

Genesis Chapter 18: Eavesdropping/ Patience for a Friend in the Court of Heaven

Genesis Chapter 17 Review

Circumcision of the Heart: Removing the **Callousness toward God exemplified in Christ-less religion and Fleshly Indulgence**

We are to be Set apart **walking by the Spirit before God**

We are to be set apart; **blameless in our love for one another**

...walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh

Genesis Chapter 18 "...far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you..." [[HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?book_id=9&chapter=12&verse=23&version=49&context=verse"](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?book_id=9&chapter=12&verse=23&version=49&context=verse) 1 Samuel 12:23]

1Now the **LORD appeared** to him by the oaks of **Mamre**, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. 2When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he **ran** from the tent door **to meet them** and **bowed himself to the earth...**

Mamre: Modern Hebron; 110f. in summer

5th Appearance of the LORD to Abraham

Shechem altar when entering the land 12:7

Abram and Lot separated 13:14

Lot's Rescue from Eastern Kings 15:1

Renewal of Covenant 17

3 Men 18

THE Angel of the LORD appearance as a man:

Genesis 32:24 Then Jacob was left alone, and **a man wrestled with him** until daybreak. [Peniel Lit. Face of God]

Joshua 5:13 Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, **a man** [commander of the army of the LORD] was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" [**NO!**]

Ran, Bowed Himself [Heb: Shachah] Usual word for **worship**...first mention!
Enthusiasm for God and the things of God

2 Kings 13:18 [Elisha said] "Take the arrows," and [Joash the King of Israel] took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground," and he struck it three times and stopped. 19So the man of God was angry with him and said, "**You should have struck five or six times**, then you would have struck Aram until you would have destroyed it But now you shall strike Aram only three times."

3 [Abraham said], "**My Lord**, if now I have found favor in Your sight, **please do not pass Your servant** by. 4"Please let a little water be brought and **wash your feet**, and **rest yourselves** under the tree; 5and I will bring a **piece of bread**, that you may **refresh**

yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant." And they said, "**So do, as you have said.**"

"Do not pass your servant by..." :God again draws out a response

Hospitality for The Angel of the LORD: Wash feet, rest, eat, refresh:

Judges 6:17 [Gideon and the Midianites] (Read) So Gideon said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who speak with me. 18"Please do not depart from here, until I come back to You, and bring out my offering and lay it before You." And He said, "I will remain until you return." 19Then Gideon went in and prepared a young goat and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour; he put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, and brought them out to him under the oak and presented them. 20The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. 21Then the angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. 22 When Gideon saw that he was the angel of the LORD, he said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." 23The LORD said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die." 24Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and **named it The LORD is Peace.**

Judges 13:15 [Samson] (Read) ...Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a young goat for you." 16The angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the LORD." For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the LORD. 17Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that when your words come to pass, we may honor you?" 18But the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?" 19So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the LORD, and He performed wonders while Manoah and his wife looked on. 20For it came about when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. 21Now the angel of the LORD did not appear to Manoah or his wife again. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. 22So Manoah said to his wife, "We will surely die, for we have seen God." 23But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have let us hear things like this at this time."

Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show **hospitality** to strangers, for by this some have **entertained angels** without knowing it.

6So Abraham **hurried** into the tent to Sarah, and said, "**Quickly**, prepare three measures of fine flour, knead it and make bread cakes." 7Abraham also **ran** to the herd, and took a tender and choice calf and gave it to the servant, and he **hurried** to prepare it. 8He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and **placed it before them**; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.

Hurried, ran, quickly...**Enthusiasm!**

9Then **they said** to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said,

"There, in the tent." 10 **He said**, "I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, **Sarah your wife will have a son.**" And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; **Sarah was past childbearing.**

Isaac Estimated Time of Arrival

They (Angels) said where's Sarah...**HE** (The LORD) said she **will have a son:**

Hebrews 11:11 By faith even Sarah herself **received ability** to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

Romans 4:19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the **deadness of Sarah's womb...**

Physical Regeneration required; Sarah now has ceased menstruation but has "never" been able to conceive

Sarah **received** the "**ability to conceive**" in the "**deadness of her womb**" Abraham's "**mustard seed**" of faith to prepare him for later? (**Death-Life**)

Luke 17:6 ...the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.

12 **Sarah laughed** to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" [C.f. Luke 1:18] 13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "**Why did Sarah laugh**, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?' 14 **Is anything too difficult** for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and **Sarah will have a son.**" [C.f. Romans 9:9]

Why did Sarah laugh?

"...this time next year" or "time of life" (length of conception) I will return

Difficult: Same word as Wonderful in Isaiah 9:6; "And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor..."

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for you... Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"

Zechariah 8:6 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'If it is too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, will it also be too difficult in My sight?' declares the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 19:26 ...Jesus said to them, With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Romans 4:21 **...yet, with respect to the promise of God, [Abraham] did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that** what God had promised, He was able also to perform. **[Abe was]**

15 Sarah denied [laughing] however, saying, "**I did not laugh**"; for she was afraid. And He said, "**No, but you did laugh.**"

The God who sees and hears: Attribute Omnipresence

John 1:46 **(Read)** Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; **You are the King of Israel.**"

Psalms 139:7 **(Read)** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," 12 Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day Darkness and light are alike to You.

It is Sarah's heart **is what God would recall**

1 Peter 3:4 ...let [your beauty i.e. adornment] be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this way in former times the **holy women** also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; 6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

Sarah would laugh again...

