

Study Guide for Sept. 30th, 2009. Life of Abraham: The Announcement. Genesis 18:1-15

Introduction: Was there ever a time some good, but seemingly impossible, event came to pass? What were the details? What did that experience teach you?

I. The supernatural encountered. (Gen. 18:1-2)

- A. Who appears to Abraham? Accompanied by whom? Where?
- B. Where exactly was Abraham located? What time of day was it?
- C. How does Abraham respond to his unexpected visitors? (Compare to Gen. 19:1-2)
- D. Did Abraham realize initially who was visiting him? (Mt. 25:34-36 & Heb. 13:2)

II. Hospitality expressed. (Gen. 18:3-8)

- A. What all does Abraham offer his guests? What word describes Abraham here?
- B. What does the meal consist of that Abraham and Sarah provide for their guests?
- C. Describe the tone in verses 2, 6 & 7. Where then does Abraham stand?
- D. How are Abraham and Sarah a model of hospitality? (See I Pet. 4:9)

III. Unbelief exposed. (Gen. 18:9-15)

- A. The Lord knows where Sarah is located, what is accomplished by their question?
- B. What promise does the Lord repeat? (See Gen. 17:19) What is added this time?
- C. What do Sarah's thoughts reveal? Why does she think the promise is impossible?
- D. How does Sarah respond to the Lord's correction? (See and apply Prov. 28:13)
- E. On what basis (vs. 14) does God reaffirm the promise of a son?

Conclusion: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Gen. 18:14) This profound question is spoken by God to instill faith in his people. Note the context where this idea is used in the following passages: (Jer. 32:17, 27; Zech. 8:6, Mt. 19:26, Luke 1:37, 18:2 Rm. 4:21) How do we guard against being presumptions when considering these promises?

Where is God calling you to faith in his promises – even to believe the impossible?