



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

THE GOD WHO CARES

GENESIS 18:1-15



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

A Christophany is a preincarnate, Old Testament appearance of Jesus.

Christophany = *Christos* (Christ) + *phaino* (to appear, become visible; to make known)

I. God's Friendship (Genesis 18:1-8)

“And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,’ and he was called the friend of God.” (James 2:23)

I. God's Friendship (Genesis 18:1-8)

Master (Lord = *adonay*)

The friendship of the Lord/Master is seen in two ways:

1. Condescension = to stoop, descend

“Now the Lord appeared to him by the Oakes of Mamre...”

Genesis 17:1 *“I am God Almighty”* or *“I am El-Shaddai”*: *Shaddai* = the Almighty

One meaning of *El-Shaddai* is power; omnipotence.

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Another meaning of *El-Shaddai* is that God overcomes all things, both physical and spiritual, in order to care for His children.

He condescends to us, He cares for us, and He corrects us in Christ.
God comes to you to love you and to live in you.

Hebrews 2:5-8

Hebrews 2:9

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)

I. God's Friendship (Genesis 18:1-8)

Master (Lord = *adonay*)

The friendship of the Lord/Master is seen in two ways:

2. Congeniality = warmly intimate, agreeable, favorable

“The appearance of God to Abraham seems to have had in it more of freedom and familiarity, and less of grandeur and majesty.”

(Matthew Henry)

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Exodus 24:3-11

This is a *theophany*, an appearing of God the Father. They had a meal in the presence of God to share in the fellowship of God's covenant with them.

Leviticus 3; 7:11-21

"...a meal to be eaten by the congregation in the sanctuary as a celebration of the Lord's provisions for them in his blessings.... It was a meal that brought people together who shared one thing—peace with God.

(Allen Ross)

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John 6:48-58

Matthew 26:26-28

I. God's Friendship (Genesis 18:1-8)

Master (Lord = *adonay*)

The friendship of the Lord/Master is seen in two ways:

Condescension and congeniality

In response, we are also to show our friendship to God.

I. God's Friendship (Genesis 18:1-8)

Humble Servant

"O Lord..."

Lord (adonay) comes from the root *adon*, meaning superior, master, or owner. Scripture uses *adon* to refer to man primarily and, at times, to God.

Adonay = an intensified, emphatic plural form of *adon*. The Old Testament uses *Adonay* more than 300 times in this form and it always refers to God.

I. God's Friendship (Genesis 18:1-8)

Humble Servant

What effect is this friendship to have on us?

It brings us close to God.

Our closeness to God—our intimacy with Him—helps us to recognize His presence and work in our life and in others.

I. God's Friendship (Genesis 18:1-8)

Hospitable Servant

Abraham took the blessings that he had received from God and simply used them to serve the Lord.

What God had blessed him with, he blessed God with.

The meal simply set the tone for what God wanted to say. God has a message of hope, reassurance, comfort, and peace to offer the couple, especially Sarah.

II. God's Faithfulness (Genesis 18:9-15)

Hebrews 11:11

II. God's Faithfulness (Genesis 18:9-15)

1. Confirmation (v. 9-12)

God is being faithful and showing His great compassion on a woman who has suffered humiliation her entire life.

The tragedy here is that Sarah is in the right place to hear God's truth in a physical sense, but her heart was not prepared to hear God's truth with faith in the spiritual sense.

According to the great mercy and grace of God with which He loves His children, He does not leave Sarah to her lack.

II. God's Faithfulness (Genesis 18:9-15)

God is also demonstrating His faithfulness by His:

2. **Confrontation** (v. 13-15)

But Sarah must lay hold of it by faith.

II. God's Faithfulness (Genesis 18:9-15)

2. **Confrontation** (v. 13-15)

Descriptions of the physical and spiritual frailties of Abraham and Sarah:

Used up (v. 12) "old" = worn out, used up completely

Pleasure in verse 12 can also translate *delight*; referring to physical intimacy

Unbelieving = weak faith—not a complete absence of faith, but a weak, anemic faith resulting from circumstances (living by sight) and from a shallow spiritual understanding (earthly-minded instead of heavenly-minded).

II. God's Faithfulness (Genesis 18:9-15)

2. Confrontation (v. 13-15)

God said, *“No, but you did laugh.”*

“By faith, even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.”
(Heb. 11:11)

II. God's Faithfulness (Genesis 18:9-15)

God doesn't leave you where you are—because... **He loves you.**

He disciplines you with His designs of specific circumstances to show you His goodness—a goodness you will treasure in your heart in your remaining years.

Don't grow hard in your hardships. And don't waste your privilege to know the greater depths of God's caring for you.

“It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

Hebrews 12:7-11



A person stands on a dark rock in the foreground, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The text "GRACE CHURCH" is written in large, white, serif capital letters, and "WILLIAMSBURG" is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters below it.

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