

A Son Through Sarah [Genesis 17:15-18:15]

A. First Encounter [17:15-21]

1. A Promise for Sarah [vv. 15-16]
2. A Question from Abraham [vv. 17-18]
3. A Covenant with Isaac [v. 19]
4. A Future for Ishmael [vv. 20-21]

B. Interlude: An Act of Obedience [vv. 22-27]

C. Second Encounter [18:1-15]

1. A Visit from Strangers [vv. 1-8]
2. Another Promise for Sarah [vv. 9-11]
3. A Question from Sarah [v. 12]
4. A Response from the Lord [vv. 13-15]

D. Isaac, Not Ishmael: The Enduring Truth of God's Choice

1. What insight, principle, or observation from the message did you find most helpful, most challenging, or most troubling? Please explain.
2.
 - a. What can we learn about the nature of obedience from 17:23-27? Note everything you observe in these verses.
 - b. Compare with 1 Samuel 15:10-24. Where specifically does Saul go astray?
 - c. How does Saul excuse his disobedience? Have you ever used similar excuses yourself?
 - d. How specifically do these two examples (Abraham and Saul) encourage or challenge you in your walk of faith & obedience today?
3.
 - a. What all can we learn about hospitality from 18:1-8? Make as many observations as you can from these verses.
 - b. Read Hebrews 13:2. Is this a strange way to motivate people to show hospitality? Why or why not?
 - c. According to Hebrews 13:2, is hospitality a gift to a select few, or an expectation for all of us? See also Matthew 25:35-40, Romans 12:13, 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8 & 1 Peter 4:9.
 - d. What challenges you in your practice of hospitality? Are there any steps you could take to help overcome these challenges?
4. Read through Romans 9:1-24.
 - a. What makes the most sense to you in this passage? What makes the least sense?
 - b. Some have argued that Romans 9 is about God's choice of nations, not individuals. How would you respond to that view based on what Romans 9 actually says (esp. vv 2-3, 6 & 24)?
5. How did the doctrine of God's sovereignty work out in Paul's life? See, for example, Acts 13:44-48, Romans 10:9-15, 1 Corinthians 1:27-2:5, & 2 Corinthians 5:20 (or other passages you may think of). What do these passages say about our responsibilities and meaningful choices within God's sovereign plan?
6. How should God's sovereignty in salvation be an encouragement to us? See Acts 18:8-11, 2 Timothy 2:8-10 & Revelation 5:9-10. How can these truths specifically encourage you this week?