



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

A person stands on a rock in the foreground, silhouetted against a vast, starry night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the center of the frame. The stars are numerous and bright, creating a sense of depth and wonder. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

THE GOD WHO CARES

GENESIS 18:1-15

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“Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6-7)

I. God's Friendship (Genesis 18:1-8; see James 2:23)

1. Condescension = to stoop, descend

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

The condescension of the Lord simply refers to God coming down or stooping/descending to make Himself known to us, to be with us, and to live in us by grace through faith.

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

El-Shaddai:

- power; omnipotence.
- God overcomes all things, both physical and spiritual, to care for His children.

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

Why does God do this?

So that we might bear greater spiritual fruit in our relationship with Him.

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

The second way we see God's friendship demonstrated is by His:

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)

Friendship and fellowship are marks of this meal as the Lord honors Abraham by sitting at his table, and as Abraham honors the Lord by standing at a respectful distance in watchful anticipation as God's servant.

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

2. Congeniality = warmly intimate, agreeable, favorable

Exodus 24:3-11

This is a *theophany*, an appearing of God the Father.

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)

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

Condescension and congeniality

In response, we are to show our friendship to God, also. Abraham offers us a wonderful example of how a servant of the Lord responds in friendship with God. These are responses of our worshiping hearts before the Lord.

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 this form of *Adonay* more than 300 times, 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, and this makes us all the more eager to do all we can in service to Him.

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

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

God demonstrated faithfulness by His:

1. **Confirmation** (v. 9-12)

"Where is Sarah your wife?"

This question reveals the heart and purpose of the visit. The Lord is really talking to Sarah for her benefit. It's as if the Lord is saying, "I have something to say to her."

When God speaks, it's important!

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. God does not leave Sarah to wallow and live in her lack of faith.

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

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

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

Unbelieving = weak faith—not a complete absence of faith, but a weak, anemic faith resulting from circumstances (living by sight)

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

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

Sarah also revealed her heart as she laughed within herself.

God heard her self-talk as she reasoned away God's promise to her.

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)

Don't grow hard in your hardships.

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