

Bible LESSON # 9

Genesis 18-19

1.

Abraham had been working with the sheep and cattle all morning in the hot sun. He was ninety nine years old now and he got tired sooner than he used to. When Abram came to his tent he gave a big sigh and sat down in the shade to rest awhile. As he was sitting there he looked out over the land and saw some people coming toward his tent. As they drew near he saw there were three men and Abraham quickly got up and ran to meet them. Why do you suppose he was happy to see strangers coming to visit? Abraham and Sarah didn't live in a big city or even a small town. They lived in tents far away from crowds so when someone came by, they were very happy to visit with them. This was an opportunity to hear all the news, for they didn't have newspapers in those days or television. The only way they knew what was going on was if people came past their tent.

Abraham ran out and asked the men to come sit down and rest, he would bring them some cool water to wash their dusty feet and prepare some food to eat. Sarah was in the tent and Abraham asked her to get some fine flour and bake some loaves of bread while he ran to a servant and asked him to quickly prepare some roasted meat for the meal. While the men sat and rested Abraham got some milk and cheese to go with the sizzling hot meat and the bread warm from the oven. That was a fine meal for the strangers!

Do you know who these men were? They were not just any men, these were angel messengers sent by God to tell Abraham and Sarah some important news.



After the meal was over the angels asked where Sarah was and Abraham said she was inside the tent. The angels said, "Sarah will have a son." Now God had already promised this to Abraham, but Abraham and Sarah thought that Hagar's son Ishmael was the only son they could ever have. Abraham believed God but he didn't understand that Sarah would have a child herself, since she was way past the age of having babies. When Sarah heard her name she moved closer to the tent door. When she heard the man say she would have a son, she laughed to herself, "am I to have a son in my old age, how silly?" she thought to herself. The angels heard what Sarah said and asked, "Why did Sarah laugh?" Now Sarah was frightened. How could they know she had laughed? She hadn't made a sound, she was only thinking this in her head! Sarah hurried out the door..."I didn't laugh," she said. Was that right? Do you ever do something like that? Say you "didn't do it," when you really did?

Sometimes we are afraid we will be punished and so we tell a lie to cover up what we did. Does that ever work? Do you feel good when you tell a lie? Lies don't really help, do they, sooner or later it will be found out and then you'll feel even worse.

The angels knew that Sarah was lying and they said, "Yes, you did laugh. Do you think anything is too hard for God? What he said will come to pass; this time next year you will have a baby boy."

Do you think anything too hard for God to do? Even if something is not according to nature but God wants it to happen, it WILL happen. God made everything in nature so if he wants to make water hard and rocks soft for a certain reason he can, can't he?

Jeremiah 32:17 will be your memory verse. Put a check in the box when you have learned it.

"Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power; Nothing is too hard for you."



The angels then said they had to leave, so Abraham got his staff and walked with them for a bit. As they were walking along a hill, they looked down in the valley and saw the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah where Lot and his family lived. Do you remember who Lot was? He was Abraham's nephew and had lived with Abraham and Sarah for many years before he and his wife and daughters moved to the city of Sodom. The city looked pretty from a distance. It was full of nice buildings situated in a lush green valley. The city itself wasn't evil, but the people inside the city were getting a very bad reputation. The messengers looked toward the city and told Abraham, "God has seen the wickedness of these evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. We are going to visit Sodom and see if all that we have heard about the men and women of Sodom and Gomorrah is true. If it is full of evil men and women then God will have to destroy these cities."



Two of the men walked on but Abraham asked the other messenger of God if indeed the whole city would be destroyed if 50 righteous people could be found in it. "No," the angel said, "if we find 50 people who do right, we won't destroy the city." Abraham knew Lot and his family were there and he was frightened for them. "What if there are 45 righteous? Or 30 righteous? Please don't be angry, but what if only 20 righteous people could be found in the city, would you then destroy it?" Abraham asked.

