

Genesis 18: The God Who Listens

Forestgate Presbyterian Church ~ April 22, 2012

The narrative resumes shortly after the end of chapter 17. (compare 17:21 to 18:14)

In this chapter, we have the first example of **fast food**. (Gen 18:6-7)

The meal prepared for the visitors is notable for its **simplicity** and **generosity**. Abraham refers to it as a **morsel** which was made with about **five gallons** of flour. (Gen 18:5)

The context points to the visitors being an appearance of **two angels** along with a visible manifestation of **God**.

We know these three “men” are corporeal because **they ate**. (Gen 18:8)

What is the significance of the visitors accepting Abraham’s hospitality?

Sarah’s laughter belies **doubt** and **mistrust**. She is depending on **sight**, not **faith**.

Fortunately, God’s promises don’t depend upon man’s **faith**.

Sarah’s good testimony was referring to Abraham as her **lord** (*adown*). (Gen 18:12; 1 Pet 3:6)

Why did God ask *Abraham* why Sarah laughed?

Sarah demonstrates the tendency to **deny** sin, thereby aggravating it. (Gen 18:15)

God’s rebuke of Sarah is **truthful** but **kind**. This chapter clearly shows the difference between God’s **discipline** and His **judgment**. (Gen 18:15)

What are some reasons that God and the angels appeared to Abraham on this occasion?

What can we say about God revealing His “business” to Abraham? (2 Chron 20:7; Jam 4:4; John 15:15)

Notice that sin **cries out** for vengeance and that God takes a **personal interest**.

Notice that Abraham acknowledges God’s **righteous judgment** while appealing to His **mercy**.

Abraham also humbly acknowledges the difference between himself and God: **dust** and **ashes** versus Judge of all the earth. (Gen 18:27)

In Abraham’s petition and God’s response, we clearly see how God’s mercy serves to **preserve** mankind for the sake of the elect. (Gen 18:26, Matt 5:13)

While Abraham certainly has in mind to save his nephew Lot, his petition serves to intercede for the whole city—namely, Abraham’s **enemies**. (Gen 18:24)

Sodom serves as a **type** of the judgment to come, as well as the rescue of the godly. (Luke 17:29-30; 2 Peter 2:9; Jude 1:7)

The NT reference to the occasion of the angels’ appearance to Abraham and Lot is used to emphasize the importance of **hospitality**. (Heb 13:2)