

(Genesis) Genesis 18:9-16

by J. Vernon McGee

The sermon explores Abraham's hospitality and the miraculous promise of a son to Sarah, emphasizing faith in God's power to fulfill His promises.

Duration: 4:40

Scripture: Genesis 18:9-17

Topics: "Genesis"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on the story of Abraham entertaining three guests, who are later revealed to be angels. The guests inquire about Sarah, Abraham's wife, who is inside the tent. Sarah overhears their conversation and learns that she will have a son, despite her old age. She laughs in disbelief, but God reassures her that nothing is too hard for Him. The sermon emphasizes the faithfulness and power of God in fulfilling His promises.

Transcript

Now will you notice that we are with Abraham and his entertaining guests. We left off last time with Abraham having prepared a sumptuous bounty. He took a little calf, a servant killed it and prepared it, and the chef cooked it up, and they had veal steaks, or veal roast, I imagine, and all the trimmings that went with it.

They had, we are told here, butter and milk. My, it was a real feast, and these three guests Abraham entertains. And then we find that these guests are royal guests.

Later on we'll find out in the New Testament that it's suggested to us that some have entertained angels unawares. That was Abraham. He didn't know who he was really entertaining.

Now will you notice verse 9, "...and they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent," wasn't proper in that day, and as you know even in the East today for the wife to come out and be the one to entertain, especially when there were three male guests there. And now they ask about her, they make inquiry. "...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." Now, Sarah had her ear at the keyhole, I think, and she has been listening in, and they discover now, both Abraham and Sarah, that they are entertaining

angels unaware. Now, Abraham and Sarah were old, verse 11, "...and stricken in age, and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old, shall I have pleasure, my Lord being old also? That is, is it possible that I'll have a son? And she laughs." Now, what kind of laughter is this? Well, I think this is the laughter, it's just too good to be true, that's all.

And again, may I remind you that I'm sure most of us have had experiences like that also. God has been so good to us, and on a certain occasion we just laughed, as Abraham did. And then something happened that is just too good to be true, just too good to be true.

And that was the way Sarah laughed, but it frightened her because the Lord said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child which am old? Is anything too hard for the Lord? This is just something too good to be true. It just can't happen to me. Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I'll return unto thee according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Then Sarah denied, saying, I laugh not. For she was afraid, and he said, Nay, but thou didst laugh. She couldn't avoid the truth here, and she certainly is rather evasive.

And now will you notice verse 16, And the man rose up from the fence, and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. In other words, Abraham didn't have a front gate, so he walked out with them a little farther than the front gate to bid them goodbye. And as they walked out, where Abraham lived, you could look down at Sodom and Gomorrah.

I know that when we were in that land, it was amazing to me on a clear day how far you could see. That is, you can see from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, and from the ruins of old Samaria you can see to Jerusalem, and you can see the Mediterranean Sea, and you can see the Sea of Galilee, and you can see Mount Hermon most any place. It's tremendous.

Now, the thing that is taking place here, Abraham walks out a ways with these guests, and they see Sodom and Gomorrah, the great resorts of that day. And it must have been a very delightful place to be, a beautiful place.

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