

# IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD?

◆ GENESIS 18:1-15 ◆



## INTRODUCTION

*Sarah was around ninety.  
Her body had already answered  
this question — no.  
God shows up anyway.*

WHERE WE ARE IN ABRAHAM'S STORY

## One Household, Three Moments



Covenant renewed, Genesis 17



Three visitors arrive — tonight's  
passage



Isaac is born, Genesis 21

WHERE THIS FITS IN THE WHOLE BIBLE

## One Pattern, Many Promises

- Israel can't free itself from Egypt.
- Israel can't part the Red Sea.
- David has no business beating Goliath.
- Gabriel tells Mary: nothing is impossible.

MAIN THOUGHT

*God let the promise reach  
impossibility on purpose —  
so Abraham and Sarah would trust  
His character, not their capacity.*

OPENING ALIGNMENT QUESTION

*When what God has actually said  
collides with what I can see,  
which one gets to define  
what's possible?*

## Five Scenes, One Question

### APPEARS

18:1–2

God shows up at an ordinary tent

### SERVES

18:3–8

Abraham's hospitality becomes worship

### NAMES

18:9–10

Sarah is drawn into the promise

### DOUBTS

18:11–12

Sarah calculates and laughs

### CONFRONTS

18:13–15

God names the laugh, the promise stands

## The LORD Appears

וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה — **vayera elav YHWH**

"and YHWH appeared to him" — the covenant name written in full, not a title

- Sitting in the heat of the day.
- The LORD appears, unannounced.
- Three men are standing there.
- Abraham runs to meet them.

## Seeing the Unseen God

יְהוָה — YHWH

the covenant name — used of the visible visitor throughout the encounter, not "an angel" or "a man"

- Exodus: no one sees God's face and lives.
- Jacob, Moses, Isaiah — and yet they saw Him.
- Essence unveiled, versus God choosing to be seen.
- The visible YHWH here may be the Son.

GENESIS 18:3–5

## Do Not Pass By

- "My Lord" — singular address.
- Water, shade, and rest offered.
- "A morsel of bread," he says.
- Fellowship, before the answer.

## Presence Before Answers

- Do I want God's presence, or only His next answer?
- Does my devotion ever actually move my hands?
- Who is standing at my door that I haven't truly served?

GENESIS 18:6–8

## A Morsel Becomes a Feast

- Hurried.
- Quickly.
- Ran.
- Hastened.
- Three seahs of fine flour.
- A tender, choice calf.
- Wealth mobilized for service.

KEY HIDDEN GEM

## Words Small, Actions Large

*Character shows up in the gap.*

HE SAID

"A morsel  
of bread."



HE GAVE

Flour, a calf,  
curds, and milk.

## Sarah Your Wife

שׁוּב אָשׁוּב — shov ashuv

"I will certainly return" — doubled verb for emphasis

- "Where is Sarah?" they ask.
- "Returning, I will return."
- Ishmael blessed — but not Isaac.
- Sarah listens at the tent door.

## Sarah Laughs Within Herself

בָּלָה / חַיָּה — balah / chayyah

"worn out" (v.12) set directly against "life" (v.10)

- The way of women had ceased.
- "After I have grown old..."
- She laughs — hidden, unheard.
- Accurate math, wrong ending.

## The Deadness of Sarah's Womb

- Not delayed fertility — deadness.
- Decades of barrenness, then this.
- A second, deeper obstacle now.
- Life restored, not merely given.

GENESIS 18:11–12

## The Laugh No One Heard

- What have I quietly decided is impossible for God?
- Where do I agree with Scripture outwardly, but doubt it within?
- Am I mistaking accurate facts for the final word?

## Is Anything Too Hard For the LORD?

- God hears the silent laugh.
- Sarah's question, redirected.
- Extraordinary, beyond human reach.
- Tied to His spoken word.



Aleph  
strength, first



Lamed  
staff, authority



Peh  
mouth, word

*Ancient pictograph — supplemental, not doctrine*

STUDY INSIGHT

## Not a Blank Check

*Pala is tied to davar — a word actually spoken.*

WHAT IT ISN'T

**God owes me  
whatever I want.**



WHAT IT IS

**God can do what  
He has genuinely said.**

GENESIS 18:15

## **"No, But You Did Laugh"**

- Fear produces a denial.
- God corrects — briefly, plainly.
- The promise is never withdrawn.
- Correction is not rejection.

KEY HIDDEN GEM

## The Two Laughs of Sarah

*Same sound. Reversed meaning.*

GENESIS 18:12

"That cannot  
happen."



GENESIS 21:6

"God has made  
me laugh."

CLOSING TEACHING MOVEMENT

## **Bring Him Your Laugh**

- The facts were never denied.
- Impossibility was never accidental.
- Neither could take credit for it.

CLOSING TEACHING MOVEMENT

## **Bring Him Your Laugh**

- Don't manufacture what He never said.
- Let His nature answer your math.
- Bring Him the laugh, and the fear.

FINAL ALIGNMENT QUESTION

*When His word and my math disagree,  
will I keep explaining why not—  
or will I finally let Him answer  
the question I keep avoiding?*

## TONIGHT'S RESPONSE

# Three Steps

1

### **Name the “Sarah Laugh”**

Where have you privately concluded that something is over?

2

### **Bring It Into the Light**

Stop hiding the doubt behind composed, silent agreement.

3

### **Answer His Question**

Speak your honest answer to “is this too hard for the LORD” this week.

# IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD?

◆ GENESIS 18:1-15 ◆

