

# GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

## Chapter 16, 17 & 18 Study Guide

5-16-04

# GENESIS

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## Genesis 16

### 1. BACKGROUND, CULTURE & EXEGESIS

The lesson of this chapter is don't get ahead of God and a good title would be: "What happens when we try to help God out"? Even though the culture mores at that time would allow Sarai to offer Hagar and then be the "legal" mother of the child this is not what God had in mind when he told the couple that he would give them an offspring. It is mind-blowing to conceive that the whole Arab Israeli mess today is due to the decision Sarai made in this chapter. I wonder how many messes we create when we try to help God out?

Needless to say what was done was done and God assured Hagar that he would watch out for her and made a commitment to Ishmael. By the way the name itself means 'god that hears" interesting how that name reflects the story given to us in this chapter.

Verse 12 tells us that Ishmael will be "a wild ass of a man" and that strife will be a continual part of his existence .... Wow!

#### Soul-Winner So What

We can see 2 things that can be applied to our lives from Genesis 16:7.

- 1) No matter the situation, God is always faithful to meet us where we are at to give us guidance. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar as she was in the wilderness, and spoke to her.
- 2) Hagar was employed as the maidservant of Sarai. We read that Hagar was treated harshly, which caused her to run and hide. As Hagar sat in the wilderness, away from her employer, the Angel of the Lord appeared to her and said to go back to Sarai and submit herself under her hand. We learn from this that the answer is not to run from your problems, but to submit yourself to those in authority.

### 2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

#### Themes

A couple predominate themes are found in Genesis. First is fact that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.

Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It is here that the initial step will be taken for man's



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redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

**Author** – Moses / **Date** - 1450 – 1410 BC

### 3. Theology

After receiving the promise from God that Abraham would have an heir from his own body, Abraham went home to his wife Sarai. Sarai was very old at this time and so Abraham started thinking to himself that his wife was pretty old and she may not be able to have children. So Sarai told Abraham to take her servant Hagar and have sex with her to produce an heir. Abraham did as he was told and Ishmael was born. Before he was born though, Sarai got jealous and started mistreating Hagar. Hagar went to Abraham to try and put it to an end, blaming him for the situation. Abraham basically told his wife that she could do anything that she wanted with her servant so Sarai continued to abuse Hagar. Shortly thereafter Hagar fled to the desert where she met up with the Angel of the Lord who told her that God would take care of her and to go home and submit to Sarai. Where have I heard this story before.....? Oh yeah **Jerry Springer**. This is bad news, this is the side of the family that you don't want to talk about, this is an embarrassment to the Abrahamic household. But we see, as always, that God works through their sin. In spite of our faults, in spite of our selfishness and lack of patience, God is in control. His overarching plan of salvation will not be stopped, his plan for human history and redemption will not be slowed. Its important for us to remember that we all play a part in God's plan for history but that part is always subject to the author of the story.

### 4. WORD STUDIES

Gen 16:7 “The Angel of the Lord” מלאך mal'ak  
Here is the first appearance of an angel visiting. An angel, or here a Theophany: appearance of God. Some refer to The Angel of the Lord as a Christophany- appearance of Jesus himself in the Old Testament. One might observe here that as Hagar was fleeing in a sinful way back to her home and while she was in the wilderness when she was most likely tired and weary, it was then that God came to her and met her there. Often the Lord brings us into a wilderness, and meets us there. Maybe because it is in the wilderness that we may see more clear what our sin in and repent and with the Lord get back on track to obedience. Hosea 2:14 “Therefore, behold I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her.’

### 5. Gospel/ Prophecy/ Pictures of Christ

Genesis 16:7,13



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*Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur... Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"*

If Christ is *the Angel of the LORD* (Yahweh) in Old Testament times, it is important for us to understand in what sense He can be referred to as an *angel*. The word *Angel* was used of Christ in the sense of "Messenger" or "Envoy"-which indicates that Christ was acting on behalf of the Father. Reformed Theologian John Calvin gives great insight into the OT appearances of Christ OR theophanies (which is an appearance or manifestation of God, usually in visible-bodily form).

