

Part 9 – God’s Plans Are No Joke

Genesis 17:15 And **God** said unto Abraham, “As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall* her name be.

16 And **I** will bless her and give thee 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.”

17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and **laughed**, and said in his heart, “Shall a *child* be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?”

18 And Abraham said unto **God**, “O that Ishmael might live before thee!”

19 And **God** said, “Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and **I** will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his seed after him.

20 And as for Ishmael, **I** have heard thee: 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.

21 But **MY** covenant will **I** establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year."

22 And he left off talking with him, and **God** went up from Abraham.

Now Go to...

Genesis 18:9 And They said unto him, "Where *is* Sarah thy wife?" And he said, "Behold, in the tent."

10 And **He** said, "**I** will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son." And Sarah heard *it* in the tent door, which was behind him.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old *and* well stricken in age; *and* it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

12 Therefore **Sarah laughed** within herself, saying, "After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

13 And the **LORD** said unto Abraham, "Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?'

14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

15 Then Sarah denied, saying, “I laughed not”; for she was afraid. And **He** said, “Nay; but thou didst laugh.”

- Did you ever really sit and think about this very REAL fact...
 - God knows our thoughts!
 - **Genesis 6:5** And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
 - **Psalms 94:11** The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they *are* vanity.
- God knew Abraham and Sarah's very thoughts...they tried to convince God however with their words...
- They had both laughed at God's plan
- But God's plan is no joke!

- God had a plan.
 - God has always had a plan.
 - God made Abraham aware of that plan but did not give an exact timeline.
 - This is where their patience was lost
 - Abraham and Sarah had tried to help out God's plan and it had done nothing but caused turmoil...

- In his heart Abraham laughed at God's plan
- Then gave the reasons why it wouldn't work
- But then Abraham asks God to just let Ishmael be the plan
- so this request seems odd to me,
- but in the view of the impossible,
- Abraham wanted to hold onto what he could see
 - Ishmael was there
 - Abraham and Sarah had already done this
 - Why not just ask God to be ok with it and move forward?
- God's Response was...
 - NO
 - That's not MY plan
 - That's not where MY Covenant will rest
 - Then He left with the last Word
 - Abraham didn't argue, he obeyed, even though it simply didn't make sense
- **God has a plan.**
 - God has always had a plan.

- God sometimes will allow me to get a birds eye view of His plan, but He almost never gives an exact timeline.
- **What do we do?**
- I have tried to help God out many times and it has always brought turmoil.
- God's plan will seem too impossible at the time
- so I will make His plan make sense to me
- and then ask God to bless it...what a fools prayer.
- God has so much more planned that we could imagine,
- so why would we even ask Him to bless our plans?

- God did “hear Abraham” and blessed Ishmael.
 - His descendants are as many as the Jews...
 - but the turmoil continues.
 - Maybe we should let go of our plans all together and let God do what ONLY He can.
- God knows the plans we want Him to bless
- What we don't know, and God does...
 - The end of our plans
 - The end of His plans
 - Which one is for His Glory and our Good
 - And which one will always bring hurt and heartache