

*Genesis*

*Moses*

*Discussion 7*

*Genesis Chapter 18- Sarah Laughs*

*Genesis Chapter 19- Sodom Destroyed*

*Genesis Chapter 20- Abraham's Sister*

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**Author:** Moses

**Date:** 1500 BC Moses lived about as far on the other side of Christ as Columbus, who discovered America, lived on this side of Christ.

**Outline:**

- A. History of the human race (Gen. 1-11)
  - a. Creation
  - b. Fall
  - c. Flood
  - d. Tower of Babel (Nations)
- B. History of the chosen race, the Jews (Gen. 12-50)
  - a. Abraham
  - b. Isaac
  - c. Jacob
  - d. Joseph

	Human Race	Abraham to the Chosen Race
Genesis	Chapter 1 to Chapter 11 (2000 years?)	315 years

### MAN'S FALL INTO SIN—GENESIS 3-4

#### I. What the Bible teaches about Satan

“The old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan” (Revelation 12:9) apparently was first created as one of the **cherubim** (Ezekiel 28:1-15), having great position and authority. He fell from his heavenly estate through his rebellious attitude of **pride** (Isaiah 14:12-15).

After the creation of the earth he tempted mankind likewise to **act in self-will** instead of God's will (Genesis 3:1-6). His **plan is to dethrone God** in His universe and in the hearts of men. God promises **Satan's ultimate destruction** through the "seed of woman," Christ (Genesis 3:15).

Three times Jesus called him "**the prince of this world**" (John 14:30, etc.). As "the prince of the power of air" (Ephesians 2:2) he heads a vast host of demons. The present world system organized upon the principles of force, greed, selfishness, ambition, and sinful pleasure is his work. In His own time, **God's full judgement will come upon Satan** (Revelation 20:10) and the absolute, undivided sovereignty of God over His whole universe will be restored.

### **HISTORY OF THE CHOSEN RACE—GENESIS 12-50**

#### **The Plan of Redemption**

*As the events of the Old Testament start to unfold there is the continuous development of God's plan to bring into the world the Redeemer, through the chosen race, Israel, in the chosen land, Palestine. Notice how the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are all connected with this plan of redemption.*

#### **The Purpose of Having One Chosen Race was:**

- To keep alive the worship of the one true God.
- to illustrate to other nations, the blessedness of serving the true God.
- To receive and preserve God's Word, the Bible.
- To give Birth to the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

#### **The Father of the Chosen Race—Abraham**

**Date:** Abraham lived about 2000 B.C.

Adam	Abraham	Christ	Today
4000 B.C.	2000 B.C.		2000 A.D.

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, what a great encouragement to know I can also enjoy the close, intimate fellowship Abraham enjoyed, once his faith was reckoned as righteousness. How precious to realize that he was a friend of God and that the Lord came to visit him as he sat under the oaks of Mamre in the heat of the day. But what a privilege is mine when I realize that I have permanent access to Your holy presence and can commune with You every moment of the day, through prayer and praise, thanksgiving, and worship. How I thank You that my body is the very temple of the Holy Spirit. May I come to an ever-growing understanding of the incredible privilege of having the Spirit of Christ indwelling my mortal frame. Heighten in me an increasing awareness and reverence of You, in the knowledge that You are my Friend. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.

“And he lifts up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,”

(Genesis 18:2)

### Discussion Questions:

What message did the heavenly visitors bring Abraham? (18) “that he will return the same time the next year, and his wife Sarah will have a son.”

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3. Did Sarah laugh at this news in a spirit of belief or unbelief? (18:10-15)

\_\_\_ Sarah laughed at this in disbelief. Because she was already very old.

4. Why did Abraham want God to spare Sodom from punishment?

\_\_\_ Because Lot lived in that city and didn't want anything to harm him.

\_\_\_ Also to protect the righteous from harm if there were any at the time.