"For even though he [Christ] was not yet clothed with flesh, he came down, so to speak, *as an intermediary*, in order to approach believers more intimately. Therefore this closer intercourse gave him the name angel. Meanwhile, what was his he retained that as God he might be of ineffable glory."

The phrase "of Yahweh" was always attached to the word Angel when used of Christ. The name Yahweh was always used for God only; the one who created the heavens and earth. This name was never used in relation to a created angel.

### Small Groups Question

**Read:** Hebrews chapter one.

According to Hebrews 1:4 how is the Son referred to in comparison to the angels?  
According to Hebrews 2:9 how is Jesus referred to in comparison to the angels?

- What is the contextual difference in those two passages?
- According to 1:8, what title does the Father use of the Son?
- How long has and will His throne be in existence?
- Where and what was Jesus doing in eternity past?
- According to Hebrews 1:14, what is the role of created angels?

### **SOUL-WINNER SO WHAT:**

What did you learn through this short study that may better equip you to stand against cultists who claim that Jesus is only an angel or is not God?

## **6. Attributes of God**

**God fulfills His promises in His time, not ours-**

*<sup>2</sup>So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, **the LORD has restrained me from bearing children**. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.*



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### **God sends messengers to communicate with us-**

*<sup>7</sup>Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. <sup>8</sup>And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?"*

### **God hears our afflictions-**

*<sup>11</sup>And the Angel of the LORD said to her:*

*"Behold, you are with child,  
And you shall bear a son.  
You shall call his name Ishmael,  
Because the LORD has heard your affliction.*

*<sup>12</sup>He shall be a wild man;  
His hand shall be against every man,  
And every man's hand against him.  
And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."*

### **Small Group Question**

- 1) How does God communicate with you?
- 2) How can you tell if it's actually a word from the lord?

## **7. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES**

### **Why wasn't Abram guilty of Adultery?**

According to extra-biblical cultural customs, a man who was given permission of his wife, could sleep with his servant and include her children in his household, particularly when the wife was barren. Remember this was done because of a lack of faith.

Now where have we seen this before? God gives a man a command/promise and instead of heeding the voice of Almighty God, he heeds the voice of his wife, which in these cases lead to negative consequences. Do the names Adam and Eve ring a bell? (Genesis 3)

### **Soul-Winner So What**

Why didn't Abram stand up and say, "Woman, God has promised, He will give us a child so fret not". Either he thought he would help God out or he was so focused on what he and his wife wanted and this appeared to be the quickest and easiest solution. Or maybe because he couldn't SEE the evidence he didn't believe.



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## Genesis 17

### I. BACKGROUND, CULTURE & EXEGESIS

This chapter can best be described as the 'Walk of Abraham' – here we will experience the rite of circumcision, the promise of Isaac and also a name change! And for all you overachievers you might want to look for all the “I will’s” that you can find in this chapter – I think there is over 20!

Now as far as circumcision – it was to be on the eighth day. Here are some incredible facts concerning the eighth day:

1. Vitamin K. the clotting element is not formed until the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> day.
2. Prothrombin (also necessary for clotting) – on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day it is only 30% of normal, it's not until the 8<sup>th</sup> day that it goes to 110% and then levels out after that.

How did Moses know all of that? Hmmm

Now for Isaac, God is very clear – the covenant is with Isaac not Ishmael (see verse 19). This verse is the major difference between the Koran and the Bible; God overlooks the child of the flesh (Ishmael) and establishes his everlasting covenant with the child of the spirit (Isaac). By the way, Isaac's name literally means laughter (see vs 17).

Finally, the name change. In the Hebrew the only additional letter added to Sarai and Abram is a 'Hey'. The 'Hey' literally means: to behold, reveal, breathe, wind, or spirit. It often is the used for the abbreviation of the Spirit. The inserting of the “Hey” into Abram and Sarai is simply the addition of the essence of the Father. So, from this time on we now have SaraH and AbraHam!

Now with the conclusion of this chapter we have the finalization of the Abrahamic Covenant. This covenant actually spans three different chapters. Let's take one final look at it.

#### ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

##### Genesis 12

1. Make you a great nation
2. Bless you and your name
3. Make you a blessing
4. Bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you

##### Genesis 15



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1. Covenant given to Abraham's physical seed
2. The Land is defined as from the Euphrates to the Nile

### Genesis 17

1. Circumcision – covenant with physical seed, forever
2. The Land of Canaan is to be an everlasting possession

### Small Group Questions

1. What is unique about the eighth day?
2. What is the literal translation of the following names
  - a. Ishmael
  - b. Isaac
  - c. Sarah
  - d. Abraham
3. What is the major difference between the Koran and the Bible?

## 2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

### Themes

A couple predominate themes are found in Genesis. First is fact that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.

Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter, God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It is here that the initial step will be taken for man's redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

**Author – Moses / Date - 1450 – 1410 BC**

## 3. Theology

Cutting your fingernails maybe...or keeping your hair short...maybe growing a beard and not cutting it...or perhaps you could only use your right hand...anything. Anything but circumcision!! Why in the world did God have to choose circumcision? Now the truth is that very very few men actually remember being circumcised. It's done when they are very young and though the pain is still very real, it isn't something that is scarring to the memory. But Abraham had it far worse; he was 100 years old when he was circumcised. Seriously though why did God choose circumcision? Well for a couple reasons. First of all, God's covenants are always blood covenants. Blood is



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the symbol of life, it is the giver and sustainer of life to the human body. God's promises to us are also symbols of life given to us through the Holy Spirit. Another reason is that as God says in verse 13, this is an everlasting covenant between God and Abraham and between God and Abraham's descendents. Circumcision doesn't go away with time, it lasts for your whole life. Circumcision is a constant reminder that we are God's people, circumcised forever both physically and spiritually. The last reason that God may have chosen circumcision is because it hurts. It's a sacrifice to be counted as one of God's people. Before the time that Constantine became Holy Roman Emperor, it was dangerous to be a Christian. Constantine made it legal to be a Christian and even ushered it in a state religion, thus castrating the power of the movement. Today, to say you are a Christian means nothing. Anyone can say it with no repercussions whatsoever. Times have changed and so has the sacrifice that God requires of us. Today, the sign of covenant between God and His people is the Christian Life, walking in and living by faith. That is the sacrificial mark of a Believer that God seeks

#### 4. WORD STUDIES

Gen 17: 5 "Abraham" God's affirmation of his covenant with Abraham is marked by the giving of new names- Abram becomes "Abraham" and "Sarai" becomes "Sarah"- along with the physical sign of circumcision.

**אַבְרָם** 'Abram Abram = "exalted father becomes **אַבְרָהָם** 'Abraham Abraham = "father of a multitude" or "chief of multitude". He was the founder of the Hebrew nation. And through his line was the promise of the Messiah. God's covenant also had some stipulations or demands. The first was to walk before him and be blameless and the second was to circumcise the males in their household. God's promises were unconditional but Abraham's immediate participation in God's blessing was conditional based on his faithfulness and his obedience to God's commands.

#### 5. PROPHECIES OF CHRIST – GOSPEL COMPONENT

*This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. Gen 17:10,11*

Circumcision (cutting away the male foreskin) was a sign that was physical and ethnical, in that it would begin to identify all the lineage of Abraham. This distinct mark was not only a health benefit, as it would remove any disease that could be held in the folds of the male foreskin. But was more of a symbol that had to do with cleansing and the cutting away of sin.



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In Jewish thought, it was this covenant in which the male organ clearly demonstrated the depth of depravity as it carried the seed that produced depraved sinners. Circumcision would then become the sign of a much needed and deeper form of cleansing that would reverse the effect of depravity.

According to Exodus 4:24-26:

- How serious was the “sign of the covenant” to the LORD?
- What had Moses neglected that his wife preceded to do?
- According to verse 26b, what did God allow for and why?

According to Romans 4:10-11:

- When was it that Abraham was *justified*?
- On *what basis* was he justified?
- What does the *sign* refer to in verse 4:11? (**Read:** Romans 2:28,29; Jer. 4:3-4; 9:24-26)
- Because of the *sign*, what became the *seal* in Romans 4:11?
- How is *that righteousness* obtained? (See Romans 4:11b).

Who/What is the *overall fulfillment* of the “sign of the covenant” that signified Abraham’s faith?

