

**Introduction:** The God who rules over all He created IN strong, life-changing love, truth and justice, is more wonderful than people can ever fully understand. He is more than able to do anything He desires to do. \*\*\* His greatest desire is to be in a covenant relationship with all people He created. And, to bring this about, He communicated with people: both directly through words He spoke, most supremely through His Son who became a man; and, indirectly through His prophets. One of His greatest qualities is that His words and His actions are perfectly consistent; in other words, He will do exactly what He says, in His time and in His way. All who come to Him on His terms will be His people and they, as one harmonious people, will have Him as their only God – The ONLY One whom they will whole-heartedly worship and love. \*\*\* When Abraham was seventy-five years old, Yahweh spoke to him that all nations on earth would be blessed through his son with Sarah (Genesis 12:1-5; 17:17-22). Ten years later, acting in un-belief, they took matters in their own hands and Ishmael (he will hear: God) was born through Hagar (flight, Genesis 16). But when Abraham was ninety-nine years old, Yahweh gave him and Sarah a second opportunity to trust His humanly impossible Word. Sarah laughed with mixed motives, but Yahweh still kept His Word exactly. \*\*\* Four thousand years later Jesus astonished the twelve apostles. He said entrance into a close relationship with The King of all Creation is humanly impossible; but, with God both entrance into His presence, and so much more, is possible! \*\*\* Let's dig deeper into our Bible stories so that our faith in all God's Word may increase.

**I. Yahweh speaks through three men to Abraham and Sarah, and they share food hospitality; then, He tells Abraham that Sarah will bear a son because nothing is too wonderful for Him. (Genesis 18:1-15)**

- A. Yahweh is present in three men who stand by Abraham, and he and Sarah share food hospitality with them. (Verses 1-8)
1. Then was seen Yahweh to him by the large tree of Mamre (strength), he (is) sitting door of his tent in the heat of the day. (Verse 1)  
**Yahweh seen:** We are told Yahweh was seen by him (Abraham) in a location suggesting great strength.
  2. Then he lifted up his eyes, then he looked – behold! three men, having been stood by him; When he saw, he ran to meet them from the door of his tent, then he bowed himself to the earth. (Verse 2)  
**Three men:** We will soon discover that Yahweh speaks from these three men. Taken in full context, it may be Abraham was given spiritual discernment that Yahweh is present in them.  
**Run and bow:** Having seen and beheld with astonishment, Abraham responds by running to and bowing worshipfully towards these three strangers.
  3. Then he said, 'My lord, if please, I have found grace in thy sight, not please, pass by thy servant'. (Verse 3)  
**Not pass by:** From this request, it is not yet clear if Abraham fully knows to whom he is speaking. Notice, he speaks to them here collectively as one.
  4. It will be brought please, a little water and they must be washed the feet of you all, and you all must be rested under tree; and, I will take a piece of bread, and you all must comfort the heart of you all; after you all will pass by since you all have come to your servant; then they said: thus, thou will do as thou have said. (Verses 4-5)  
**Body:** First Abraham says their feet will be washed and their bodies will find comfort in the shade of the large tree.  
**Bread:** Then Abraham offers to share bread with them and they be comforted in their heart from all he will do for them as their servant, so they will go their way refreshed by him.
  5. Then Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said: Quickly, three measures (seah) fine flour thou must knead and thou must make bread discs; and to the herd Abraham ran, then he took a calf (son of the herd), tender and good, then he gave to the young man; then he hastened to prepare it. (Verses 6-7)  
**Sarah-bread:** Abraham delegated the preparing of the bread cakes (using the best flour) to Sarah.  
**Abraham-meat:** Then he chose a calf from the herd so the meat would be tender and tasty, and delegated the preparation to a trusted young man.
  6. Then he took the butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared (by Sarah and the young man); then he set before them, and, he standing by them under the tree, and then they ate. (Verse 8)  
**The men eat:** Abraham showed great hospitality to these three men by making sure they had the best food he could give them and they could eat it while he stood by and watched over them.  
**Application:** Let us all open our hearts and lives to God and share generously out of love for Him and as an act of worship to Him.
- B. Then He says to Abraham that Sarah will bear him a son in the spring; she laughs and He says nothing is too wonderful for Yahweh. (Verses 9-15)
1. Then they said to him: Where is Sarah, thy wife? and he said: behold! in the tent. (Verse 9)  
**Sarah:** The men now enquire about Sarah's whereabouts and Abraham answers.
  2. Then He said: To turn, I will return to thee at the time of life, and behold! son to Sarah thy wife; and Sarah listening (at) the door of the tent behind him (Abraham and Sarah old, being stricken in days; it had ceased to be to Sarah the way according to the women). (Verses 10-11)  
**Return in spring:** The speaker (Yahweh) tells Abraham he will return the following spring.  
**Sarah bear son:** At that time Sarah will bear a son to Abraham.  
**The way according to women:** The Holy Spirit inserts a parenthetical truth that Sarah was post-menopausal. In other words, it was humanly impossible for her to conceive. However, Yahweh has given His Word, and *Yahweh's Word is always guaranteed.*

3. Then laughed to herself Sarah to say: After to grow old me, it will be to me delight; and, my lord old; then said Yahweh to Abraham: Why (because of) this Sarah laughed to say: also (of) surety I will bear, I, I being old? (*Verses 12-13*)  
**Sarah laughs inwardly:** She may have mixed emotions. She knows being a mother is impossible for many reasons. But, IF the voice speaking with her husband is right, what joy she would have!  
**Why laugh:** The Holy Spirit now says Yahweh is speaking through the three men! He questions Sarah's laughing. Sometimes when God's Word is too good to be true, people protect themselves.
4. Is made wonderful from Yahweh anything? At the appointed time I will return to thee according to the time of life and to Sarah son. (*Verse 14*)  
**Wonderful:** Yahweh is the God of wonderful miracles. He repeats His Word so Sarah will know **Yahweh's Word is always guaranteed.**
5. Then denied Sarah to say: Not I will laugh, because I was afraid; then He said: No for thou laughed. (*Verse 15*)  
**Sarah's fear:** Sarah defends herself because of her fear. What if she gets her hopes up and she does not bear a son? But this is un-belief in what Yahweh is saying.  
**Application:** May we all learn from Sarah to pray we will be able to see the inconsistencies in our hearts and be honest about them before God; and ask Him to help our un-belief (Mark 9:24).

## II. Sarah bore Abraham a son, who was called Yitzak, when he was one hundred years old; and, Abraham circumcised him; Jesus says only God can bring people into His Kingdom. (*Genesis 21:1-7; Mark 10:27*)

### A. Sarah did bear a son and he was called 'he will laugh'; at age one hundred Abraham circumcised his son and Sarah laughed. (*Genesis 21:1-7*)

1. Then Yahweh visited Sarah according to what He had said; then did Yahweh to Sarah according to what He had spoken. (*Verse 1*)  
**Word-deed:** What The Covenant God Yahweh says, he always does. His word IS His deed.
2. Then she conceived and then she bore, Sarah to Abraham: son in his old age; at the appointed time which He had spoken to him, Elohim; then called Abraham name of his son who had been born to him, which she bore to him, Sarah: Yitzak. (*Verses 2-3*)  
**Sarah bore son:** Sarah bore a son to Abraham when both were old, according to the Word of Yahweh Elohim. Abraham named him Yitzak (he will laugh). Yahweh's Word was fulfilled in every detail.

### **Yahweh's Word is always guaranteed**

3. Then circumcised Abraham, Yitzak his son when (he was) eight days, as what commanded to him Elohim; and Abraham (was) one hundred years when was to be born to him Yitzak his son. (*Verses 4-5*)  
**Circumcision:** The covenant that Yahweh established with Abraham included every male born in his line to be circumcised at the age of eight days (Genesis 17, see verse 12). Notice the eighth day is the first day of the second week of the boy's life. And, Jesus was raised from the dead on the eighth day, two days after He was crucified on the sixth day. This command is one of many reasons why those following Covenant Theology baptize infants into the Body of Christ.  
**One hundred years old:** For those in Abraham's line a generation is one hundred years. This is why Israel was in bondage in Egypt for four generations, four hundred years (Genesis 15:16; Acts 7:6).
4. Then she said, Sarah: Laughter has made to me Elohim: all hearing will laugh for me; then she said: who would have uttered to Abraham: she had caused to suckle children, Sarah; because I have borne son in his old age. (*Verses 6-7*)  
**Sarah's laughter:** Sarah is now so full of joy and she is giving all the glory to God! She has told everyone, and they share her joy.  
**Who'da spoken:** Who would have ever spoken of Sarah breast-feeding a son at age ninety!  
The Word of The Covenant God can make the impossible to happen because **Yahweh's Word is always guaranteed**  
**Application:** This part of the history of the Israelites should cause us to be greatly encouraged by the truth that God always keeps His gracious Word.

### B. Jesus says only God can bring people into His Kingdom. (*Mark 10:27*)

**Context:** A rich young man has just walked away from Jesus because he could not meet the requirement to enter God's Kingdom, namely to sell all he possessed, give it to the poor and follow Jesus. This shocked the twelve apostles because, like many Jews, they assumed wealth was a sign of God's approval. Jesus has now shown they were wrong to assume such people are saved. So who can be saved?

1. Having looked straight at them, Jesus is saying, 'With men, this is impossible; ...' (*Verse 27a*)  
**Straight talk:** Jesus is saying to the apostles that it is impossible for human effort to gain entrance into the Kingdom of God!
2. '... but, not with God: for all (is) possible with God'. (*Verse 27b*)  
**God can do:** God can do anything and everything according to His gracious will and love of people. He can save whoever comes to Him in humble, dependent, obedient faith in His faithful Son. He can and will do this because He is wonderful!

*God always does what man can NOT do.* Generalizing:

**Conclusion:** Yahweh makes Himself present to people who are open to Him. Then, He reveals to them His specific Word for their lives, even if they cannot believe it is possible. And, because He is wonderful, He will always do what He says to people. His Son affirmed this truth with different words: some things are impossible for people, but all things are possible for God.

**Yahweh's Word is always guaranteed**