

Lesson 6 – Genesis 18-22

Text: Genesis 18-22

Main Characters: God, Abraham, Sarah, Lot, Abimelech, Isaac

Key Passages:

- Genesis 18:14 – “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”
- Genesis 21:1-2 – God remembered His promise to Sarah and delivered as promised.
- Genesis 22:18 – Because of Abraham’s obedience, he would reap the rewards of God’s promise.

Main Storyline:

Shortly after Abraham circumcised his household, the Lord appeared to him again with two angels (all three appeared as men) at his tent. Abraham quickly rushed around to prepare a meal for them. The Lord reminded Abraham that in a year’s time, Sarah would have a son. Sarah overheard this conversation and laughed in unbelief. The Lord rebuked her, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

As the “men” were leaving, God revealed to Abraham that Sodom and Gomorrah were about to be destroyed. Abraham feared for any that were righteous among the cities (perhaps for Lot especially) and “bargained” with God not to destroy the cities. Eventually, they agreed that if 10 righteous people were found in the cities, all would be spared on account of the righteous people there.

Two of the men (probably the two angels) left Abraham and journeyed to Sodom to survey the city. As they entered, they met Lot there “in the gates” (which means that he likely had some sort of higher position in the city, perhaps a magistrate). Lot urged them not to stay in the open square, but rather to stay with him in his house. During the night, evil men surrounded his house, demanding that the two visitors be let out so that the men could rape them. Lot tries to defuse the situation, even offering his two daughters to them, but they just become more agitated by his attempts. Eventually, the angels intervene by saving Lot and blinding the rowdy crew around the house. The angels then warn Lot to escape, as the city was about to be destroyed. The next day, he and his family escape to Zoar just as the Lord destroys the cities. Lot’s wife looks back, however, and she turns to a pillar of salt.

A year passed, and the Lord remembered Sarah and the promise He had made to her. Sarah then gave birth to her firstborn son, Isaac, at age 90 (Abraham was 100). Hagar, her maid, scoffed at her (perhaps pointing out that Isaac was not the heir) and provoked her to demand her dismissal. Abraham complied (with instruction from God), and sent Hagar and Ishmael away.

A great test of Abraham’s faith came as he was instructed, by God, to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering. Abraham trusted God and obeyed immediately. He arose early the next morning and set off toward Mount Moriah with Isaac, some servants, and supplies for the burnt offering. When they arrived, Abraham prepared Isaac to be offered as a burnt offering, just as God commanded. As Abraham was about to kill his son, an angel stopped him. Then God gave a ram to Abraham to be a replacement burnt offering. As a result of Abraham’s obedience, God repeated the “seed” promise to him (Christ).

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) God has the power to do anything at any time; we must only believe (Matthew 21:21).
- 2.) The Lord cares deeply for the righteous, and will delay judgment on their account (2 Peter 3:9).
- 3.) Living near sin will lead to living in sin (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- 4.) Our sins affect others, not just ourselves (see the example of David as well, 2 Samuel 12).
- 5.) God is faithful regarding the promises that He makes (notice those whom God “remembered”).
- 6.) Faith in God is imperative, even when we may not understand why He commands what He does.