**Read:** Eph. 2:11-13; Col. 2:11-17...(what does verse 17 define for us in this text)?

### Soul-Winner So What

How is it that you are able to see Jesus in what we are learning through the covenantal promises of God in the O.T?

## 6. Attributes of God

**Sometimes God makes us wait to fulfil His promises-**

<sup>1</sup> When **Abram** was *ninety-nine years old*, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.”

**God expects us to be holy-**

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was *ninety-nine years old*, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; **walk before Me and be blameless.**”

**God repeats His covenants with us-**

<sup>4</sup>“As for Me, behold, **My covenant is with you**, and you shall be a father of many nations.”

**God can change us, even our names-**

<sup>5</sup>**No longer shall your name be called Abram**, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

<sup>15</sup>Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, **you shall not call her name Sarai**, but Sarah shall be her name.”



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### **God's covenants can reach our decendants-**

*<sup>7</sup>And I will establish My covenant between Me and you **and your descendants** after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.*

### **God's promises sometimes have conditions-**

*<sup>10</sup>This is My covenant **which you shall keep**, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; <sup>11</sup>and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.*

### **God's ways are not our ways-**

*<sup>19</sup>Then God said: "**No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son**, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.*

### **God doesn't forget people-**

*<sup>20</sup>And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.*

### **God expects us to be holy**

*<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.  
how do we accomplish this?"*

## **7. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES**

### **Why did he change Abrams name to Abraham?**

The first name means exalted father, the second name Abraham which means "father of many", God gave him before the promised son was conceived. Another stamp on Abraham as being God's chosen father of many nations.

### **What was the reason for circumcision?**

- 1) As a sign of obedience to him in all matters.
- 2) As a sign belonging to his covenant people, once circumcised there was no turning back.
- 3) It would permanently I.D. them as a Jew forever.
- 4) As symbolic of cutting off the old life of sin, purifying ones heart and dedicating oneself to God. This was essential to develop the pure worship of the one true God and also sealed the commitment to God, saying if I am not loyal in faith and obedience to the Lord, may the sword of the Lord cut me and my offspring and all I possess to the service of the Lord.

### **Soul-Winner So What**

This was indeed a test, might I add a huge test of Abraham's Trust and obedience to serve him. He, as well as most of the men he had to circumcise, were adults,



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and by completing this command he clearly showed he was ready to be who God had called him to be. Enough said.

What is God testing you on right now to be faithful in?

