

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
AUGUST 3, 2022
GENESIS 18:1-15

INTRODUCTION:

1. **GENESIS 18.1:** *“Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre...”*
 - a) PLACE: *“terebinth trees of Mamre”* (Gen. 14.13)
 - b) PERSON: *“The LORD”* Not the first time God appeared to Abraham. (Gen. 12.7; 17.1)
 - c) PURPOSE: God came to address the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen. 18.20,21)
2. As the realization of the promise draws closer, God once again reassures Abraham.

I. THE LORD APPEARS TO ABRAHAM

A. How did God appear to Abraham?

1. **GENESIS 18.2:** *“So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him...”* Men (Heb: ish): primarily used in reference to males in contrast to “adam”
2. God appeared to Abraham with two angels. (Gen. 18.22; 19.1)

B. Critics believe that the Bible contradicts itself. Can God be seen by man?

1. The Bible teaches that man cannot see God. (John 1.18; 1 Tim. 6.16)
2. Examples of individuals who have seen God. (Gen. 16.13; 32.30; Ex. 33.11,20-23)
3. When God appears to man, He does not appear in His true form but is represented.
 - a) Who appeared to Moses in the burning bush? (Ex. 3.4-6; Acts 7.35)
 - b) Who appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai? (Ex. 19.9,16-20; Heb. 2.2; Acts 7.53)
4. What does it mean to speak face to face? (Num. 12.6-8).
 - a) **NUMBERS 12.6:** God spoke to the prophets *“in a vision...in a dream”* (indirectly).
 - b) **NUMBERS 12.8:** God spoke to Moses *“plainly, and not in dark sayings”* (directly).

II. THE LORD SPEAKS TO ABRAHAM

A. How did Abraham react to the appearance of God?

1. Abraham approached God with reverence.
 - a) **GENESIS 18.2:** *“bowed himself to the ground.”*
 - b) Do we give reverence to God in His presence? (Mal. 2.1-5; Heb. 12.28,29)
2. Abraham approached God with servitude.
 - a) **GENESIS 18.3:** *“My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.”* (v. 5)
 - b) **GENESIS 18.3,4:** Abraham wanted take care of their needs.
 - c) Do we live to serve God? (Heb. 13.2; Matt. 22.37-40; 25.37-40)
3. Abraham approached God with urgency.
 - a) **GENESIS 18.6:** *“So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, ‘Quickly...’*
 - b) **GENESIS 18.7:** *“Abraham ran to the herd...a young man...hastened to prepare it.”*
 - c) Do we serve God with urgency? Is He a priority? (Prov. 3.9; Matt. 6.24,33; Luke 14.26)

B. What did God have to say to Abraham?

1. **GENESIS 18.10:** *“I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.”* Idiomatic expression referring to a year. (2 Kings 4.16)
2. **GENESIS 18.12:** *“Therefore Sarah laughed within herself...”*
 - a) Sarah did not believe *“saying, ‘After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure...’* (v. 12)
 - b) Compare her disbelief to Abraham’s outburst of joyous incredulity *“who contrary to hope, in hope believed”* (Rom. 4.17-22)
3. **GENESIS 18.13,14:** *“Is there anything too hard for the LORD?”*
 - a) Sarah laughed because she did not believe the impossible.
 - b) But God can do the impossible. (Gen. 17.1; Matt. 19.26)
4. **GENESIS 18.15:** *“Sarah denied it, saying, ‘I did not laugh.’”* Why did Sarah deny it?