

Read Genesis 18:1-8

- How much time has elapsed since the end of chapter 17? (*cf. 17:2; 18:10*)

- As Abraham is resting in the middle of the day, he looks up and sees three visitors standing at a distance. Why were they standing at a distance?

- Can you think of a modern example of this?

- Who were the three visitors? (*cf. 18:1; 19:1*)

- (verses 2-3) Did Abraham recognize who these three visitors were?
 - Hebrews 13:2 – *“Don’t neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.”*

- Evaluate this statement: “Abraham greeted the three travelers humbly and courteously. By our standards his invitation, and especially his hospitality, might seem overdone, but perhaps our standards need adjusting.”

- What is amazing about the way Abraham greets these visitors?

- In verse 5, Abraham offered that he would get these visitors a bit of bread, yet notice what he sets before them. What does the food that Abraham sets before his visitors tell you about Abraham?
 - Bread made from 3 Measures (literally – 3 Seahs) of flour
 - Meat of a choice calf
 - Curds/butter
 - Milk

- How long would all this preparation have taken?

- If Abraham’s guests were heavenly visitors, why did they eat?

- How could you use verse 5 to comfort an elderly shut-in?

Read Genesis 18:9-15

- The question “Where Is your wife Sarah?” revealed the purpose of the visit of these heavenly guests. Can you list three things that this simple question showed about these visitors?

- What was the purpose for asking that question?

- Why did Sarah laugh at the prospect of having a child?

- Romans 4:19 – ^{“19} *He considered his own body to be already dead (since he was about 100 years old) and also considered the deadness of Sarah’s womb, without weakening in the faith.”*

- Hebrews 11:11-12 – ^{“11} *By faith even Sarah herself, when she was unable to have children, received power to conceive offspring, even though she was past the age, since she considered that the One who had promised was faithful.”*

- What other amazing detail is found here? How is that detail comforting?

Read Genesis 18:16-21

- What common courtesy does Abraham extend to his distinguished guests? *(By this time he had realized that his guests were more than ordinary travelers; see the “I” in verse 14)*

- What purposes do you see in God revealing to Abraham his plan to judge Sodom?

- How do you understand the phrase, “I will go down and see” (v. 21)?

- Do you remember the connection that Abraham has with Sodom?

Read Genesis 18:22-33

- What is noteworthy about Abraham’s prayer recorded here?

- How was Abraham’s prayer answered?

- Note the name used for God in verse 33 (and others).