

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"The Friend Of God"
Genesis 18:1-15
Study-40

"Friend of God" Abraham is given this special title, and he is the only person in the Bible to have it. **2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23;**

Jesus called **Lazarus** His friend (**John 11:11**), and He calls **"friends"** all who **believe on Him** and **obey Him** (**John 15:13-15**).

Why was Abraham designated as the friend of God?

Abraham's rejection of idol worship and Abraham's search for the one true God.
Genesis 18

**Genesis 18-21 Records Details of Abraham's Family:
Genesis 18 & Genesis 19, Are Great Chapters In Contrast:**

Genesis 18 Abraham's tender, sensitive fellowship with the Lord and angels. God reveals to Abraham the future judgment upon Sodom.

Genesis 19 The angel's lives were threatened. The chapter records God's awesome judgment and violent destruction of wicked Sodom.

Thought Of Our Passage: "Abraham's Growth, Faith, And His Response To God's Covenant Are Testimonies To God's Power And Purpose."

1. Verses 1-8 Ministry To The Lord:

2. Verses 9-15 Ministry To Sarah:

1. Verses 1-8 Ministry To The Lord:

Genesis 18:1 Context – Now God had appeared to Abraham in **Genesis 17:1-27** after 13 silent years. God changed Abram's name to Abraham, promising a nation would come through him. God changed "Sari" to "Sarah." Abram then, in obedience, circumcised all the males of his household,
Genesis 17:27

the LORD appeared to him

LORD – Yahweh – *"the gracious God willing to reveal Himself to man and hear prayer, the covenant God, who redeems his people."*

appeared to him a *"Theophany, Christophany"* Jesus Christ in the OT.
Genesis 18:2

Genesis 18:1 Now the **LORD** appeared to him,
13 And the **LORD** said to Abraham,
14 "Is anything too difficult for the **LORD**?"

The Question of Genesis 18: At what point did Abraham know that one of the visitors was the Lord? **Verse 2** "Three men"

by the oaks of Mamre, 20 miles South of Jerusalem (West Bank).
How much time has elapsed since **Genesis 17**?
About a few weeks or a month or so?

Genesis 15:16 (Sodom's sin increased)

while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day.

It was Noon, the hottest time of the day.

Genesis 18:2 standing opposite him;

Strange that in the heat of the day, three men appeared.

three men One of the men was the Lord, and the other two were angels.

(**Genesis 19:1,15** Angels that go to Sodom)

Hebrews 1:14 These angels looked like men **Genesis 19:10, 12, 16**

Hebrews makes this statement, **Hebrews 13:2**

and when he saw them, he "ran" from the tent door to meet them,

Now, Abraham ran to them. Abraham **Verses 2 "ran" 6 "hurried" 7 "ran"**

bowed – translated as "*worship*" when God is the object, a regular gesture of higher rank.

Abraham's actions should be our actions.

Haste, excitement, reverence.

Genesis 18:3 and said, "My lord

Further evidence. **Verse 13 Says The Lord.**

please do not pass Your servant by.

The same phrase is used of those addressing the Lord,

Laban **Genesis 30:27**, Jacob **Genesis 33:8, 10, 15; 47:29**

Shechem **Genesis 34:11**; Egyptians **Genesis 47:25**

All Ministry Must First Be To The Lord:

if we fail to be a blessing to the Lord, we will never be a blessing to others. True of the Jewish priests (**Exodus 28:1, 3-4, 41; 29:1**)

God's servants in the early church (**Acts 13:1-2**)

please do not pass Your servant by.

Longing for the fellowship with God. **John 14:23**

Genesis 18:4 and wash your feet,

Hospitality was shown. People wore sandals.

The contrast of hospitality:

Abraham Genesis 18:1-8

Lot in Genesis 19:1-3

Jesus was an example of servant leadership. He washed the disciples' feet - **John 13:13-17 and rest yourselves under the tree;**

He had a spot for the guests to rest.

Genesis 18:5 and I will bring a piece of bread,
became more than a piece of bread.

**Hospitality Is Stressed In The NT. Luke 5:29; Romans 12:13;
1 Timothy 3:2;
Titus 1:8; Hebrews 13:1-2**

"So do, as you have said." They accept Abrahams' hospitality.

Genesis 18:6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah,

**three measures of fine flour, (6 gallons), knead it and make bread
cakes."** This is unleavened bread (Pita, flat bread).
Exodus 12:15, Jesus Christ.

Hospitality is important in Christianity: be a servant!

Genesis 18:7 Abraham also ran to the herd,
He personally took part in the preparations.

and took a tender and choice calf and gave it to the servant,
"hand-picked"

and he hurried to prepare it.
This was the Lord that Abraham was serving.

Genesis 18:8 He took curds and milk yogurt, and milk.

and the calf which he had prepared, and placed it before them;
boiled over the fire.

and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.
Abraham stood to serve.

2. Verses 9-15 Ministry To Sarah:

Genesis 18:9 Then they said to him, Now they speak of their business.

Verses 9-10 The Promise: "Where is Sarah your wife?"
If these were mere men visiting, how did they know her name, Sarah?

And he said, "There, in the tent." Abraham then says she is in the tent.

**Genesis 18:10 He said, "I will surely return to you at this time next
year;**

and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son."

Miracle of physical regeneration.

This was humanly impossible. God again repeats **Genesis 17:19, 21**

And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him.
Sarah now heard.

Verse 11 The Problem: Genesis 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. "Sarah is 90 Post-Menopausal, she was doubly dead with respect to childbearing"

Genesis 18:12 Sarah laughed to herself,
Note, this was to herself. She laughed.

saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" Literally, *"After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"*

Genesis 18:13 And the LORD said to Abraham,
Proof that it really was the Lord.

"When Hagar (ran away) she had to learn that God always sees us"
"When Sarah (laughed) she had to learn that God sees inside of us"
Psalm 139:1-4

Genesis 18:14 "Is anything too difficult for the LORD?"
"too hard" or "too wonderful, or too surpassing or too incredible for the Lord"
"Unbelief is the doubting of God's power to perform what He has promised" Luke 1:37

The greatest miracle, even greater than Isaac's birth is that a sinner can be saved: Matthew 19:26

To Moses God said, Numbers 11:23
To Jeremiah God said, Jeremiah 32:27

At the appointed time I will return to you,
God graciously repeats His promise

Genesis 18:15 Sarah denied it however, saying, "I did not laugh"
A lie **Psalm 130:2-3**

for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh."
Laps of faith on her part. She did recover and came back with great faith.
Hebrews 11:11-12

Application:

- 1 All Ministry Must First Be To The Lord. If We Fail To Be A Blessing To The Lord, We Will Never Be A Blessing To Others.
2. To The Extent That Our Lives Become More Impersonal, To That Extent We Become Less Hospitable.
3. **"Is anything too difficult for the LORD?"** The Greatest Miracle, Even Greater Than Isaac's Birth, Is That A Sinner Can Be Saved.