5. Did the people of Sodom believe God would destroy their city? (19:14)

\_\_\_ No, because they could not see their sin. However, Lot was told that he needed to get his family and anyone related to him or that belonged to him out of the city, because God was going to destroy it. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Who did escape from Sodom? (19:16) \_\_\_ Lot and his family, except his wife who was turned into a pillar of salt. ~~The people grabbed them by the hands led them out of the city and told them to flee for their lives.~~

7. Why did Lot's wife become a pillar of salt? (19:17, 26) She became a pillar of salt because she could not help herself, and she looked back at the city after they were told not to.

8. Sodom is known as "the filthiest city of antiquity." Did the filth of Sodom cling to Lot's family? Yes, because they had committed unfaithful acts later after they were saved and out of the city.

### **Closing Prayer:**

#### **Prayers of the People:**

**Darlene, Martha and her family, The View, Sharon Torgerson, Rickie, Dennis and Paulette, Sharon and John and family, Kelsie and Logan, those struggling with alcoholism and drug addiction, those who are struggling with illness, disease, anxiety, mental illness, loneliness, homelessness, financial struggles, and any other struggles that affect them personally and their family.**

**Anyone who has been affected by the wars overseas, anyone who is in prison, abandoned, alone, or widowed. Anyone else who is going through any situation that is trying, discouraging, or difficult.**

**Our nation's leaders, and all world leaders for rightful, peaceful, and moral guidance to the countries and their people.**

**Our Father,  
Who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses.  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee,  
Blessed art thou among women,**

*And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen*

*Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.*

*O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell; lead all souls to  
Heaven, especially those in need of Thy mercy. Amen*

*Hail Holy Queen, mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee  
do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning  
and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of  
mercy towards us. And after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy  
womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy  
Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.*

*Heavenly Father, I know we are called to live by faith and not by sight, signs, logic,  
or intuition. I believe Your Word and do not want anything or anyone in my life, to  
take Your place. Father, I want to offer You my life as a living sacrifice. I want to  
listen to Your voice and to obey all that I am called upon to do, and I pray that in the  
power of the Holy Spirit, I may die to my own desires and live for Christ alone,  
This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.*

*“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto  
him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.”  
(Genesis 22:1)*

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### Discussion Notes:

#### Chapter 18

#### Sarah Laughs

Therefore, Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?” And the LORD said unto Abraham, “Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying “Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.” (Genesis 18:12-14)

### EVENTS:

1. Three men visit Abraham on the plain of Mamre.
2. Yahweh again promises that Sarah will have a son.



3. *The three men leave for Sodom.*
4. *Abraham negotiates with God to save Sodom from judgement.*

### **THE CONTEXT- WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US?**

*Verses 1-8.* At the outset of this chapter, Abraham receives an important visit from three strangers. Most likely they were angels appearing in the likeness of human flesh (Hebrews 13:2). It is also possible that one of the three men was a physical representation of the second person of the Trinity, the Lord Jesus Christ. Occasionally throughout the interchange between Abraham and his visitors, the Scriptures refer to the speaker as Yahweh Himself. Evidently the three strangers came down to earth for two reasons. They came as harbingers of mercy... and judgement.

But first, the life of the believer is beautifully exemplified in Abraham's treatment of strangers in this passage. According to Hebrews 13:2, true believers will always be marked by a commitment to hospitality. In fact, the word used for "hospitality" in the Hebrews passage is *philoxenia*, literally translated as "love of strangers." Despite the fact that most wayfaring strangers today usually end up in hotels and restaurants where they pay for their "hospitality," Christian society is to be patterned after the lifestyle of Abraham. When Christian brothers and sisters are traveling through our area and need a little food and shelter, it should be our honor and pleasure to provide them with whatever they need, without any expectation of remuneration (1 Peter 4:9, Romans 12:13). Abraham's initiative to show hospitality is evident by his quick response to the needs of these men. Instantly, he hurried into the tent to alert his wife, and then he ran to the herd to find a suitable calf for the meal.

