

January 2nd, 2011

This Is the Feast... Genesis 18:1-33

Genesis 18:1-8 ¹And YHWH appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." ⁷And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

- 1 Oaks of Mamre- Abram settled there in 13:18, Mamre was an ally of Abram (14:24)
"sat at the door... heat of the day"- like an afternoon siesta in the Near East
- 2 Three men- NOT the Trinity! This is YHWH and two angels (18:22)
- 3-5 Abraham's actions are indicative of ancient Near Eastern hospitality.
"morsel of bread"- Abraham will give them much more, but this is a form of humility
- 6 Three seahs- this is a huge amount for just three men, 1 seah = 7 quarts
Cakes- round and unleavened (think pancakes)
- 7 "a calf, tender and good"- MUCH more than just a "morsel of bread"
- 8 Abraham provides a feast of calf, curds, cakes, and milk and he waits on them

Genesis 18:9-15 ⁹They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰YHWH said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹²So Sarah laughed (Isaac-ed) to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³YHWH said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh (Isaac) and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'" ¹⁴Is anything too hard for YHWH? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh (Isaac)," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh (Isaac)."

- 9 "Sarah your wife"- Ever since Gen 12, the text has stressed who Abraham's wife is
- 10 "Sarah your wife shall have a son"- Sarah gets to hear the promise with her own ears
- 11 "The way of women had ceased"- she was no longer able to have children
- 12 In rather dramatic irony, Sarah isaacs to herself, yet YHWH knows it
"shall I have pleasure?" She doubts the promise of a child now, but later believes (Heb 11:11-12)
- 13 YHWH knows that Sarah isaaced, just like Jesus knows the thoughts of Pharisees, etc
- 14 Tertullian writes- *For a barren woman to have a child against nature was no difficulty with God; nor was it for a virgin to conceive.*
- 15 Sarah denies it for fear and God gently rebukes her

Genesis 18:16-21

- 16 Sodom- in the Table of Nations (10:19), territory of Ham's cursed son, Canaan.
"to set them on their way"- the Hebrew implies Abraham went with them quite a ways
- 17 Does YHWH take council with his two angels? (Job 1:6 – 2:10)
- 18 YHWH repeats the promise including the blessing to all nations
- 19 "For I have chosen him"- YHWH chose Abraham just as Jesus chose apostles
"that he may command his children"- Abraham is chosen for the purpose of establishing this religion
"to keep the way of YHWH"- remember, *keeping* God's covenant is treasuring it and pondering it as Mary does. It is a faithful reception.
"by doing righteousness and justice"- How did Abraham "do righteousness?" He believed
"so that YHWH may bring to Abraham what he has promised him"- commanding children & household, keeping YHWH's way, doing righteousness & justice all with the result that YHWH may bring the promised Blessing to All Nations through Abraham that his descendants may inherit the Promised Land. Seeing this all in light of Christ is the only proper way and the only way to avoid falling into the works righteousness of Roman Catholics and evangelicalism.
- 21 "I will go down to see..." does God need to confirm reports? What's going on?

Genesis 18:22-33

- 22 The angels leave Abraham with YHWH
- 23-33 Abraham barter with YHWH- 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10
Perhaps Abraham has the Flood in mind, when YHWH spared just 8 people
- 24 50- a relatively small number given that 5 cities were associated with Sodom
- 25 "Judge of all the earth"- YHWH is not a tribal god, limited in jurisdiction

Psalm 47

- ¹Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
- ²For YHWH, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.
- ³He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
- ⁴He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- ⁵God has gone up with a shout,
YHWH with the sound of a trumpet.
- ⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- ⁷For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!
- ⁸God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
- ⁹The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.**

