

SALT Church

Genesis 18

“Friend of God”

February 18, 2026

“In the Beginning”

Chapter 17 recap

- God appears to Abraham in chapter 17 and commands him to walk blamelessly before Him.
- God changes Abram’s name to Abraham (“blessed father” to “father of many”)
- God again promises to give Abrahams descendants the land from the Nile River to the Great River Euphrates.
- God also commands Abraham and all of his descendants to be circumcised their part in the belief of the covenant promise of God.
- In Genesis 17:15 God also changes Sarai’s name to Sarah.
- He promises to give her a son and she shall become the mother of nations.
- Abraham falls on his fac in disbelief and says in his heart “can a man who is 100 and a woman who is 90 bear a child?”
- Abraham then responds by asking that Ishmael might “live before Him” meaning share in the blessing that will be given to Sarah’s son.
 - God says no but does promise to bless Ishmael in another way.
- God makes it clear that Sarah’s son is the son of promise.
- God also tells Abraham what to name his son “Issac.” (laughter)

- Abraham does what God has commanded and at the age of 99 he and his household were circumcised.

Things to remember as we enter chapter 18

- God told Abraham that Sarah will become pregnant next year.
 - She will bear a son who shall be named Issac.
 - Sarah was not part of this conversation when it occurred.

Genesis 18

18 Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

- Historians and scholars agree that most likely the most difficult task were accomplished in the 1st part of the day due to the heat.
- It was common that all workers returned to their homes (tents in this case) to rest during the hottest parts of the day.
- It sounds like Abraham dozed off and woke up to three men standing at the entrance to his tent.

² So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, ³ and said, “My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.

- Does Abraham know who these men are?
 - Not yet, but he will.
 - Perhaps the way they are dressed projects nobility or great wealth and importance.

- We don't know for sure, but Abraham realizes they are important.
- (side note) Verse 3 gives us some insight to the health of our 100 Abraham for he runs and bows before these men.
 - @ 55, bad knees with multiple surgeries there is no running nor bowing on purpose.
 - It is possible that Abraham recognizes one of the three as The Lord for we know in chapter 17 The Lord came to Abraham, but it doesn't tell us in what form.
 - Also, keep in mind there is absolutely no written scripture yet and Abraham and Sarah would not have responded like me, and you would today.

4 Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

- Being hospitable was very important in this culture.
 - Especially when nobility arrived.
 - Water for hot, dry, and dirty feet would be welcomed by all who walked through the middle east.
 - The washing of feet would later be used by Jesus as an example of the kind of people that belonged to Him.

Speaking of being hospitable:

Hebrews 13:2

2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

- How exciting it will be to find out one day in Heaven that we entertained Angels.

5 And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts.

- Pay attention to Abraham's hospitality, "a morsel of bread" means something more to Abraham.
- It is also interesting to me that Abraham is concerned with their hearts.
 - It is also clear that this means a lot to Abraham.

Abraham continues:

After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant."

They said, "Do as you have said."

- I wonder how Abraham knew that he and Sarah were not the purpose of their visit.
 - Also, there is no mention of camels, horses, or donkey's nor an entourage.
 - Perhaps this is why Abraham was so quickly moved to serve them.

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes."

- In the Hebrew it is three seahs of meal.
 - This equates to six gallons of flour!
 - I told you "a morsel of bread" means something different to everyone.

7 And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it.

- The average calf is born between 60 & 100 pounds.
- Within 6 months they put on about 300 more pounds.
 - So, we have 6 gallons of flour and 400 pounds of meat.
 - “My wife always says I cook to much!”

8 So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

- All of this preparation would have taken hours.
- I’m sure there was much conversation but nothing is recorded until they sit in the cool shade of one of the tree’s of Mamre.
 - There is bread with butter and milk.
 - There is tender steak grilled to perfection.
 - Cool water to drink .
 - Abraham takes the posture of a servant which I am sure blew the minds of his servants.
 - “Who could this be that Abraham would act as if he was servant?”

9 Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?”

So, he said, “Here, in the tent.”

- Here is the scene,
 - Abraham and his guest are sitting under the shade of a large tree.
 - Abraham’s tent is also under the tree and Sarah’s inside.
 - I guessing she had at some point come out and welcomed Abraham’s guest.

10 And He said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.”

- Notice how the New King James version capitalizes “He”.
 - Also notice that He does not say “we will certainly return to you...”
 - This is a theophany.
 - This is Jesus showing up in the flesh in the Old Testament period.

(Sarah was listening in the tent door which *was* behind him.)

- Why would it be important to God to reveal to us that His back was to the entrance of the tent?

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

- The Holy Spirit shares with us through the pen of Moses that Abraham and Sarah were too old to have children.
 - Why?
 - Why had God asked this very faithful man and woman to wait so long for the promised son?
 - Because it was God that must get the glory for the birth of this boy, just like it will be God that will receive the glory for the birth of Jesus within the virgin Mary.

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”

- Sarah smirked!
 - And Jesus called her out on it.