*Verses 9-15.* While the three strangers consumed the meal, Yahweh promised Abraham for the fifth time that he would have a son in his old age. His aging wife would bear the child. Do you see how the repetition of these promises could help to buttress a wavering faith? (*buttress defined is anything that supports, props up, or strengthens*) We have already seen how Abraham's faith was not always as strong as it could be, and Sarah gave way to doubt when she laughed at the announcement of her pregnancy. But God is gracious to us. Each time we

hear God's promises through the faithful preaching of the Word of God, we are challenged to believe these promises and our faith grows.

Yahweh was still patient with Abraham and Sarah. He corrected their doubts by posing a pointed question, "Is there anything too hard for Yahweh?" Before we face any of our enemies, before we pray any prayer, before we bring any need before God and cry out for His salvation, it is good for us to answer this simple question: "Is anything too difficult for God?"

Despite Sarah's unbelief, God was still faithful to His promises and followed through by providing the promised child. Sarah is later commended in Scripture for her faith and obedience. What tremendous hope this inspires in us who live by faith, but are also occasionally overcome by bouts of faithfulness!

*Verses 16-21.* This passage provides some interesting insights into the nature of our God. He conversed with Abraham as a friend, as a man talks with his neighbor on the front patio. He also consulted with Himself on whether He should include Abraham in His plans to destroy Sodom. Though we treat these as anthropomorphic descriptions, it is still clear that God has a Personality and an Imminence that His Transcendence does not obliterate. He is above and over all, but He still interacts with His friends whom He created!

Yet, why did God find it necessary to visit Sodom? Didn't He already know the moral condition of the city? While God is certainly omniscient, knowing everything in heaven and in earth, it does appear that there are varying levels of intimacy within this knowledge. From elsewhere in Scripture, we learn that God knows the way of the righteous (Psalm 1:5). But the way of the proud He knows "afar off" (Psalm 138:6). Therefore, when Yahweh set His face towards Sodom to "see whether they have done according to the cry of it." He put His face, as it were, a little closer to the manure pile and took a sniff. Such intimate knowledge concerning the sin of Sodom brought swift and terrible judgment on that city and the surrounding land. As we consider the deep truths of God's omniscience and omnipresence, we must be careful not to forget the connection that God has with His creatures. We must not think of Him as if He is a computer RAM assimilating data, for He personally and emotionally relates to every aspect of His creation.

*Verses 18-19.* These verses give us further insight into God's perception of Abraham. He chose to include Abraham in His plans to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for several reasons. Since He had already entered into a covenant with this man, and the land concerned was included as one of the stipulations of the covenant, Abraham would have had a vested interest in this matter. Also, God gives vision to men of vision. In Abraham we find the great prototype, the archetypal father working to establish a generational vision for the kingdom. In the heart of Abraham, there was such a commitment to God, such an overwhelming zeal for the kingdom, that he would see to it that his children would walking God's ways. He was a man with the faith and vision to see the expansion of the kingdom through his children and grandchildren. To this man, God revealed His plans for Sodom and Gomorrah.

God's plans should always serve as a warning to God's people, and a comfort. God will clear the land of a wicked people, in order that the righteous may inherit the earth. Do not entertain the idea that the wickedness of great cities and empires of the modern world will continue indefinitely. Within 40-50 years, perhaps 100 years, it will be over for them. This is what happens to the legacy of disobedience and rebellion.

*Verses 22-33.* Upon hearing of Yahweh's plans to destroy Sodom, Abraham tried to intervene in an attempt to save the city. Previously, Abraham had fought for the defense of the city of Sodom against the seven nations that were unlawfully pillaging the cities on the plain. Also, his relationship with Lot gave him some concern for the future of this city. Further insight into the character of Abraham's relationship with God is found in this passage, as he proceeded to negotiate with God over the fate of Sodom. The relationship with God's sovereignty to man's desires and actions appears to come under conflict here. Do our petitions change God's mind or in any way impact the outcome of a certain event? From Scripture we learn of both the absolute sovereignty of God and the effectual nature of fervent prayer to bring about a certain outcome (James 5:16). Here Abraham prays fervently with Yahweh God over the future of these cities. His boldness in these negotiations with the Almighty is astonishing to us! But even more surprising, is God's response to his appeals. In the end, the Lord settled with Abraham that he would save the city if there

