

Steve Greenberg's Handout

Week 15, May 6, 2026 Genesis 18 Abraham And Sarah Faith Tested

Genesis 18:1-8 Abraham Prepares Meal For The Lord, And Two Angels Who Look Like Men (Heb 13:2)

Gen 18:1 Then the LORD (**Yahweh**) appeared to him (**Abraham again**) by the terebinth trees of Mamre (**in Hebron**), as he(**Abraham**) was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

This appearance could not be more than three months after the events in Genesis 17, because Sarah is not yet pregnant

Abram settled at the terebinth trees of Mamre many years earlier (Gen 13:18), he was content, dwelling in a tent under a big tree

Heb 11:9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

Heb 11:10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Quote from David Guzik on Blue Letter Bible

b. **Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees:** Here again, the LORD came to Abraham in human appearance. This is another presentation of Jesus in human form before His incarnation, here among the **three men** visiting Abraham.

i. We can assume that this was God, in the Person of Jesus Christ, appearing to Abraham before His incarnation and birth at Bethlehem. We assume this because of God the Father it says, *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him* ([John 1:18](#)), and no man has ever seen God in the Person of the Father ([1 Timothy 6:16](#)). Therefore, if God appeared to someone in human appearance in the Old Testament (and no one has seen God the Father) it makes sense the appearance is of the eternal Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, before His incarnation in Bethlehem.

The terebinth trees of Mamre: Was a significant place in Abraham's life.

<u>Terebinth Trees of Mamre</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Abram settles near Mamre	Built an altar to God.	Genesis 13:18
Alliance in Mamre	Mamre the Amorite became an ally of Abram.	Genesis 14:13
Rescued Lot, safe place Abram returned to the area after rescuing Lot		Genesis 14:24
God's covenant appearance	God appeared to Abraham at Mamre; three visitors.	Genesis 18:1-8
Promise of Isaac	Sarah overheard the promise to bear a son, Isaac.	Genesis 18:9-15
Burial place purchased	Abraham bought cave of near Mamre, burial site	Genesis 23:17-19
Abraham buried	Abraham was buried there with Sarah.	Genesis 25:9-10
Isaac buried	Abraham son Isaac was also buried there	Genesis 49:31

Gen 18:2 So he(**Abraham**) lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him (**nearby, a little distance**); and when he saw them, he(**Abraham**) ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,

This was a common greeting, it appears he is showing great respect to these visitors because of the urgency to provide a meal and the bowing down as an elderly man.

The next chapter reveals two of the three men are angels

Gen 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

Heb 13:1-2 Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have **unwittingly entertained angels.**

Gen 18:3 and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by (**or go away from**) Your servant (if it pleases you, stop here for a while to visit).

God (in the Person of Jesus Christ) appeared to Abraham twice before (Gen 12:7, 17:1), we don't know when he knew but at some point during this encounter, Abraham understood that one of the three men was actually God appearing as a man, and he addressed Him, later in v14. Verse 13 confirming that it was the LORD who spoke to him. The other two men were angels (Gen 19:1).

Gen 18:4 "Please let a little water be brought, and (**you may**) wash your feet, and rest (**or Lit: support**) yourselves under the tree.

Gen 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

Gen 19:2 And he(**Lot**) said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and **wash your feet**; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

Gen 19:3 But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then **he(Lot) made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.**

Hospitality was important with them

Gen 24:31 And he(**Laban**) said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels."

Gen 24:32 Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

Gen 24:33 Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."

Gen 24:34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.

Gen 18:5 "And I will bring (or take) a morsel of bread, that you may refresh(Lit sustain) your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant." They (the three) said, "Do as you have said."

Gen 18:6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures ((about half a bushel or 22 liters, 7-9qt x 3) of fine meal; knead it (dough) and make (bake) cakes (or bread)."

Large quantity probably reflected the respect that he held for his special visitors.

Gen 18:7 And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good (choice) calf, gave it to a young man (servant, to butcher), and he hastened to prepare it.

Gen 18:8 So he(Abraham) took butter (curds) and milk and the calf which he had prepared (roasted meat & bread), and set it before them; and he(Abraham) stood by (waited on) them (the three) under the tree as they ate (a meal) (the Lord and Angels ate food).