¹³ And the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”

- Poor Abraham doesn't know that his wife had laughed at what Jesus had said.
- It sounds like Sarah was called out immediately by one or both of them.
- Verse 14 “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”
 - It's not!
 - God said He would do it and He always keeps His word.
 - Especially when it has taken too long or seems impossible.
 - God speaks and things happen.
 - This is why we believe and pray.
 - We have a God who hears and responds.

¹⁵ But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid.

- Yea, this guy is reading minds!
 - I would be very afraid as well.

And He said, “No, but you did laugh!”

- Busted!
 - Keep in mind Abraham laughed in Genesis 17.

Psalms 139:1-5

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.
5 You have hedged me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
6 *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;*
It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

Now the focus will shift from Abraham and Sarah to another family member “Lot”

16 Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way.

- The hospitality doesn't end with the meal.
- Abraham walks with them as they leave (Abraham must be southern)
 - As they walk and say their goodbyes “The Lord said...”

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

- If you haven't noticed yet, everyone now knows who Jesus is and that the other two men serve Him.

17 And the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?

- Abraham had dined with God, this will not happen again until Jesus is born a couple of thousand years later.
- Now, Abraham is walking with God like Noah and Enoch.

- As 2 Peter 2 says that Abraham was Gods friend, we need no more evidence than this.
 - Now God shares with His friend what He is planning next and the motivation behind why He would share such with His friend Abraham.

18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation,

- Abraham who just found out that his son Issac would be here next year would someday be a great and mighty nation.

and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

- God reveals the purpose of this great and mighty nation that shall come from Abrahams son, this nation will be a blessing to all of the other nations.

19 For I have known him,

- 2 Peter 2 “Gods friend”

in order that he may command his children and his household after him,

- God reminds Abraham that is role as the spiritual leader of his household was to command and instruct his children in the ways of the Lord.

that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice,

- That they keep the way of the Lord, what does that mean?
 - To do righteousness (live by faith in the Lord)
 - Do justice?
 - Be fair, honest, a man of integrity, good character, in all things.

that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”

- What had God promised to bring Abraham?
 - Lots of descendants!!!!
 - Kings and kingdoms
 - Property
 - Honor
- That is a lot to process.

Now the conversation shifts again:

²⁰ And the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

- Listen to what God had to say about Sodom when He was reprimanding His people and comparing them to Sodom in Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 16:48-50

*⁴⁸ “As I live,” says the Lord God, “neither your sister Sodom nor her daughters have done as you and your daughters have done. 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.** ⁵⁰ And they were haughty and **committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.***

²⁰ And the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

²¹ I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know.”

- Who was crying out?
 - It would be the abused.
 - The very young that could not defend themselves.
 - The old that could not defend themselves.
 - The sick and the handicap.
 - The poor and hungry
 - The weak and defenseless.
 - This is what happens when society turns on itself.
 - Selfishness and sin take over with no compassion for those in need.

Now don't get tripped up on how God responds.

- “I will go down and see...” is spoken so that Abraham could understand.
 - The truth is that the Bible never records God going down physically, just the two angels go.
 - An all-knowing and all-seeing God does not need to go.
 - He has already made it clear why the angels are going and what they are going to do.

²² Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord.

- The angels are gone and now it just Abraham and Jesus.

²³ And Abraham came near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ 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? ²⁵ Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

- Abraham is concerned for the wicked city.
 - In Abrahams way of thinking God would never allow the righteous to suffer.
 - Especially if the righteous were mix within the unrighteous.
 - But Abraham doesn't know what we know.
 - He has never read the Bible because it hasn't been written yet.
 - He knows nothing of the book of Job, (The most righteous man on earth at the time)
 - He knows nothing of the beheading of John the Baptist, the most righteous man born of human descent.
 - He knows nothing about how all of the Lords apostles would lose their life's for the sake of the gospel (only John would escape)
 - He knows nothing of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, perfect and sinless in every way.
 - He knows nothing of the tower of Siloam

Luke 13:4-5

4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

- What is Jesus’ point?
 - We are all going to die.
 - We all need to repent and be saved
 - We all need to be ready to die at any moment.

Jesus does not take the time to express all of this but rather He takes the time to express how far-gone Sodom and Gomorrah are:

26 So the Lord said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.”

27 Then Abraham answered and said, “Indeed now, I who *am but* dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: 28 Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for *lack of five*?”

So, He said, “If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy *it*.”

29 And he spoke to Him yet again and said, “Suppose there should be forty found there?”

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

30 Then he said, “Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?”

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

31 And he said, “Indeed now, I have taken it upon 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.”

32 Then he said, “Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?”

And He said, “I will not destroy *it* for the sake of ten.” 33 So the Lord went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

- Sadly, there were not 10 righteous people found in those two cities.
- God destroyed those two cities (estimated 1 million people) and He brought it Abrahams attention so that it could serve as a testimony that God does punish sin.
- Abraham, no doubt used it as he taught Issac.