God has a lot of patience with his people. He didn't get angry at Abraham and each time Abraham asked, the messenger from God said they wouldn't destroy the city if there were 45, 30, or even 20 righteous people in the city. Finally Abraham asked one last time, "If there are only 10 people found that do right, will you still destroy the city?" "If we find even 10 righteous people in that wicked city, we won't destroy it." then the angel left and Abraham went back home, thinking surely there would be at least 10 good people in Sodom and Lot and his family would be safe.

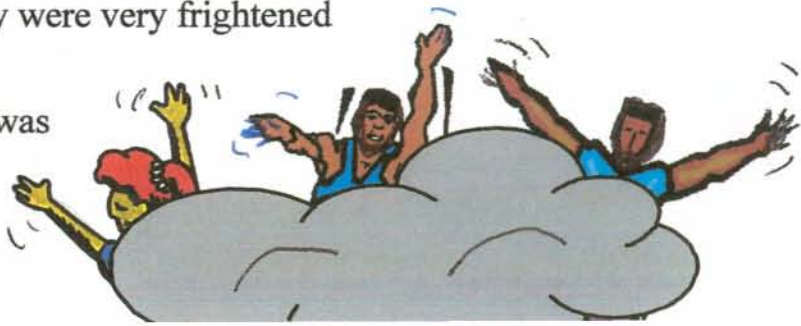
Meanwhile the other two angels came to the city of Sodom just as the sun was going down. Lot happened to be sitting by the gate and saw them approaching the city. Lot knew what the people in his town were like. At nighttime many of them would come out and get drunk, get in fights, run in mobs, beat people up, kill, steal and mistreat anyone that was out at night. Lot ran up to the messengers and said, "please come home with me and spend the night. It isn't safe to stay in the streets after dark." He had to urge the men to come with him and they finally agreed.

Lot prepared a meal for the men while his wife fixed some beds for them to sleep in. Just as they were getting ready to go to bed, there was a loud pounding on the door. A big mob of men were outside and began yelling, "Open the door, bring out those men who are staying with you...we saw them coming to your house...now, bring them out we want them!" Lot knew that the men would mistreat these strangers and maybe even kill them. He went outside the door and shut it after him. "Men of Sodom, don't be so wicked," he said. "Get out of our way, who made you a judge over us," they shouted. "We'll treat you even worse then we'll threat them, let us in!"

The angels heard what the men of Sodom were saying and they quickly opened the door and pulled Lot inside and slammed the door shut.

Now Lot knew these men were from God, for suddenly all the men outside the house became blind. They yelled and staggered into each other and into the house. They couldn't see each other and couldn't see where they were. They were very frightened and had to feel their ways home.

The angels told Lot that in the morning God was going to destroy the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah. He was to run quickly and gather any who wanted to be saved.



Lot's daughters were both engaged to be married to young men living nearby. Lot ran to their homes to tell them they must hurry and leave the city for it was to be destroyed. They just laughed at him, what a silly idea they thought. Sodom had been around for a long time, it was a big, solid city. What could possibly destroy it? Lot tried to tell some friends and neighbors but no one would believe him. When he returned home the sun was just coming over the mountains. The angels told Lot to take his wife and daughters and quickly leave the city. Even then Lot lingered, he knew his wife loved this city and wouldn't want to leave; his daughters had boy friends that they loved and he had lots of sheep and cattle in fields nearby. Finally the angels took Lot and his wife and daughters by the hand and hurried them out of the city. "Hurry, go into the mountains, whatever you do...DON'T LOOK BACK! Run for your lives, don't stop, don't turn around, don't linger, hurry" they told Lot and his family. There were not even 10 righteous people in the city, but because God was merciful to Abraham, he wanted to save Lot and his family.

