

GENESIS –Lesson 35

Learn: For with God nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:37

Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: far all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. Deuteronomy 32:3, 4

Read: Genesis 18:1-33

1. According to verse 2, who stood by Abraham?
2. According to verse 1, who was one of the three men?
3. Abraham was sitting in the door of his tent when “three men stood by him.” What is indicated by the context about their appearance?

Abraham had been sitting in the door of his tent thinking. Though there was nothing in the outward appearance of the three strangers to suggest that they had come from heaven, Abraham realized that they were very special visitors. His whole manner suggests an urgency about his conversation with them and, although it was no doubt the custom of men in the East to be very hospitable toward guests, there is clearly an element of more than normal hospitality here. Dr. Henry Morris

4. How did Abraham meet these men? v 2

NOTE: The phrase “bowed himself” is actually the Hebrew shachah, the usual word of “worship.” This, in fact, is the first use of this word in Scripture. Although it is often also used to describe bowing down in obeisance before men, the fact that it is used first in connection with worshipping God in human appearance seems significant as setting the standard for its primary meaning throughout Scripture. Dr. Henry Morris

5. Abraham made request that the men stay for a meal. Who did he address his request to? v 3

NOTE: “My Lord” (Hebrew Adonai), is one of the divine names. However, the same name is also used as a title of respect for men, so this does not in itself prove that Abraham recognized him yet as God. However, he also said: “For therefore are ye come to your servant,” which seems to indicate that he did recognize that their visit was in some way providential. THE GENESIS RECORD p 338 Dr. Henry Morris

6. What kindness did Abraham offer to these men? vv 4, 5
7. Though Abraham and Sarah had servants to do the work, what parts did both Sarah and Abraham themselves take in caring for the men? vv 6-8
8. Abraham and Sarah set an example for us by their hospitality. What does Hebrews 13:1, 2 remind us?
9. How did the three men respond to Abraham's offer and then provision of food? vv5, 8

It might seem strange that angels would actually partake physically of human food. It certainly is not necessary for them to do so for their own sustenance. Nevertheless, it is evidently possible for them to do so, in connection with their service as "messengers" (actual; meaning of the word "angels") from God to man. In order to communicate to man, they frequently appear in Scripture as men. This appearance is not a ghostlike, unsubstantial appearance, but in every way physical and real. There is no explaining of this phenomenon on a naturalistic level.

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10. God allows angels to be "clothed" in human form when the occasion requires. But what does Hebrews 1:14 tell us about angels?
11. What did the men do as soon as the men finished eating? v 9
12. Sarah, though not seen, was able to hear all that was said. The leader of the men, the Lord Himself, then delivered his message to both Abraham and Sarah. What was the message? v 10
13. Why did Sarah laugh to herself (not out loud) when she heard the Lord's promise? vv 11, 12
14. Sarah, though hearing the men talk, did not herself see them, nor know who they were. Though she knew God's promise that she should bare a "child of promise," her

faith needed to be strengthened. Why would the Lord's question of verse 13 be a help to Sarah's faith?

15. What did the Lord assure Sarah? v 14

16. Verse 14 is one of the mountain-peak verses of the Bible. What is the answer to the question "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Matthew 19:26

He who created all things surely controls all things. He who enacted the laws of nature can change them if He wills.

The adjective "hard" is the same as "wonderful," the same word describing the coming Messiah in Isaiah 9:6. This is indeed a wonderful miracle, but God specializes in things thought impossible, and He Himself is Wonderful!

17. What was Sarah's embarrassed denial? v 15

Does the LORD except denial? Explain.

18. What three reasons did the LORD give for not hiding from Abraham what He was about to do? vv 17-19

19. Does the LORD reveal some of what He will do to His children today?
If so, how? Where? Isaiah 45:21-23; Isaiah 46:9, 10

20. What did the LORD tell Abraham? vv 20,21

21. It is interesting that though God through Abraham had brought a great deliverance to Sodom and Gomorrah, their wickedness was so great that the LORD would destroy them. What does that tell us about men even though God does mighty works of

deliverance on their behalf? See John 12:37; 3:18-20

22. As the LORD knew Abraham's character, so Abraham also knew God's character. That is one of the marks of genuine friendship. What did Abraham know about God?
vv 23-25
23. In verses 23-33 we see a remarkable example of intercessory prayer. What was Abraham's attitude as he approached the LORD in the matter of the destruction of Sodom?

From this prayer and God's response we may learn several important facts. First, God does not want to bring judgment on any city or person. He does respond to the prayer of those who intercede, if there is any basis at all within the framework of His holiness and justice to enable Him to do so. Second, the remarkable influence which even a tiny minority may have for good is noteworthy. Only ten godly people in the corrupt city of Sodom would have been enough to spare it the awful destruction to be experienced shortly. Let no one think that his ministry is useless, regardless how small a number he may be able to reach for the Lord. Third, Abraham's prayer was highly reverent—never presumptuous at all—yet persistent and definite.

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24. In verse 25 we see that Abraham knows that God is not just a local deity. What did Abraham say?