

GENESIS 18:1-5, 10-14 **JUST INCREDIBLE!**

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. ³ He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. ⁵ Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?'" ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son."

According to the natural way of things in this world, Sarah's biological clock had stopped ticking and there was no possible way for her to bear a child. No wonder Abraham had laughed when he heard the news from God (Genesis 17:17) and Sarah laughed when it was repeated and she overheard it (Genesis 18:12). At such incredible news, what else is a person to do? This response is not so much out of a lack of faith as it is a reflection of Abraham's relief that somehow the waiting is over and Sarah's feeling of "you have got to be kidding."

Through this experience of Abraham and Sarah we are given one of the most obvious examples of God's absolute sovereignty. When God promises something, he will make it come to pass no matter how large the mountain of evidence against it. There is nothing that is too hard for God.

The greatest mountain between us and God is that of our sin. We seem to be "hard wired" for self-centeredness and disobedience. In fact, it is so bad and we are so incapable of fixing it ourselves, that Jesus tells us that we must be reborn in order to enter the kingdom of God (John 3:3). Nicodemus utters our "you have got to be kidding" response to Jesus' statement: "How can a man be born when he is old? Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born!" (John 3:4). The God who used a "permanently" barren womb and a 99 year old man to sire the son of the promise, is the same God who will rebirth you without any human womb or father, but by his sovereign Spirit. His promise will be fulfilled. Truly, nothing is too hard for God!

Father, when I am faced with the obstacles this life places before the fulfillment of your promise, give me the eyes of faith that will see you in my situation and the ears of faith that will hear you assuring me of your loving kindness. Prepare me to be amazed at your sovereign power at work in my life. Amen.