

GENESIS

Lesson 10

You shall call his name Isaac . . .

ISAAC'S BIRTH PROMISED

Genesis 17:15-18:21

In Genesis 17:5, Abram's name is changed to Abraham. This name Abram means "exalted father" while Abraham means "father of a multitude." This is a universal name because Abraham is the father of many nations. Now Sarai's name is to be changed to Sarah. While both names mean "princess" or "heroine" this new name symbolises a new beginning or a new emphasis on the meaning of her name.

- 1. What was the response of Abraham to the prophecy that he and Sarah would have a son? (Genesis 17:17-18)**
- 2. What details does God give Abraham about Ishmael and Isaac? (Genesis 17:19-21)**

After hearing God's promise, Abraham immediately moved to circumcise all the males in his household just as God had commanded. Faith responds with action. These events take place when Abraham was 99 years old which would have been about the year B.C. 2068.

Three men appeared to Abraham in Genesis 18 and one of them is called "the Lord." God himself speaks to Abraham. During the heat of the day the three men approached Abraham. It was unusual to travel to someone's house during this time of the day. Abraham did not know who the men were, but showed great hospitality. Water was brought to wash their feet and they were offered cakes of flour and meat from a young calf. They also received curds and milk.



3. What question do the men ask Abraham in Genesis 18:9?

4. What does the Lord tell Abraham in Genesis 18:10 and what is the response of Sarah who was listening to the men speak? (Genesis 18:10-12).

In Genesis 18:14, the Lord asks “Is anything too hard from the Lord?” The answer is a resounding no. God is limitless in his power. It was no problem for the Creator of the universe to enable a woman great in years to conceive and bear a son.

5. Why did Sarah deny laughing at the prospect of having a baby (Genesis 18:15)?

As the men leave Abraham they looked toward Sodom and as was custom, Abraham followed them for a distance as they departed. The Lord said that Abraham could be told what would happen to Sodom because from him would come a great and mighty nation. The Lord said that Sodom and Gomorrah were so wicked that they deserved destruction.

ABRAHAM INTERCEDES FOR SODOM

Genesis 18:22-33

6. Describe Abraham’s intercession for Sodom. What did Abraham ask and how did he ask (Genesis 18:23-33)?

7. What was the response of God to the request of Abraham for Sodom?

GOD RESCUES LOT

Genesis 19:1-22

The story in Genesis 19:1-22 covers three important topics: 1) What the angels found in Sodom. 2) What the angels did in Sodom. 3) What Lot lost in Sodom.¹

¹ Smith, James E. *Old Testament Survey Series: The Pentateuch*. Joplin, Missouri: College Press, 1992.

When the angels came to Sodom they found Lot sitting in the gate. This shows Lot had reached some level of status within the town since he is sitting in a place where commerce took place. Lot offered hospitality to the angels (who he thought were men.) He also knew enough about Sodom to know that they would be unsafe if they spent the night in the town square.

8. What did the angels find in Sodom? (Genesis 18:4-9)

The men of Sodom, both young and old were so wicked and so vile that they wanted to act with homosexual rape against these two visitors. Amazingly Lot offered these men his two daughters to meet their sexual desires, but they wanted the men.

Why would Lot offer his daughters? Perhaps he thought them men would not take advantage local girls. Perhaps he thought that heterosexual rape was less vile and wicked than homosexual rape. Lot may have thought that the girls' fiancé's would intervene on behalf of the daughters. We don't know why Lot made this offer, but it was completely unacceptable. One cannot agree to sin in one area just to avoid it in another. Furthermore, a father who is charged with the protection of his family must provide that protection taking whatever steps he can.

The people of the city turned against Lot calling him a sojourner in their city who had become a judge. Even though Lot had gained some status in the city, the local men turned against him in pursuit of their wickedness.

9. What did the angels do in Sodom? (Genesis 18:10-22)

The angels warned Lot to depart from the city because it was going to be destroyed. Lot took his wife and his daughters with him, but his sons-in-law refused thinking that it was a joke. Even with the warning, Lot was in no great hurry (18:16) and he would not run as far as the angels asked instead asking and being granted permission to stop in a small town called Zoar.



GOD DESTROYS SODOM

Genesis 19:23-29

The Lord rained down sulphur and fire from heaven upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Not only were the cities destroyed, but the land was also ruined. Not obeying the word of the angels to not look back (18:17) Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt (18:26).

WHAT LOT LOST IN SODOM

Genesis 19:30-38

Lot lost much in Sodom. He lost his home and his wealth. He lost his family; at least his wife and perhaps sons and daughters. In the most important way, he even lost his daughters that came out of Sodom with him.

In the isolated location where they stayed after the destruction of Sodom, the daughters thought that they would never marry and would never have children. They agreed to get their father drunk and go in and lie with him. Both daughters carried out this terrible plot, getting their father so intoxicated that he did not know when they lay down or when they got up. Both daughters became pregnant from their father and gave birth to two sons, Moab, the father of the Moabites and Ben-ammi, the father of the Ammonites.

ABRAHAM AND ABIMELECH

Genesis 20:1-18

Abraham travels toward the territory of the Negeb in Genesis 20. Once again, Abraham claims that Sarah is his sister and she is taken by Abimelech king of Gerar. After all that God has done, it is amazing that Abraham lacks such faith.

10. What did God reveal to Abimelech in a dream? (Genesis 20:3)

11. What was Abimelech's plea to God? (Genesis 20:4-5)

12. What was Abimelech to do with Sarah? (Genesis 20:6-7)

13. How did Abraham try to justify his actions to Abimelech? (Genesis 20:9-13)

14. What did Abimelech do for Abraham and what did Abraham do in return? (Genesis 20:14-18)