were only ten righteous men living in Sodom. At a time when the cities of Canaan did not exceed much over 20,000 in population, the ratio of the God-fearing righteous to the wicked would still have been less than 1 percent. What tremendous insight into the patience and mercy of God we have here! What a great influence is borne by a few righteous men within a community! Could it be that God would preserve our cities if there were but a few thousand righteous people dwelling in them? Evidently, by this time, there was only one righteous man left in these cities. As we continue, we see that God will destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.

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## **Chapter 19**

### ***Sodom Destroyed***

*But the two men said to Lot, ‘Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it. (Genesis 19:12-13)*

#### **EVENTS:**

- 1. Two of the visiting angels proceed to the city of Sodom.*
- 2. During the angel’s stay with Lot, the men of Sodom attempt to break into Lot’s house to kidnap visitors.*
- 3. The messengers from God strike the men of Sodom with blindness.*
- 4. In the morning, the angels take Lot, his wife, and his two daughters out of Sodom, and God destroys- the cities.*
- 5. Lot’s wife looks back and is turned into a pillar of salt.*
- 6. Lot settles outside the city of Zoar, and his two daughters have sons by him.*

#### **THE CONTEXT- WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US?**

*Verse 1-11.* Of the three visitors that enjoyed Abraham's hospitality in the previous chapter, only two proceeded to Sodom. They are referred to as angels, or more accurately, "messengers" or "ambassadors," in this chapter.

There is a question in the minds of some today as to the nature of the sin of Sodom, but this is easily addressed by a quick reading of Leviticus 20:13-23. According to verse 23, the sins of these Canaanite nations that were especially bothersome to God are listed in the previous portion of the chapter.

There is some question as to why God destroyed the city of Sodom. Some have attributed it to the inhospitable treatment the angels received when they visited Lot's home. But, other biblical references clearly attribute this judgement to their sins of pride, fullness of bread, self-centeredness, and abominable sexual sin (Ezekiel 16:49-50 and Jude 7). It is almost impossible to miss the correlation between fullness of bread (lack of gratitude to God) and moral corruption. The wealthiest cities and states almost always debase themselves with the worst possible abominations and entertainments. When men speak of the big cities as interesting and fun, where there is a lot to do, they are usually using code words for the bar scene, where anonymous, illicit relationships are cultivated and God's laws are violated.

*Verse 12-22.* The Creator of heaven and earth proceeded to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for this gross violation of His holy law. For the love that God had for His man Abraham, through, he mercifully delivered Lot out of the destruction. The behavior of Lot throughout the story provides an interesting representation of what the Bible calls a "righteous man." He was weak. He seemed unable to convince his own family of his faith and commitment to God. He dragged his feet when leaving this wicked city. When the men of Sodom threatened his visitors, Lot offered to toss his own daughters out to the dragging mob. Yet God was merciful to this man with all his weaknesses and sins. What an encouragement to know the mercy of God towards those of us with whom He has made a covenant, in spite of our own failings!

*Verse 23-29.* Lot did not cooperate very well with his rescuers throughout this entire ordeal. Having grown accustomed to city life, he resisted the idea of moving to the mountains. Although the angels had warned his family not to

look back upon the condemned cities. Lot's wife could not resist temptations. She remains an example for all generations of that person whose heart is inclined towards the world. She found something in the world of more value than her own soul. She demonstrated a lack of commitment to God. Her ultimate love was for the cheap offering of this of world, and she could not leave it all to follow Jesus. Eve with all of the foul, wicked behavior manifest in the inhabitants of the cities, and the real and present judgment of God on them, she still loved the cities more than she loved God.