Notice: Abraham and Sarah hurried and did the work, instead of their servants.

Genesis 18:9-15 Birth of Isaac Promised to Sarah (Sarah Faith Is Tested)

Gen 18:9 Then they said to him(Abraham), "Where is Sarah (notice: these visitors new Sarah's new name which God gave) your wife?" So he(Abraham) said (replied), "Here, in the tent."

Gen 18:10 And He(One of them), said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life (next year, Lit when the time revives), and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind the Lord)

Israel's history quoted by Paul

Rom 9:9 For this is the word of promise (for God had promised): "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."

Gen 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing (Literally the manner of women had ceased to be with Sarah, no menstrual cycles).

Gen 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child? (Approximately ten years age difference, Abraham died at 175 and Sarah died at 127).

Correlation passage: The Angel Gabriel tells Zachariah that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son in her old, old age

Luk 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias (or Zachariah), for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Luk 1:18 And Zachariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

Luk 1:19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.

Luk 1:20 "But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

Gen 18:12 Therefore Sarah laughed within (or silently to) herself (when she heard the LORD'S words), saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord (husband, Abraham) being old also?"

God heard Sarah's laugh even though she laughed silently within herself but God knows and hears everything.

Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His(Gods) sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

The Scripture uses Sarah as an example, my lord

1Pet 3:5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,

1Pet 3:6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (she is submitting to and obeying her husband), whose daughters you are if you do good (well) and are not afraid with any terror.

Gen 18:13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old (past child bearing time)?"

Gen 17:21 "But My covenant (My promise, Gods solemn pledge) I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."

Gen 17:22 Then He finished talking with him(Abraham), and God went up, from Abraham.

Gen 18:14 "Is anything too hard (difficult or too wonderful) for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you (next year), according to the time of life (time revives), and Sarah shall have a son."

The divine Hebrew name YHWH (Yahweh, The covenant name of God), usually represented by "LORD," occurs more than 6,000 times in the Bible.

Jer 32:17 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

Mar 10:27 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

Psa 139:2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

Ecc 3:1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

Gen 18:15 But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid (**out of fear, she lied to the LORD**). And He (**the LORD**) said, "No, but you did laugh!"

How many time have we lied to the Lord? Lord if you only let me win, or get this, or pay my rent, or find a partner, or help me to live, I will do anything.

Heb 11:11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

Heb 11:12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

We live on Gods promises not on our explanations

Gal 4:21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law?

Gal 4:22 - For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

Gal 4:23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

Gal 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

Genesis 18:16-33 Abraham Intercedes for Sodom (Yahweh and Abraham Speak About Sodom)

Gen 18:16 Then the men (**three men**) rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way.

Gen 18:17 And the LORD said, "Shall I hide (**conceal or keep secret**) from Abraham (**My friend and servant**) what I am doing,

Psa 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

Abraham has a special role to fulfill regarding his own descendants and all the nations of the earth. So God tells him the problem and what is going to happen

The greatest common factor for evil men, is they are fatherless.

Gen 18:18 "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in (through) him (NET says pronounce blessings on one another using his name)?

Gen 18:19 "For I have known (or chosen, acknowledged) him (Abraham), in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken (promised) to him."

Deu 4:9 "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,

Deu 4:10 "especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'

Deu 6:6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Deu 6:7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Gen 18:20 And the LORD said, "Because the outcry (of sin) against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave (blatant, flagrant),

Gen 4:10 And He(Lord) said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

<u>Outcry Against Sodom & Gomorrah</u>	<u>Explanation</u>	<u>Scripture Reference</u>
God's holy justice	God declared that the outcry	Genesis 18:20-21
Angelic witnesses	The angels who visited Sodom directly	Genesis 19:1-13
Victims of oppression and violence	The suffering of people harmed by the cities'	Ezekiel 16:49-50
The poor and needy	Sodom was condemned for pride and no help	Ezekiel 16:49
Sexual corruption and immorality	Their widespread sexual sin and perversion	Jude 1:7
Society corrupted by lawlessness	Social atmosphere was marked by wickedness	2 Peter 2:6-8
Righteous people distressed by evil	Lot's righteous soul was "tormented"	2 Peter 2:7-8
Creation itself affected by sin	Human rebellion brought defilement	Isaiah 24:5-6
Heaven's testimony wickedness	Their sin was so open and arrogant	Isaiah 3:9
The cry of accumulated sin	Their wickedness demanded divine response.	Gen 18:20 & 19:13

Gen 18:21 "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether (or acted as vile and wicked) according to the outcry against it that has come to Me (as I have heard); and

if not, I will know. (God knows all but this is so we can know, His focus and attention is now)"

The Lord ultimately reveals to Abraham his plan to destroy Sodom.

