

Genesis 18

1,2 Abraham would be a gracious host to anyone who passed. Hospitality is a New Testament qualification of an elder. It shows the heart goes out to others. The sight of three men was not unusual; Abraham has quite a company. Something tipped him off, visually or internally. Bowing low is not unusual either, but a customary greeting of respect. In the 19:1 Lot does the same with the angels. Hebrews 13:2

3,4 Should the 'Y' in Lord be capitalized? I think so but it is uncertain. Remember the story Jesus tells of works done to the least as being done to Him? We often have the same opportunity Abraham had, to wash the Lord's feet – the feet of the least. Water - a precious commodity there, and washing the feet, a most refreshing thing for those who wear sandals on a journey.

5-9 Abraham goes all out for the guests. The guest knows Sarah's name. God often asks "Where are you" or "Where is she?" He knows of course, but is asking us to see where we are spiritually.

10 God reconfirms -double confirmation- that Sarah is to have a child. Abraham must not have told her. See 17:21

11,12 She knew that it was a physical impossibility, and laughed in her heart at the thought. That is where she is - the place of doubt and skepticism.

13 Abraham laughed earlier. What was the difference? Were both were unbelief? Or was Abraham laughing at the thought of what God was about to do, and the word about Ishmael because he did not want to see Ishmael abandoned?

14,15 A declaration of God's omnipotence. She knew He heard her heart so she feared and lied. How like man! If God sees our heart we better confess and be honest. Sometimes we, too, would tell God "I did not," but if He says we did, we better take a closer look. He is always right.

16,17 God will instruct us as to future events when we live in faith and if we need to know them or be encouraged by them.

18-20 Here is why God brings destruction. It puts an end to the horror of sin. Who is crying out? Is it angelic beings, people who trade with the city, people in the city? I think perhaps it is all of the above.

21 God does not bring catastrophe without knowing it will put an end to a greater horror. Surely He already knew, as He is omniscient. Is this expression for Abraham's sake?

22-33 Abraham intercedes with God for the sake of Lot's family. Remember Lot has taken the best portion, been rescued by Abraham, and he is still living in Sodom.

Will the Son of Man find faith on the earth when He returns? Yes, and He will rapture them away before the wrath of God consumes the wicked. There were not even ten, but we learn some interesting things from Abraham's intercession. When there is a great calamity can we assume God removes the righteous? I don't think so. See Luke 13. We are all sinners and there is none righteous. I have heard incredible testimonies of God diverting individuals from places where tragic destruction took place. They were suppose to be there at the time but were delayed or distracted. We must trust God that if they were taken it must have been the time and place for them to go. This is not the formula for all catastrophes. This had to do with extreme wickedness and putting an end to great suffering and sin. We tend to lump everything into one box. God is not so simple.