

The Promise of Isaac

Genesis 18

The LORD appeared to Abraham as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.¹ He lifted up his eyes, and behold, three men were standing in front of him.² When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth, saying, “O Lord, if I have found favor in Your sight, do not pass by Your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on.”

So they said, “Do as you have said.”

Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs³ of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds⁴ and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. He stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?”

And he said, “She is in the tent.”

The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.”

Sarah was listening at the tent door behind Him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.⁵ So Sarah laughed to herself.

The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time, I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid.

He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Explanatory Notes

¹Noon. ²The Lord and two angels. ³About 20 quarts. ⁴Butter. ⁵Unable to bear children.



“Sarah shall have a son.”

For Reflection

1. Who were Abraham’s visitors? Why did Sarah laugh at their message?
2. Abraham shared a special meal with the Lord and the angels. What special meal do God’s people share as part of a worship service? What makes this meal so special?
3. Is anything too hard for the Lord? Why or why not?

Words to Remember

“God is not man, that He should lie, or a son of man, that He should change His mind. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not fulfill it?” *Numbers 23:19*