Correlation passage:

Gen 11:4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Gen 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

Deu 8:1 "Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers.

Deu 8:2 "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

Deu 13:3 "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deu 13:4 "You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

Gen 18:22 Then the men (**two men, angels, Gen 19:1**) turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood (**remained**) before the LORD.

Gen 18:23 And Abraham came near (**the LORD**) and said, "Would You also destroy (**sweep away**) the righteous (**godly**) with the wicked (**both at the same time those who do right and those who do evil**)?"

Abraham's response is probably prompted by his concern for his nephew Lot and family.

Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Num 16:22 Then they fell on their faces, and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?"

Num 16:26 And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins."

Num 16:27 So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children.

Num 16:31 Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them,

Num 16:32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.

Num 16:33 So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.

Gen 18:24 "Suppose there were fifty righteous (**godly people**) within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare (**or forgive**) it for the fifty righteous that were in it?"

Gen 18:25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right (**to strike the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated the same**)?"

Gen 18:26 So the LORD said (**replied**), "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare (**or forgive**) all the place for their sakes (**or on their account**)."

Jer 5:1 "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places If you can find a man (one godly man), If there is anyone who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will pardon her.

Gen 18:27 Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:

Gen 3:19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

Gen 18:28 "Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?" So He said, "If I find there forty-five (**righteous people**), I will not destroy it."

Gen 18:29 And he(**Abraham**) spoke to Him(**LORD**) yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty (**righteous people**)."

Gen 18:30 Then he(**Abraham**) said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty (**righteous people**) should be found there?" So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there (**who are righteous**)."

Gen 18:31 And he(**Abraham**) said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty (**righteous people**) should be found there?" So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty."

Gen 18:32 Then he(**Abraham**) said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten ((**righteous people**))."

Gen 18:33 So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place (**tent, temporary home**).

God assures Abraham that he will not punish the righteous ten along with the wicked.

End

Extra Scriptures:

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Rom 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Isa 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2Ti 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

Scripture Ref.

Promises of God

Numbers 23:19
do.

God does not lie or change His mind; what He promises He will

Joshua 21:45 “

Not one” of God’s good promises failed to Israel.

Joshua 23:14

Every promise God made came true.

1 Kings 8:56

Not one word of God’s promise failed.

Psalms 145:13

The Lord is faithful in all His words.

Isaiah 55:10–11

God’s word accomplishes what He sends it to do.

Lamentations 3:22–23

God’s faithfulness is renewed every morning.

2 Corinthians 1:20

All God’s promises are “Yes” in Christ.

Hebrews 10:23

God is faithful to keep His promises (He who promised is faithful).

Prayer:

May you experience now the touch of God upon your life in a very special way this week. You that are facing some heavy problems, some decisions that are very important, may God grant you His wisdom. And may you experience that work of God's Spirit, the guiding of your life through this difficult time. You that have been discouraged, may you find the strength of the Lord ministering to you, lifting you up and encouraging you in the things of His Spirit. And may the love of Christ dwell in your hearts richly that your life might be a witness to this poor sick world that there is one who loves and there is one who cares. And may God grant you the opportunity of sharing His love and your faith with them. In Jesus' name.

Charts

First Mention

Angel of the LORD

El Roi (God Who Sees)

Human gives God a name

Name Given before birth

Scripture

Gen 16:7

Gen 16:13

Gen 16:13

Gen 16:11

Description

Angel (Messenger) of the LORD appears to a human.

First specific name for God. The God Who Sees Me".

A human (Hagar) gives a name to the God, El Roi.

God gives child a name (Ishmael) before he was born.