As the sun came up God caused great fiery stones to rain down on the city of Sodom. Possibly this was from a huge volcanic eruption. Lot and his daughters hurried up into the mountains but Lot's wife didn't want to go. She disobeyed the angels and stopped and turned around, either to look back at the wicked city or possibly to head back to Sodom. Near Sodom there were great tar pits and also large amounts of salt and mineral deposits. As Lot's wife turned back, she was suddenly covered with mounds of salt, possibly thrown out by the huge volcanic explosion. She was turned into a standing pillar of salt!



Sometimes people don't really want to believe God's words. They will do a little bit of what God says, but sometimes we might try to think of reasons why we should change what God says. Maybe Lot's wife reasoned that it wouldn't really hurt to look back at the city. Maybe she got stubborn and thought "I won't go into any old mountain, I want to go back to my home!" We don't hear angels talking to us now, but we do have God's word in the Bible. The more you read the Bible as you grow up, the more important God's word will be to you. He tells us how we are to treat others and how we are to live in order to do right. God also gives us wonderful promises like ones he gave to Abraham. When we are part of God's family we're promised life forever on the land Abraham was promised. We are told that there will be no more war, no more death, no more hurts or crying. It is well worth it to obey God's word, isn't it?

Isaiah tells of a time to come when a king will come who will have God's wisdom and power rest on him. He will delight in the love and honor of God and he will judge people with righteousness and faithfulness. Who do you think this ruler will be?

In the New Testament of the Bible we read about Jesus Christ, the son of God. He will be the one Isaiah was talking about. God sent Jesus to lead people toward God. Those who listen to God's words and believe in Jesus will be baptized and try to live the right way all their lives. Isaiah tells about the kingdom Jesus will rule over when it's time for him to return to rescue the earth from the troubles wicked men and women bring. Then Jesus will rule with God's wisdom and power as Isaiah tells. Here are some of the things God has promised:

Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion will feed together
and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the hold of the cobra
and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.
They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord ..."



Question Page

1. Who were the three visitors who came to Abraham's tent? Who did they come from?
2. What did Abraham do to make the visitors welcome?
3. What message did the visitors give to Sarah?
4. Did Sarah believe the visitors? What did she do?
5. What things are too hard for God to do?
6. Did God get mad at Abraham for asking if he would destroy Sodom if 50, 45, 30 or even 10 righteous people were found there?
7. Why did Lot want the angels to come home with him instead of staying in the streets at night?
8. Were the men of Sodom welcoming and kind to the angels in Lot's house?
9. What did the angels do to the wicked men who wanted to hurt them?
10. Lot ran to tell others to leave Sodom...did they believe Lot? What did they do?
11. What finally made Lot and his family leave the town? (a) The fire started
(b) The angels took them by the hand (c) Lot's wife wanted to leave
12. What kind of stones rained down on Sodom and Gomorrah?
13. What did Lot's wife do that disobeyed the angel's command.
14. What happened to Lot's wife?
15. Where can we find God's words and commandments today?

Bible Lesson # 9

Without looking try to match the correct wild animals with the tame animals listed in Isaiah 11. After you've completed matching them, check you answers with the verse on page 5



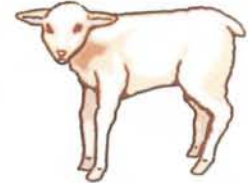
Leopard



Infant



Bear



Lamb



Lion



Goat



Cobra, Viper



cow



Wolf



calf

Bible Lesson # 9

Abraham gave his visitors food and so did Lot. Below are some Bible foods but they are all mixed up. Try to unscramble them or look up the references in your Bibles.



NSISAIR _____ 1 Samuel 30:11-12

KIML _____ Genesis 18:7-8

NSONIO _____ Numbers 11:5

RADEB _____ John 6:51

HECEES _____ 1 Samuel 17:18

RESUMBCUC _____ Numbers 11:5

GSGE _____ Luke 11:12

TERUTB _____ Psalms 55:21

ESPAGR _____ Deuteronomy 23:24

PLAESP _____ Proverbs 25:11



Bible Lesson # 9

There are several things wrong in the picture of Abraham tending his flocks and herds.
Can you find at least 10 things that don't belong?

