

A Close Encounter

Genesis Chapter 18

Gen 18:1 Abraham's Household Encountered

1) Hospitable Worship vs 1-8

Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day.

- LORD = Jehovah (the existing one) Not an angel, Not Melchizedek, But the LORD appeared

Gen 18:2 When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw {them,} he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth,

- A sense of suddenness
- Bowed = (shachah) translated 99x as worship Also this is 1st mention. Rule of 1st mention usually defines the subject or action. Here Abraham defines the action of worship for us.
- Watch the agility of this 99 year old man He Runs, verse 7 he runs again and grabbed a calf

Gen 18:3 and said, "My Lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass Your servant by.

Gen 18:4 "Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree;

Gen 18:5 and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant." And they said, "So do, as you have said."

Gen 18:6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Quickly, prepare three measures of fine flour, knead {it} and make bread cakes."

- Interesting Husband / Wife interaction here.
Unexpected guests (short notice) Abraham needs to extend hospitality and Sarah is expected to drop everything and prepare bread This is an OPPORTUNITY FOR CONFLICT. Abraham and Sarah handle this well. It doesn't mean that it wasn't inconvenient or difficult, it seems that they had a predetermined disposition to be hospitable.
- The Bedouin - Their traditional hospitality is one to welcome even a stranger and offer coffee. Up to four cup. The more coffee offered the more welcome the guest is. In eastern cultures a guest is actually protected by their host even unto death. That is how seriously they took the concept of hospitality.
- Romans 12:13 lists Hospitality as a Spiritual Gift.

Gen 18:7 Abraham also ran to the herd, and took a tender and choice calf and gave {it} to the servant, and he hurried to prepare it.

Gen 18:8 He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed {it} before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.

- Non Kosher - Dairy and meat served together Ex 23:19; Ex 34:26; Deut 14:21
- The LORD ate Non Kosher

Gen 18:9 2) A Little Laugh & A Little Lie vs 9-15

Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "There, in the tent."

Gen 18:10 He said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him.

Gen 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing.

Gen 18:12 Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

Gen 18:13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear {a child,} when I am {so} old?'

Gen 18:14 "Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

- *Very Familiar Quote*
- *Quoted again*
Matt 19:26 Camel thru an eye of a needle talking about salvation with God
Luke 1:37 Angel to Mary about Elizabeth bearing a child

Gen 18:15 Sarah denied {it} however, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh."

- *Sarah lied to the Lord*
- *Notice the Lord did not scold or show wrath*

Gen 18:16 **3) Heart of Intercession** vs 16-33

Then the men rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off.

Gen 18:17 The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,

Gen 18:18 since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?

- *The Lord considers Abraham in His plans*
- .

Gen 18:19 "For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."

Gen 18:20 And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.

- *They Had seen the Power of the Lord*
- *They were Beneficiaries of His deliverance*
- *They heard the testimony of Melchizedek*
- *Lot surely witnessed of the Lord*
- *Yet they rejected Him!!!*
- *APPLICATION: How about us in the USA? Is our nation crying out for judgment? Is our sin exceedingly grave?*

Gen 18:21 "I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

Gen 18:22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD.

Gen 18:23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

- *Abraham knows the Character of the LORD. He will not sweep away the righteous..*

Gen 18:24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep {it} away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it?

Gen 18:25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are {treated} alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"

- Gen 18:26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account."
- Gen 18:27 And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am {but} dust and ashes.
- Gen 18:28 "Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy {it} if I find forty-five there."
- Gen 18:29 He spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose forty are found there?" And He said, "I will not do {it} on account of the forty."
- Gen 18:30 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; suppose thirty are found there?" And He said, "I will not do {it} if I find thirty there."
- Gen 18:31 And he said, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord; suppose twenty are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy {it} on account of the twenty."
- Gen 18:32 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy {it} on account of the ten."
- *Abraham assumed there were ten*

<i>Lot and his wife</i>	2
<i>Two un married daughters</i>	2
<i>Two Sons</i>	2
<i>Two Married Daughters and their Husbands</i>	<u>4</u>
	10
- Gen 18:33 As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the LORD departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

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