Genesis 21:5 **Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac [Laughter] was born to him. 6 Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me."**

16 Then the men rose up from there, and looked down **toward Sodom**; and Abraham was **walking with them to send them off**. 17 **The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham** what I am about to do 18 since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?

Abraham was *walking with them* as they looked toward Sodom, **speaking in the hearing of Abraham!** "Shall I hide from Abraham?"

Righteous Eavesdropping?

Amos 3:7 **Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He** reveals His secret **counsel To His servants the prophets.**

Isaiah 41:8 **"...My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, Descendant of Abraham** My friend..."

19 "For I have **chosen him**, so that he may **command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by**

doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."

Righteousness and Justice or "**Genuine Righteousness**"

Chosen him; I.e. "**I have known him**": Intimacy; Chosen for a specific **time and purpose**

Esther 4:13 **And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for** such a time as this?"

Nehemiah 9:7 "**You are the LORD God, Who chose Abram And** brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees, **And gave him the name Abraham.**

Purpose: To command his children and his household "...to keep the way of the LORD by **knowing what is right and what is just:**

Deuteronomy 6:6 "**These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7**"You shall teach them diligently to your sons **and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.**

20And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their **sin is exceedingly grave.**

Though the sins of the Amorites was not yet complete, **Sodom's were:**

Ezekiel 16:49 "**Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had** arrogance, abundant food **and** careless ease, **but she** did not help the poor and needy. **50**"**Thus they were** haughty **and committed** abominations before Me **Therefore I removed them when I saw it.**

Sodom's Accountability

Sodom was previously **supernaturally delivered** from the Kings of the East; I.e. *Nephilim Busters*

King of Sodom heard **Testimony from Melchizedek**

Lot's witness (though compromised) as a leader in Sodom

21"**I will go down now**, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

"**I will go down...and see**" I.e. Make an appearance that man would have no doubt that God saw...and acted upon what He saw

Exodus 3:8 [**burning bush**] "**So I have** come down **to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land...**

Genesis 11:7 "Come, **let Us go** down **and there confuse their language...**"

22 Then the men turned away from there and **went toward Sodom**, while Abraham was still standing **before the LORD**. 23 Abraham **came near** and said, "**Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?**"

Only God stayed: Abraham "**came near**" ...and God let him:

Matthew 23:37 **"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.**

Abraham **Innately Anticipates judgment** for wickedness:

Genesis 3: 8 **They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"**

God's friend inquires of God's heart: **"Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?**

Exodus 23:7 "Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent or the righteous, for I will not acquit the guilty.

Numbers 16:22 But they fell on their faces and said, "O God, God of the spirits of all flesh, when one man sins, will You be angry with the entire congregation?"

2 Samuel 24:17 Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking down the people, and said, "Behold, it is I who have sinned, and it is I who have done wrong; but these sheep, what have they done?"

Psalms 11:4 **The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. 5The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates. 6** Upon the wicked He will rain snares; Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup. **7For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.**

24"Suppose there are **fifty righteous** within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? 25"Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! **Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"**

Judge of all the earth:

Deuteronomy 1:17 **'You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike You shall not fear man, for the judgment is God's.**

Deuteronomy 32:4 **"The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.**

Psalms 58:11 **"Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely there is a God who judges on earth!"**

Psalms 94:2 **Rise up, O Judge of the earth,** Render recompense to the proud.

Isaiah 3:10 **Say to the righteous that it will go well with them, For they will eat the fruit of their actions. 11Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, For what he deserves will be done to him.**

26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city,

then **I will spare the whole place** on their account."

Jeremiah 5:1 **"Roam to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, And look now and take note And seek in her open squares,** If you can find a man, If there is one who does justice, who seeks truth, Then I will pardon her [**I.e. Jerusalem**].

27And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the **Lord**, although I am but **dust and ashes**."

Lord: Adonai; Judge of all the earth

Dust and ashes: Contrast exemplifying Abraham's Humility

Job 30:19 **"He has cast me into the mire, And I have become like** dust and ashes. Job 42:6 **Therefore I retract, And I repent in** dust and ashes."

28"Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." 29He spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose forty are found there?" And He said, "I will not do it on account of the forty." 30Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; suppose thirty are found there?" And He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." 31And he said, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord; suppose twenty are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the twenty." 32Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, **"I will not destroy it on account of the ten."**

Judges 6:39 **Then Gideon said to God, "Do not let Your anger burn against me that I may speak once more; please** let me make a test once more **with the fleece, let it now be dry only on the fleece, and let there be dew on all the ground."**

Patience of God, yet not even ten would be found righteous

33As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the LORD departed, and **Abraham returned to his place**.

Abraham left the view site of Sodom and returned to his tent

The next morning Abraham went back to see what God had done...

Genesis 19:27 **Now Abraham arose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the LORD; 28 and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the valley, and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace.**

Abraham could have went to one; the LORD would deliver that one out...He did
A picture of the church delivered from the tribulation judgment

As for us before the tribulation...now:

Jude 20 ...you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the

mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting; 23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

SUMMARY:

Abraham **will teach** his children and his household about sin, righteousness and judgment

He **will teach** of a God Who is both Compassionate and Just

He **will teach** intercession and eavesdropping on a God who longs to reveal Himself to us and to those who are about to perish... **the ground is level at the cross**

"...far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you..." [1 Samuel 12:23]