



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Pass the Promise Series, Lesson 13

Lesson Title: Abraham's Strange Visitors

Take Home Point: Trust God. He can do the impossible.

Warm-Up:

"[The United States] will land a man on the moon and return him safely to the earth in this decade." When these words were spoken by President Kennedy in 1961, he was setting a goal and making a promise that seemed impossible. Many people didn't believe it could be done, and many laughed in doubt and derision. But through the tremendous efforts of thousands of people, what seemed impossible happened in July of 1969. And the disbelieving laughter turned to happiness at the accomplishment of the nation.

Read: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-6

Observation (What happened?):

Why did Sarah laugh when she heard the promise of a son? What did she say after her son was born?

According to Genesis 17:15-17, what was Abraham's response to the promise God made regarding a son?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did the Lord wait until Sarah was past the age of child-bearing to promise them a son and make it so?

How long had Abraham waited since God first spoke to him and promised to make him into a great nation? (Read Genesis 12:1-4.)

Insight:

As you read the Bible, it is obvious that the God revealed in its pages is the God of the impossible. The birth of Isaac is one of many "impossible" acts that God performed. In fact, the word "impossible" loses its meaning when we consider what God can do. Remember Israel's release from Egypt, crossing the Red Sea, capturing Jericho, Elijah on Mt. Carmel, Lazarus raised from the dead, the birth and resurrection of Jesus, the many healings Jesus performed, and his feeding the thousands. The God who did these things today is the same God now and forever! (Read Psalm 102:25-27 and Hebrews 13:8.) But also remember that all these things were done in God's timing, not the timing of the people involved. As someone once said, "In his time, God makes all things beautiful; in our time, we can really foul it up!"

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Think of a time in your life when you had to wait for something God promised you that seemed impossible. Perhaps healing a relationship or seeing a child return to the Lord. How did he keep his promise?

What promise that seems impossible are you waiting for him to answer now? Do you believe he will do it, or are you "laughing" at his ability to do it?

Kingdom Quest Year 1, Lesson 13