

O10 Abraham's Visitors

MEMORY VERSE: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Genesis 18:14

SCRIPTURES: Genesis 17:1 – 18:15

AIM: God is sovereign

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will give you a very large family."

Then He said, your new name will be Abraham which means 'father of many nations'. And as for Sarai her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and give you a son by her. When Abraham heard God's promise about giving Sarah a son, he laughed to himself wondering how that could be possible because they were both so old.

On another occasion, God spoke to Abram. "Come outside your tent," God told him, "and look up at the sky."

Abraham went out into the cool evening air. The night was bright with stars. "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can," God said. "I promise you that you will have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky."

Although God's promise sounded impossible, as Abram stood there in the darkness he believed God would keep His word.

When Abram was ninety nine years old God spoke to him again. "You are going to be the father of many nations."

"How can that be?" thought Abram. He still didn't have any children.

It didn't make any sense! But he knew God was almighty and could do anything.

"Not only will you, but your children as well will be given all this land of Canaan. It will belong to your families forever. Always remember I will be your God." Abraham kept thinking about what God had said.

One day when he was at home sitting in the opening of his tent, Abraham was thinking about how good God was to him.

Suddenly he noticed three men coming toward him. "Who could be coming to visit me on such a hot day?" thought Abraham. He hurried to greet them.

Abraham was a kind man and everyone was welcome in his house: "Please," said Abraham. "Don't go any farther. You look so hot and tired. Stop and rest awhile."

Abraham didn't wait for an answer. He ran to get water so the strangers could wash their dusty feet.

"I'm sure a bit of food to eat would make you feel better." Abraham said. The men were impressed by Abraham's kindness.

"We'll stay," they told Abraham.

Then Abraham ran into the tent to talk to his wife. "Sarah, quick, mix up some special cakes. Use your best flour. Be sure to make plenty. There are three visitors outside." Abraham rushed around organizing everything. His servants hurried to prepare food. Sarah, baked fresh cakes as he had requested. At last Abraham served the visitors a fine outdoor picnic under the tree.

While the men ate, Abraham stood near them so he could visit with them. "Where is Sarah?" they asked. Then Abraham heard God say to him, "Next year you and Sarah will have a son."

When Sarah heard this, she covered her mouth and laughed. She probably thought, "That's the funniest thing I ever heard. I'm too old to have a baby and my husband is even older than I am."

The Lord who knows everything said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'An old woman like me can't have a baby.' Is anything too hard for God to do?"

When the man asked Sarah, "Why did you laugh?" Sarah lied. She said, "I didn't laugh." She was afraid to tell the truth.

God kept the promise He had made to Abraham many years before, and Sarah did have a son. Abraham named him Isaac or "Laughter".

Even though both Abraham and Sarah made mistakes and even laughed at God's word, God remained faithful to make a great family from them. This family began with Isaac, and many generations later, gave rise to the savior of all mankind, Jesus!