**Don't focus on the pain of the test, focus on the joy which will come from the successful completion of the test.**

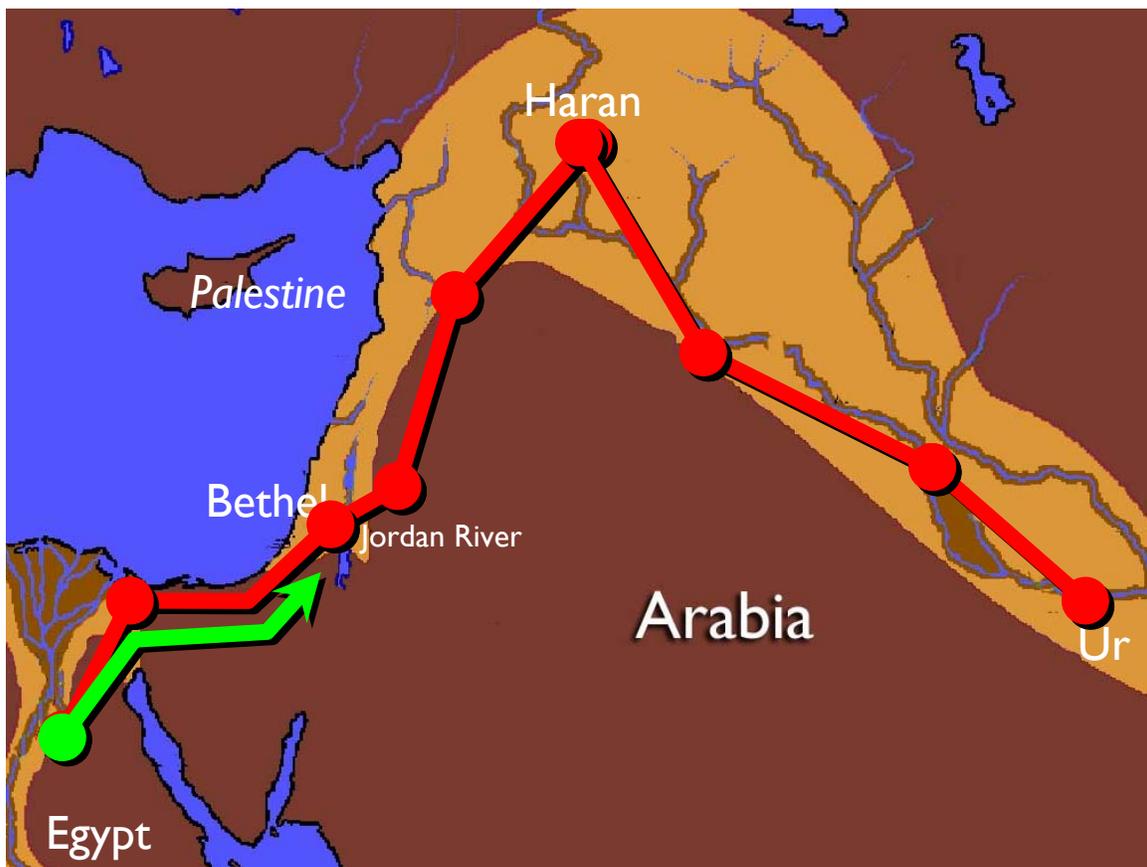
### Soul-Winner So What

After all God had done how could Abraham and Sarah laugh at God?

This was a clear sign of disbelief. Through the eyes of man, a 100 yr old man and a 90 yr. old woman having a baby, how absurd?

It would be easy to say after all God had showed them and delivered them from, how could they doubt? It's called human nature. However even though Abraham had a moment of temporary disbelief by his display of laughter, he was still faithful to do what God told him to do.

## 8. Geographical Component



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## Genesis 18

### 2. BACKGROUND, CULTURE & EXEGESIS

The lesson of this chapter is don't get ahead of God and a good title would be: "This is what happens when we try to help God out". Even though the culture mores at that time would allow Sarai to offer Hagar and then be the "legal" mother of the child this is not what God had in mind when he told the couple that he would give them an offspring. It is mind-blowing to conceive that the whole Arab / Israeli mess today is due to the decision Sarai made in this chapter. I wonder how many messes we create when we try to help God out?

Needless to say what was done was done and God assured Hagar that he would watch out for her and made a commitment to Ishmael. By the way the name itself means 'god that hears" interesting how that name reflects the story given to us in this chapter.

Verse 12 tells us that Ishmael will be "a wild ass of a man" and that strife will be a continual part of his existence .... Wow!

#### **Small Groups Question**

In this chapter what would lead you to believe that Abraham knew there was something unique and different about his three guests?

#### **Soul-Winner So What**

Abraham "negotiated" for Sodom, in what ways are you "negotiating" for the lost today?

### 2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

#### **Themes**

A couple predominate themes are found in Genesis. First is fact that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.

Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It will be here that the initial step will be taken for man's redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

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### 3. Theology

It's a really good thing that God isn't a used car salesman, because he would be really bad at it. Or maybe Abraham would just be a really good consumer. Whatever it may be Abraham had to be walking away from his conversation with God in Chapter 18 feeling pretty good about himself. Basically God wanted to destroy the city of Sodom, He had heard that it was very wicked and deserving of destruction. The story makes it sound like he was just thinking out loud when Abraham asked Him if He would spare the city if there were fifty righteous people. God agreed. Abraham pushed his luck, and asked for forty-five. Again God agreed. 40? Agreed. 30? Agreed. Finally Abraham got God down to five people. The whole city would be saved if, when God went down there to check things out he could find five righteous people.

