- 25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.**
- 26 In the selfsame day was Abraham circumcised, and Ishmael his son.**
- 27 And all the men of his house, those born in the house, and those bought with money of a foreigner, were circumcised with him.**

Chapter 18 & 19 deal with Sodom and Gomorrha. There are really 5 cities over there that were destroyed. There is so much argument today about whether this really happened in history, all the destruction of the cities and innocent women and children. There are archeologists over there finding evidence. Everything happened that God says happened, period.

- 1 ¶ And Jehovah appeared unto him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;**
- 2 and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood over against him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself to the earth,** In those days if you saw a stranger approaching your tent, you would stand up. If you saw someone important coming, you went out to greet them, and this is what Abraham did. Whoever these men were, they were important and he knew it.
- 3 and said, My lord, if now I have found favor in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:** Abraham invites the strangers in to his tent.
- 4 let now a little water be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:** Please come in, clean your feet, rest a bit.
- 5 and I will fetch a morsel of bread, and strengthen ye your heart; after that ye shall pass on: forasmuch as ye are come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.** It still is custom today in the Mideast to feed your guests. It is manners and custom. They take in strangers and care for them in their own private house.
- 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes.** Most of the time women of the tent were not allowed to meet the strangers. There was a partition in the middle of the tent, and the women lived in the back of the tent.
- 7 And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave it unto the servant; and he hasted to dress it.** Abraham is preparing the best meal he knows how.
- 8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.** The milk mentioned here is probably camel's milk. They took corn and mix it up to a paste with butter and it's delicious! They still eat this today in the Mideast. Abraham is acting as a waiter to these 3 men who have come to his tent. He is giving them great honor, because there is something strange about them. Remember Abraham is a wealthy man, a man of renown.
- 9 ¶ And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.** Sarah is in the tent cooking.
- 10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee when the season cometh round; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard in the tent door, which was behind him.** Remember women were not allowed to come out and converse with male strangers, but out of curiosity she came to the front of the tent and listened to the conversation.
- 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, and well stricken in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.** Sarah felt she was too old to have kids.
- 12 And Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?** Sarah laughed to herself with disbelief because she thinks she's too old to have a baby.
- 13 And Jehovah said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, who am old? Why is Sarah laughing?**
- 14 Is anything too hard for Jehovah? At the set time I will return unto thee, when the season cometh round, and Sarah shall have a son.** Nothing is too hard for the Lord. He will return at the time when the baby is due.
- 15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.**

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- 16 ¶ And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.** Sodom was towards the southern end of the Dead Sea, and you could see it from Abraham's tent. The custom at the time was not to just let a stranger leave your door; you escorted them a bit down the road.
- 17 And Jehovah said, Shall I hide from Abraham that which I do;** God is thinking about hiding the future vision from Abraham, because it will have a great impact on him.