

Genesis Chapter 18

Ge 18:1-5 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; **2** And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, **three men stood by him**: and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground...

The description of these three visitors should be of great interest. The bible says, “**three men stood by him**” but it is clear these were angels – one of which was the LORD. Angels appear as ordinary men throughout scripture. Thus, we understand the passage in **Heb 13:2** “...*some have entertained angels unawares.*” There are no female angels or angels with wings in scripture (see **Zec.5**). Jesus said that men don’t marry in Heaven but will be as the angels (**Mat.22:30**). Notice also that these angels were adult men (*scripture never describes angels as little children*). The bible says that believers are predestined to be “...*conformed to the image of his Son*” (**Rom.8:29**) Jesus grew to be an adult male of thirty-three, so it not improbable to think that we could be full grown adult males in Heaven.

We see also Abraham wasn’t doing anything special when the Lord showed up at his door. He didn’t have to turn off his boom box, or change the TV channel, or even change his clothes, etc. He was living as he always did. What’s more, he was ready to put on a feast and detain the Lord as long as possible. He desired fellowship. Do you?

Ge 18:6-8 And **Abraham hastened** into the tent unto Sarah, and said, **Make ready quickly** three measures of fine meal, knead *it*, and make cakes upon the hearth. **7** And **Abraham ran** unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave *it* unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. **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.

Both Abraham and Sarah did their best to be hospitable. Not only did Abraham hasten to prepare a meal, but Sarah dropped what she was doing to pitch in as well (*according to one estimate, she prepared upwards of thirty-six pounds of bread*). They wasted no time and had no hesitation. We are instructed to do the same today (**1Ti 3:2, Ro 12:13, 1Co 16:15, Mat.25:40**). One mark of a Spirit filled Christian is a desire to minister and spend time with other believers.

Ge 18:9-15 And they said unto him, Where *is* Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent...

The Lord now reveals one of the reasons for his visit. Sarah, although well stricken in years, will have a son. Verse 10 says, “...*I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son.*” When we compare this to **Gal.4:29** we are reminded that life begins at conception, and that God is the one who opens the womb (**Gen.20:18, 29:31**). However, Sarah “*laughed within herself*” at the news despite hearing it directly from the mouth of the Lord. Be careful not to dismiss Gods plan for your life, IE. “*I could never preach*”, “*I could never stand in front of people*”, “*I could never teach anyone*”, etc. When confronted about this, Sarah denied her guilt “*for she was afraid*”. Fear is often the motive for lying. The Lord didn’t let her off the hook. He said, “*Nay; but thou didst laugh.*” He then asked, “*Is anything too hard for the Lord?*” (**vs.14**) The obvious answer is No.

Ge 18:16-22 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. **17** And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do...

The Lord now reveals his second reason for visiting Abraham. He is going to Sodom to see “*whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it*” (**vs.21**). The Lord often gives ample warning before sending judgment, allowing believers the chance to intervene and unbelievers the chance to repent. (IE. The flood, **Gen.6:3**, Nineveh, **Jon.3:4, 4:11**, Egypt, **Ex.5:1**, Israel, as well as every individual, **Lk.12:5, Rom.1:32, Col.1:28**). Never let it be said that God isn’t a gracious God - not willing that any should perish (**2Pet.3:9**). In this case, Abraham was privy to the Lord’s plans of destroying Sodom and was given the chance to plead their case - “...*Abraham stood yet before the LORD*” (**vs.22**).

Ge 18:23-33 And Abraham drew near, and said, **Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?** **24** Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that *are* therein? **25 That be far from thee to do after this manner**, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**

We learned in Ch.14 that Abraham separated from Sodom but is now interceding on their behalf. This is, no doubt, because of Lot. But before he bargains over the number of righteous in the city, he attempts to persuade God with his personal view of how God should be. The question was, “*Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?*” The answer is YES. We call this being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Abraham may have been considering the case of Noah, but Noah would have perished if he didn’t build the ark. David encountered a similar situation and needed to go another way in **1Sam.23:9-13**. Even in the case of Lot, his wife and two daughters who stayed behind perished. Be careful not to project your view of morality on God.

In contrast to his own prayer, Abraham begins bargaining for the preservation of the entire city rather than the lives of the righteous. He works his way down from 50 to 10. Not surprisingly, however, the Lord agrees. **Jer.5:1** says the Lord would spare a city for just one righteous man. This should give us hope when praying for our country.