



“IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD?”

Volume 14 Issue 1

A BIBLICAL STUDY of Genesis 18

“At the Time Appointed I Will Return to Thee”

God’s promises extend to all those He intends to save. What can be learned from the response of Sarah to one of God’s promises?

STRONG’S HEBREW/GREEK DEFINITIONS



- 1 APPOINTED (H4150) “Mowadah” - an appointment; a fixed time or season
- 2 HARD (H6381) “PaLa” - to separate; distinguish, great, difficult, wonderful
- 3 LAUGH (H6711) “Tsachaq” - to laugh outright (in merriment or scorn). By imp. to sport: laugh, mock, play, make sport
- 4 WAIT (H6960) “Qavah” - to bind together (perh. by twisting). (fig. to expect)
- 5 WONDERFUL (H6381) “PaLa” - (see hard)

FROM BARREN TO BEAUTIFUL

This phrase describes a California desert in spring.

“Barren” in scripture describes a world without the gospel and “beautiful” are the feet of those who bring the gospel of peace (Ro. 10:15).



TEXT OF THE WEEK

“Behold I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: Is there anything too hard for me?”
-Jer. 32:7

1. How did the Lord appear to Abraham? Gen. 18:1-2
 - Abraham *knew* it was the Lord who appeared. How? Jn. 10:27
 - For what did he beseech the Lord? 18:3 To what can this be compared? Ps. 27:7-9
 - What do you find interesting about Genesis 18:4-8?
2. Read Genesis 18:9-15. Describe Sarah’s response to the announcement:
 - This word “laugh” is only used during the lifetime of Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 18-21) Later, how did Sarah use this response? Gen. 21:6
 - Hadn’t Abraham responded similarly? Gen. 17:15-18
3. Why does the Bible emphasize Sarah’s response? What led to this response and how does it typify the sanctification process?
 - A. The time of waiting: Ps. 27:14; 37:1-7; Gal. 5:5
 - B. The attempt to help God deliver His promise: Gen. 16:2
 - C. The reality of the impossible: Luke 18:27
4. Notice that God doesn’t defend Himself nor excuse Sarah’s behavior (Gen. 18:14). What was the Lord’s response to Sarah?
 - We are taught that “hard” implies “difficult.” However, the Hebrew definitions for “hard” and “wonderful” are identical (see side column). Study and compare these words. How does the word “wonderful” fit in the context of “hard”?
 - A. Hard (H6381) - Jer. 32:17-19, 27
 - B. Wonderful (H6381) - Ps. 40:5; Job 42:2-3
5. When did God say His promise would happen? Gen. 18:14
 - How does this “appointed time” *typify* how God works? Deut. 32:4; Ps. 18:30; 19:7
 - Why does God wait for the “appointed” time when He can do anything at any time? Deut. 32:4; Isa. 46:9-11; 55:8-9
 - Compare “appointed” to Hebrew words with the same number: Numbers 9:13; Jer. 8:7; Dan. 11:27-29
6. Read and respond to the side column “From Barren to Beautiful.” How is the story of Sarah’s barren state a spiritual picture? Is. 35:1-2; Heb. 11:11

