

**IS ANYTHING TOO
HARD FOR THE LORD?**
Genesis 18:1-15

INTRODUCTION

Since Genesis 12, God has been developing a relationship with Abraham. Romans 4:16:22 describes how Abraham's walk of faith has matured at this time. Sarah has heard and seen and even experienced all this as Abraham's wife. Yet, she is in a different place spiritually, and the Lord knows this. In Genesis 18:1-15, the Lord will challenge and encourage her. His desire is to get Sarah to a place where she also believes in His miraculous ability to perform all He says He will do.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 18:1-15 several times. In this study, let's focus primarily on the Lord's interaction with Sarah. Abraham "*staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief*". Sarah is not there though. Consider how the Lord might want **you** to come to the place where, as Sarah, **you** will grow in faith at the hard promises of God in your life. After all, **Is Anything Too Hard For The LORD?**

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

I. Verses 1-5. The LORD appears to Abraham. The Lord has appeared to Abraham before, but we don't have details. This is the first time He appears in human form. Two angels also appear with Him, who will go on to Sodom later. Abraham, given to hospitality, is actually speaking face to face with God! Blessed man, huh? Being given to hospitality is a characteristic of members of the body of Christ, and holds great reward. See *Romans 12:9-13, Hebrews 13:1-2. Selah.*

II. Verses 6-8. Abraham serves, they eat a meal. Enjoying fellowship with Abraham, the Lord eats a meal, showing He is not only a spirit, but in human form in this text. This also happened when Jesus in His resurrected body appears to His disciples and ate in their presence. Just an interesting note here – God freely ate non kosher diet, with dairy and meat at the same meal! Rabbis use 3 Scriptures (*Exodus 23:19 & 34:26, and Deuteronomy 14:21*), and twist them to form a tradition in diet. Even today, some twist Scripture or use tradition to make worship of God difficult. Be careful, beloved.

III. Verses 9-13. Sarah's response to the Lord's promise of a son. Sarah overheard the Lord's promise, and she laughed within herself at this illogical, impossible statement. (A child in my old age? I'm way past child bearing age! Abraham too!! NO WAY!!!). The Lord desires to deliver her from unbelief in God's power to perform the impossible.

IV. Verse 14. **Is anything too hard for the LORD?** Not only in Genesis 18, but here is a question for the ages. Let's pause here. Consider the word "hard". Hard means wonderful, marvelous, extraordinary, miraculous. This verse is the first occurrence of the word "hard" in the Bible. Scripture teaches us that our God is a miracle working God - what man thinks is impossible, the Lord can do! Look up and read in context these Scriptures: *Luke 1:37, 2 Chronicles 14:11, and Jeremiah 32:17&27*. Mary, Asa, and Jeremiah all had faith in a miracle working God who can do the impossible. Can you think of others who had this faith in our wonder working Lord? Our God is able to do exceedingly above... Amen

So, why do we so often "laugh within ourselves" at God's word? Simply put, we read God's word from a natural or intellectual level. The Sadducees were like this. They had the Scriptures, but did not know the Scriptures or the power of God. With no belief in resurrection, heaven, miracles, angels – the God of the Bible is limited to man's understanding & strength. If that is our perspective, we can lose all hope or become cynical when things are too hard.

V. Verse 15. Sarah denies laughing in unbelief. Despite that, God will perform the impossible anyway! The Lord would not let Sarah remain in her unbelief, but challenged her in it. What happened in Sarah's heart? See *Hebrews 11:11*. Imagine her testimony as she could daily share "**With God, Nothing Is Impossible!**"

CONSIDER God is able to perform wonderful, impossible, awesome, even miraculous things in your life.

- Is there anything too hard for you? Yes! Be like Abraham, remember the facts. **You can trust in God's Word.**
- Is there anything too hard for God? No! Be like Abraham, trusting in God's Word. **You can trust in God's power.**
- What's too hard for you right now? Don't give up. Remember God's past miracles. **Keep praying, working, trusting.**

PRAY

- Upcoming events – Shepherd School 10/24-11/4, Church fast 11/28-12/2
- St. John in Exile 10/14 & 15 Who can you invite to this awesome testimony Patrick will give through John's gospel?
- Prayer ministry – Church Sunday evenings, Women's Tuesday, Men's Saturday, During church services in prayer room
- Church Bible studies – Foundations Class, Inductive Bible Study Class, Women's Bible Study, Home Fellowships
- Local and international & missions – The Father's Heart Ministry, Pastor Peter Will, Ethiopia pastoral training