

The Visitation

Genesis 18:1-33

Introduction

I The Three Visitors

- A. The Lord **appeared** to Abraham - Gen 12:7; 16:7; 17:1
 - 1. He looked up and saw them standing nearby
 - 2. He hurried to meet them and bowed low to the ground
 - 3. He requested that they not **pass** him by - Eph 2:10
- B. Abraham served the three visitors - Heb 13:1-2
 - 1. He **washed** their feet with water - Jn 13:14; Mk 10:43-45
 - 2. He prepared a lavish meal for them - James 2:1-9
 - 3. He **refreshed** them for their journey - Philemon 1:7

II The Lord Fellowships With Abraham

- A. The Lord **reaffirmed** His promise - Rom 10:17
 - 1. Your wife will have a son next year - Gen 15:4;17:15
- B. The **reality** check
 - 1. Sarah and Abraham were past the age of childbearing
 - 2. Sarah **laughed** to herself as she thought:
 - a. “I am worn out and Abraham is old” - Gen 17:17
 - b. “Will I now have this pleasure?” - Lk 1:18-37
- C. The Lord questions Abraham regarding Sarah’s **unbelief**
 - 1. “Why did Sarah laugh?”
 - 2. Why did she **doubt** my promise? - Lk 6:40; 1 Cor 11:1
 - 3. “Is there **anything** too hard for the Lord?” - Jer 32:17
- D. The response of Sarah
 - 1. She was afraid and so she **lied** - Jn 18:25-27

III The Imminent Destruction Of Sodom

- A. The Lord **consulted** with the angels - Ps 25:14; Jn 15:15
 - 1. Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?
 - a. He will become a great and powerful nation
 - b. All the nations will be blessed through him
 - 2. I have chosen him so that he will **direct** his family:
 - a. To **keep** the way of the Lord - Eph 6:4; Deut 6:6-9
 - b. To do what is **right** and just - Micah 6:8

- 1. That the Lord might bring about His promise
- B. The Lord informed Abraham of their mission
 - 1. The problem: The **outcry** against Sodom and Gomorrah
 - 2. The plan: To personally investigate the problem - Jn 6:38
 - 3. The eventual solution: Swift and total **judgment**

IV The Intercession Of Abraham

- A. Abraham accurately **predicts** the Lord’s decision - Gal 6:7-8
- B. Abraham appeals to the Lord’s **character**
 - 1. “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”
 - a. “Far be it from you to do such a thing!” - 1 Thess 5:9
 - 2. “Will not the Judge of the earth do right?” - Job 34:10-12
- C. Abraham appeals to the Lord’s **mercy** - 2 Cor 5:14; Rom 9:3
 - 1. What if there are 50 righteous people in the city?
 - 2. What if there are 45,40,30,20,10 in the city? - 1 Tim 2:1-4
- D. The Lord’s response to Abraham’s appeals:
 - 1. “For the sake of 10 I will not **destroy** it.” - Ezek 33:11

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share a time when you entertained strangers. What happened?
- 2. How does Abraham treat his three visitors? How do you tend to treat strangers? How available are you to God for strangers?
- 3. How does Sarah react to God’s promise? Why does He rebuke Abraham instead of Sarah? What does this reveal about the power of modeling & God’s authority structure for the family?
- 4. What is Abraham’s response to God’s impending judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah? What does this teach you about Abraham’s heart? About God’s heart? About intercessory prayer? On a scale of 1-10, how desperate are you for the lost?
- 5. According to biblical prophecy, the world will soon be judged. Ask God to give you a heart to intercede for the lost and to preach the life-saving message of Christ in these last days.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

Copyright, Bob Hallman, 1996-2020, All Rights Reserved.