



The Beginning

Lesson 11: A Visit From Three Men

(Genesis 18:1-19:38)

While Abraham was by the great trees in Mamre, sitting in the door of his tent when it was hot, he looked and saw three men nearby. He got up and ran to meet them. He even bowed himself to the ground. He saw that they were special and asked them to let him give them food to eat and rest themselves under the tree.

At some point, Abraham must have recognized that these three men were very special. The Bible teaches us that two of these men were angels (Genesis 19:1). And, the Bible even refers to one of these three men as the Lord (Genesis 18:13). Although they were very special, they looked like men. Still, Abraham did whatever he could to take care of them and see that they had what they needed.

Whenever Abraham hurried inside of his tent, he told Sarah to quickly make some bread. Then, he ran to his herd and took a good calf and had it prepared. When it was all ready, he brought the food to his three guests and stood by them while they ate.

The men asked Abraham, “Where is Sarah your wife?” (Genesis 18:6). Whenever Abraham said that Sarah was in the tent, one of the men said that he would return in about a year, and Sarah would have a son. Now, Sarah was listening at the door of the tent and started to laugh to herself when she thought about what the man had said. She thought she was too old to have children.

The Lord knew that Sarah had laughed and asked Abraham why she laughed when He said that she would have a son? He asked if anything is too hard for the Lord and said that she would have a son when He returned the next year. Then, Sarah was afraid and lied by saying she did not laugh. But, the Lord knew the truth and said, “No, but you did laugh!” (Genesis 18:15)! Although Sarah did not believe God about having a son at first, the Bible teaches that she later believed in God’s promise (Hebrews 11:11).

When the men got ready to leave Abraham, God decided to tell Abraham what He was about to do since God was going to bless him. God told Abraham that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were very wicked. So, God had determined to go

there in order to see how great the wickedness of the cities was before He destroyed them.

Two of the men went toward Sodom, but Abraham pleaded with God for the cities. He asked God if He would destroy the righteous with the wicked, and asked if God would spare the place from destruction if there were 50 people who did what was right. God agreed. Then, Abraham continued asking the Lord if He would spare the place for the sake of 45 righteous people. Then, 40 people. Then, 30 people. Then, 20 people. After God had agreed to spare the city for these numbers of righteous people, Abraham asked once more. He asked if God would spare the place for the sake of just ten people who did what was right. And, God agreed.

Whenever the two angels came to Sodom, Lot (Abraham's nephew) rose to meet them. He bowed himself to them and asked them to spend the night with him. When they agreed and entered Lot's house, he made them a feast and they ate. But, before they lay down, the men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house and wanted to do bad things to the two angels.

After the angels caused the wicked men to be blind, they asked Lot if he had anyone else in the city. If so, Lot was to get them out of the city quickly because the Lord had sent them to destroy it. The next morning, the angels told Lot to take his wife and his two daughters and get out of the city so that they would not be destroyed along with the city.

The angels took Lot, his wife, and his daughters by the hand and led them out of the city. Then, they told them not to look behind them as they went or they would be destroyed. Whenever they were escaping to a small city named Zoar, the Lord caused fire and brimstone to be rained down from sky on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destroy them. And, as Lot and his family were escaping, his wife disobeyed God and looked back. So, she was turned into a pillar of salt.

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Study Questions:

1) Who came to Abraham? What was special about them?

2) What did Abraham do for them?

3) What did God tell Abraham? Why did Sarah laugh?

4) How many righteous people would cause God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah?

5) Who lived in Sodom?

6) Why did God destroy these cities?

7) How did God destroy these cities?

8) What happened to Lot's wife? Why?

Memory Verse:

“Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.” (Genesis 18:14).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: