

## GENESIS CHAPTER 18

<sup>1</sup> And God appeared to him by the oak of Mamre, as he sat by the door of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood before him; and having seen them, he ran to meet them from the door of his tent, and bowed himself to the ground. <sup>3</sup> And he said, "Lord, if indeed I have found grace in Your sight, do not pass by Your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let water now be brought, and let them wash your feet, and refresh yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> And I will bring bread, and you shall eat, and after this you shall depart on your journey, on account of which refreshment you have turned aside to your servant." And he said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened to the tent to Sarah, and said to her, "Quickly, knead three measures of fine flour, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup> And Abraham ran to the herd, and took a young calf, tender and good, and gave it to his servant, and he hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> And he took butter and milk, and the calf which he had prepared; and he set them before them, and they ate, and he stood by them under the tree.

<sup>9</sup> And He said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he answered and said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup> And He said, "I will return and come to you at the appointed time, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tentdoor, being behind him. <sup>11</sup> And Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in days, and the custom of women had ceased with Sarah. <sup>12</sup> And Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "The thing has not as yet happened to me, even until now, and my lord is old." <sup>13</sup> And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child? But I have grown old.' <sup>14</sup> Shall anything be impossible with the Lord? At the appointed time I shall return to you, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said to her, "No, but you did laugh!"

<sup>16</sup> And the men rose up from there, and looked towards Sodom and Gomorrah. And Abraham went with them, attending to them on their journey. <sup>17</sup> And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham My servant what I intend to do? <sup>18</sup> But Abraham shall become a great and populous nation, and in him shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. <sup>19</sup> For I know that he will order his sons, and his house after him, and they will keep the ways of the Lord, to do justice and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham all things whatsoever He has spoken to him." <sup>20</sup> And the Lord said, "The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah has reached My ears, and their sins are very great. <sup>21</sup> I will therefore go down and see, if they completely correspond with the cry which comes to Me, and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> And the men, having departed from there, came to Sodom. And the Lord stood before Abraham. <sup>23</sup> And Abraham drew near and said, "Would You destroy the righteous with the wicked, and shall the righteous be as the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Should there be fifty righteous in the city, will You destroy them? Will You not spare the whole place for the sake of the fifty righteous, if they be in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from You to do such a thing, so as to destroy the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous shall be as the wicked: far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" <sup>26</sup> And the Lord said, "If there should be in Sodom fifty righteous people, I will spare the whole city, and the whole place for their sakes." <sup>27</sup> And Abraham answered and said, "Now I have begun to speak to my

Lord, and I am *but* dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> But if the fifty righteous should be diminished to forty-five, will You destroy the whole city because of the five that are lacking?" And He said, "I will not destroy it, if I should find there forty-five." <sup>29</sup> And he continued to speak to Him still, and said, "But if there should be found there forty?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the forty's sake." <sup>30</sup> And he said, "Will there be anything against me, Lord, if I shall speak? But if there be found there thirty?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the thirty's sake." <sup>31</sup> And he said, "Since I am able to speak to the Lord, what if there should be found there twenty?" And He said, "I will not destroy it, if I should find there twenty." <sup>32</sup> And he said, "Will there be anything against me, Lord, if I speak yet once *more*? But if there should be found there ten?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten." <sup>33</sup> And the Lord departed, when He left off speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.