*Verse 30-38.* Another shameful episode caps the story of Lot's wife. Ever since Adam fell into sin, men and women seek out every possible way to oppose God's order about marriage and intimacy. First, there was polygamy, then homosexuality, and how the sin of incest. God forbids a man from marrying his own daughter and holds men and women to proper boundaries of intimacy in familial relationships. At the very beginning, God told Adam that a man should leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife. This first injunction disallowed a man from marrying his mother, or a daughter from marrying her father. Sadly, Lot's two daughters failed to obey God's law in this matter, and both bore sons by their father. These two sons became fathers of the Moabites and the Ammonites, both enemies of God's people throughout the Old Testament. But the story did not end here. Despite the shameful, sinful works of men. God showed His mercy in amazing ways. Over 800 years later, a Moabite woman sought the God of Israel. This humble, godly woman married Boaz of the tribe of Judah. As the story played out, Ruth became the great-grandmother of David, in the line of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Here once again, God turned men's disobedience to His own ends, and accomplished great things despite their sin and failings.

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## *Chapter 20*

### *Abraham's Sister*

#### *Events:*

- 1. Abraham misleads King Abimelech, who then takes Sarah into his household.*

2. *God chastises King Abimelech.*
3. *King Abimelech releases Sarah and blesses Abraham with good.*

### **THE CONTEXT- WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US?**

*Verses 1-2.* Here is yet another instance of God's fierce affinity for Abraham. He carefully protected the man and his family as they traveled into unfriendly territory. Again, Abraham worked his way into an awkward situation when he told the people in the land of Gere that Sarah was his sister. You may remember that this was a half-truth, for she was his half-sister—and his wife. In those days, a king's political power was determined by the wives he married (which was also the case with the kings of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries). King Abimelech took swift advantage of the situation, seeing that Abraham and his group might become a political threat to his little kingdom. He removed Sarah from Abraham's household in preparation for betrothal.

*Verses 3-8.* In the unfolding history of family life in Genesis, a number of sins emerge, including polygamy and incest. Yet another form of martial sin is mentioned in this section of Scripture, as God warned King Abimelech about taking another man's wife. "You are a dead man!" God told Abimelech. The severity of the warning is concert with later revelation, where God mandated the death penalty for anyone who dared to take his neighbor's wife (Leviticus 20:10).

In response to God's remonstrance, this king vehemently insisted that he was acting out of pure motivations, and that he was misled by Abraham's reference to Sarah being his sister. In God's merciful and sovereign providence, He prevented Abimelech from following through on this potentially adulterous relationship. Where such misunderstandings might lead a man astray, God in His Sovereignty is well able to turn the situation around. The biblical view of a sovereign God is a far cry from the impersonal and amoral Greek fates that led Oedipus to murder his father and marry his own mother without even knowing it.

Whether it was new about Sodom and Gomorrah's recent demise or some other reason, it is clear that there was some true fear of God in this man Abimelech

(reference also verse 11). Evidently, the news of Abraham's God had preceded him, enough to concern Abimelech that God might "slay" his nation also.

So God demanded the return of Sarah to her lawful husband. Although it appears to us that Abraham miscalculated Abimelech and handled the situation poorly, you wouldn't get this out of the chapter. God makes no apologies for Abraham's behavior. There is only support and blessing for God's man. In the end, He leaves the fate of Abimelech and his kingdom in Abraham's hands. What tremendous loyalty and blessing God provides for the man with whom He makes covenant!

*Verses 9-18.* The king confronted Abraham with this misunderstanding and offense. Abraham then provided his "side of the story," but he did not confess any sin in the matter. Nevertheless, it seems that this interchange was sufficient to clear the air between the two men. Once again, God blessed Abraham materially through the whole ordeal. Since God put Abraham in the "driver's seat" concerning Abimelech's situation, it wasn't until Abraham prayed for Abimelech that God restored fertility to his people. Already, we are seeing the temporal fulfillment of the first promise given to Abraham in Genesis 12:3, "I will bless them that bless you, and I will curse them that curse you."

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Who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses.  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee,  
Blessed art thou among women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen*

*Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.*

*O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in need of Thy mercy. Amen*

*Hail Holy Queen, mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us. And after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.*

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