

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 18

Genesis eighteen is divided into two very different parts in the English Bible, but remember, all of the books and chapters of the Bible are telling the *Redemptive Story of God*. The first part of the chapter is the amazing chapter about a heavenly trio that visits Abraham while he is beneath the shade trees at Mamre, also called Hebron. The three visitors turn out to be two angelic beings and the third, the Lord Himself. Abraham followed the custom of his day in preparing a quick meal of the best he had, and to ask the visitors to rest on their way. When they ask specifically about Sarah, Abraham's wife, it became clear these were not just ordinary people passing by that day. When the divine messengers gave a prophesy of Sarah becoming pregnant and bearing a son in old age, she was listening out of sight, behind the door of the tent. Verse thirteen reveals that the one who spoke with Abraham was indeed God Himself in what is called by theologians a, "theophany" or God manifestation. This happens several times in the Old Testament record. He revealed to Abraham his awareness of Sarah laughing in her heart, which only God can see.

The next half of the chapter is the story of the visitors now sharing with Abraham, now a covenant partner in the Great Story of God, what He is about to do in bringing judgment upon the

wicked people of the cities of the plain, namely Sodom and Gomorrah. The chapter records uncle Abraham interceding for his nephew Lot and his family. What follows is the record of the man Abraham bargaining with God for the sparing of his family. God shows his mercy in allowing Abraham to ask for a sparing of the city if just ten righteous people were found. It is incredibly sad that in all the cities there were not even ten righteous people that would have allowed God to spare the great cities, despite the wickedness of these people. God left Abraham, and in the next chapter is the record of the destruction of the cities of the region around Yam Hamelech or the Salt Sea, what is named the "Dead Sea" of present day.

Prayer and Action Steps

The amazing record of the Scriptures is filled with story after story more fascinating than any told by modern man. These stories show the justice, mercy, and faithfulness of God. Pray and thank God for these stories which were written for our learning and our instruction (Romans 15:4). Ask God to teach you the great lessons of chapter eighteen and to realize that like with Sarah, God sees and knows what is in our heart before we speak. He really knows us. Ask God to make us an intercessor such as Abraham. Look for ways today that you can intercede for others.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