What does this tell us about God exactly? That he is a pushover? Probably not. That He is indecisive? Unlikely. Does it teach us that God has an immense heart for people and that for the sake of very few people who love Him, he would spare an entire city of defilers? I think we are getting close. Imagine this. God sits on a hillside outside of Las Vegas, Nevada. You happen to be within earshot of his private musings, and overhear something about sin, wickedness and destruction. You have lived your whole life just a few miles away and you have family that lives in Vegas, so you muster up all of your strength and guile and speak up. "Ahem, God? Can I be so bold as to ask you something? Yeah, uh, I know some people down there, and I know how ugly and deceitful a place it is, but could you possibly find it in your heart to spare the land if, and only if, you find a few people who love you?" Imagine the fear, imagine yourself holding your breath as you await his response. And finally, after what seems like an eternity of silence (remember a moment to God is like an eternity to us) he speaks. Very softly, sensing the distress in your voice, he says He would. But the tension doesn't end there, you know the city, finding fifty righteous people there is out of the question. So you push your luck, knowing in the back of your mind that you can only think of a small handful of believers in the town. Every time he says yes, it gets a little easier to ask again, and finally as you are starting to reach a manageable number it hits you, God doesn't want to destroy the city at all. What was at first very intimidating to ask for now feels as if you are playing a part in a pre-scripted play. This conversation was supposed to happen, you may not be sure why but you think it has something to do with grace, and maybe love.

### 4. WORD STUDIES

Unknowingly, Abraham's hospitality invited the Lord himself into his home and prepared for them a great meal. It was soon revealed in Verse 14 "Is there anything too hard for the Lord?" and Sarah's laughter changed to fear. We also see how Abraham's prayer in the rest of the chapter goes to show that he was a friend of God (2 Chronicles 20:7). **But in the event Sodom could not even produce ten good men, but we do see the lengths to which God's mercy goes.**



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### 5. Prophecies of Christ

*Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. 2So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, 3and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. Gen 18:1-4*

Here we see another occurrence of a theophany. *Theophany* is formed from the Greek noun for God (*theos*) and the Greek verb “to appear” or “manifest” (*phaneo*). A theophany is a temporary, visible appearance or manifestation of God. It is a form of revelation in which God makes His presence known to people in a human form. A theophany must be distinguished from the permanent revelation of God in Jesus Christ, which we call the incarnation.

The most frequent appearance of God in human form is that of the *Angel of the Lord*. These preincarnate appearances may also be called Christophanies.

The Angel of the Lord is distinctly different from that of a servant-created angel. The preincarnate Christ as Angel of the Lord is identified as God by the fact that He is identified as God, called Himself God, received worship, and spoke with divine authority. Also these appearances show that the Angel of the Lord is distinguished from God the father.

In Genesis chapter 18, find where the Angel of the Lord:

- Is identified as God
- Refers to Himself as God
- Receives worship
- Speaks with divine authority

How do created angels respond to those who bow to them in worship?

See Revelation 19:10, 22:9 why might he have bowed down in such a manner?

#### **Soul-Winner So What**

*In an age in which so many are seeking spiritual enlightenment and the talk of angels being common and broad, how will you better be able to speak from a biblical position when such conversations arise?*

### 6. Attributes of God



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### God appears to men-

<sup>1</sup> Then **the LORD appeared to him** by the terebinth trees of Mamre,<sup>[1]</sup> as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

### God sometimes appears with angels-

<sup>2</sup> So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, **three men** were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,

### God allows us to serve Him-

<sup>5</sup> And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant."  
They said, "Do as you have said."

### Nothing is too hard for God-

<sup>14</sup> **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."

### God knows everything-

<sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid.  
And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

### God will honor our persistence-

<sup>26</sup> So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom **fifty righteous** within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

<sup>32</sup> Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: **Suppose ten should be found there?**"  
And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

### Small Group Question

God wants us to stand and be righteous. How are we, as a church and personally, standing for God?

## 7. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES

Did Abraham change God's mind in number of righteous people it would take to save Sodom and Gomorrah?

Absolutely not...The more likely answer is God changed Abraham's mind. Through Abraham's probing to see how merciful God was, it was validated that God is just and



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he punishes sin. When It was all said and done Abraham was convinced that God was both kind and fair.

### Soul-Winner So What

No matter how hard we pray and plead, we will never change God's mind. However when we sincerely pray for not our will but God's will to be done, our minds may change just as Abraham's prayer changed his. It's easy to misuse prayer by using it to get everything we want. But when we use it the right way, prayer helps us better understand the mind of God and it gives us God's perspective on life.

### 8. Geographical Component

