

EPISODE NO. 20

Gen. 18:1-15

The Three Visitors

1 Then the Always-Present One appeared to Abraham at the Oak Trees of Mamre. Abraham was sitting there at the door of his tent during the hottest part of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he noticed them, he ran from the door of his tent to meet them. He bowed down to the ground. 3 Abraham said, “Sirs, would you like to stay with me, your servant? Please do! 4 Let me get some water to wash your feet. Then you can lie down to rest under the tree. 5 And, let me get some food to give you strength. Later, you can continue your journey. That’s why I am here, to serve you.”

The men said, “We accept your offer.”

6 So, Abraham hurried into his tent and told Sarah, “Quick, bring three measures of flour, mix the dough, and make three loaves of bread!”

7 Then Abraham ran in among the herd and grabbed a calf which was good and tender. He gave it to a young man who hurried to prepare it. 8 Then Abraham took milk, yogurt, and the calf which the young man had prepared and placed them in front of the three men. They ate under the tree, while Abraham was standing beside them.

9 They asked Abraham, “Where is your wife, Sarah?”

Abraham answered, “Over there in the tent.”

10 One of the men said, “I will definitely come back to you in the spring time. Listen, your wife Sarah will have a son!” (Sarah was listening at the doorway of the tent behind Abraham. 11 Both Abraham and Sarah were getting very old. Sarah was past the time when women can have children.)

12 So, Sarah laughed within herself, thinking, “After I and my husband have become so old, I cannot have a baby!”

13 Then the Always-Present One said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh at this? She thought: ‘How could I give birth when I am so old!?’ 14 Is anything too difficult for the

Always-Present One? I will come back to you at the time which has been set, the spring time, and Sarah WILL have a son!”

15 But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did NOT laugh!” (She was afraid.)

The Always-Present One said, “Oh, but you DID laugh!”