

## No Laughing Matters!

### Recap Last --Abrahamic Covenant--

Gen 15:4, 6-21

#### The Covenant is--

- a) Everlasting--
- b) Unilateral --
- c) Unconditional --

### This Weeks's Scriptures--

Gen 18:1- 22:24

Pro 14:9--

In our everyday living, laughter is almost a given, there are times where laughter is actually unavoidable. As matter of fact, the Bible prescribes laughter as "medicine". King Solomon in the Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time to "mourn and a time to laugh". There are behaviors described in this section of Scripture which I am sure Yahweh placed, and permitted to come to pass in Scripture in order for us to recognize the importance of character for those who bear His name.

There are specific topics I believe God wants us to look at and recognize He takes very serious, therefore, they are NO LAUGHING MATTERS!

- a) God's Intended plan for His people--Gen 18: 9-15-- How should we handle it when God approaches us through His written Word? Through answered prayers? or through a word of knowledge and wisdom He might have imparted to us through someone else? Sarah obviously did not handle herself properly, seemingly she was caught of guard, or maybe she felt that Abraham and her had already took care of the offspring situation by Abraham and Hagar having Ishmael.  
~~Is it possible Sarah thought she had a better plan than the one she had heard prior from Abraham as God had promised him?~~  
I'd say it is a possibility she felt that way because she said in verse 13 "Can I really have a baby when I'm old?"
- b) Interceding for others who do not have a relationship with God-- Gen 18: 23-25-- Knowing that someone is facing

God's judgment should move us to interceding for them. Granted God will ultimately hand out the necessary punishment for their disobedience. The end result of Abraham's intercession was Lot's life being spared, along with his daughters, his wife would have been spared as well had she not disobeyed, it is obvious that when Abraham decided to speak to God about the destruction of Sodom, that he was hoping to change God's mind based on his own view of those who he believed were righteous to not deserving of destruction. (See George Muller's dedication to prayer)

- c) Those who do not bear the name of our God should not behave more righteous-- Gen 20:1-7-- It is an embarrassment for someone outside of our flocks to have more integrity in their actions than those from the flock.

We as believers should be willing to consider the "black eye" our God and our Christian community bears each and every time we get caught fabricating, twisting, maneuvering, or conniving our way to what we want. Instead, our desire should be to seek God's will through prayer, or the counsel of close brothers and sisters on how to handle and resolve sticky situations.

d) God's judgement and destruction of the wicked is proportionate--Gen 19:13, 23-25-- Lot was given the opportunity to escape along with his daughters, his wife and his in-laws had the latter obeyed the warnings, they would have made it out as well.

In God's infinite wisdom, it is only those who obey Him who are truly His. Psa 1:1-6 paints this picture best!

e) God's request for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac was the foreshadowing of God's only Son Sacrifice--Gen 21: 1-8-- It is very interesting that Abraham would obey God's request to perform this sacrifice which pales in comparison with not being truthful about his real relationship with Sarah.

However, in this scenario he is one hundred percent certain that God will deliver His son from the throws of death on the altar.

What was different about this part of his life than the other events were he failed?

What about our life, where do we find ourselves believing God' promises where in other places we flounder?

How is your intercessory prayer life? Is it a "mighty river or a stagnant swamp"?