



Genesis 18

I love it when I can say that I have actually visited this spot. Our guide pointed out a pillar of salt. Is it Lot's wife? This area is fairly barren. It's next to mount Nebo where Moses died. The Dead sea is near. As is Israel. This area is a hotbed of spiritual activity. All our famous places like the sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, and Nazareth are in the surrounding distance. God has extra presence in this place.

Speaking of God, Abraham notices three men outside his camp. He immediately calls them his Lord and rushes to make them a meal and lodging. Much has been written about these three men. Are they the (incarnate) indwelling forms of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Some people believe that. Are these men Angels? I don't tend to believe either of those stories because of two things. One is that when the real Lord is near the human is told it is holy ground. Secondly, people tend to fear Angels at first. Neither of these things happen here.

However, Abraham is calling them his Lord. Is it a divine Lord or someone with great authority or power in the region? Either way, Abraham recognizes them and bows down before them. To me it's like Melchizedek. Abraham knows these men. They hold some great importance to those people in that day. Who are these three men?

This is a fun and famous part to this story. One of the men asks Abraham where his wife is. Clearly, they know each other. Abraham says she is in the tents back room. Then the man all of a sudden prophesies that Sarah will have a child. Realize that she and her husband are very old. She is eaves dropping the whole conversation. At the conclusion of the prophesy Sarah laughs. The man says Sarah laughs at him? They get into a discussion about the laugh. Sarah denies it but the man says “you did laugh.”

Further to this is the Lord. The man says to Sarah “is anything too hard for the Lord? This is a famous turning point in Abrahams life. For around 90 years they have been barren from children. Sarah ‘s faith has dipped and she made her husband sleep with her handmaid to have a child. Then God appears in these three men and repeats that she will have a child. In this spiritual area they are having a spiritual encounter with the Lord.

Verses 16 through 20 are interesting. The men get up and are looking towards Sodom and Gomorrah. I could see them looking on towards the towns and asking “Why is Abraham that close?” I am betting the land is vast. Yet, Abraham is staying close to his brother Lot in Sodom. These men repeat that Abraham is blessed of God. That he needs to be protected because his seed will be great in the eyes of the Lord.

Then these three men (Spirit led) head towards Sodom. They have heard the cry of the people. The cry? There were probably oppressed people in those towns that hated the evil there. They cried out to God in prayer. The men say they are going to investigate. Then we have this little exchange between the men and Abraham.

Abraham plays a negotiating game with the Lord over Sodom and Gomorrah. Will God take the cities down if 50 righteous men are still there/ The Lord says yes, he would spare them if

50 righteous were there. God can say yes. He can appear to change his mind. This negotiation continues down to 10 people. Why 10? I suspect it is his brother Lots family of 10. Abraham knows they are still in there. Sometimes God is said to predestine things. To have a plan and will. Does that mean things are set in a certain way? I think it comes back to verse 14 "is anything too hard for the Lord." We have free will. We make choices. I am sure God can make corrections to keep his plan in place. Yet, how we get to Gods plan is fluid. God will find a way through. From 50 to 10 God would still save some and destroy evil. I loved this section of scripture. God can say yes, while fulfilling his plan and will.