

A. Ministering of Abraham (1-8)

The Swiftmess of His Service

"He ran" (2)
"Went quickly" (6)
"Quick!" (6)
"Abraham ran" (7)

The Submission of His Service

"bowed himself" (2)
"your servant" (3,5)

The Solicitousness of His Service

Abraham expressed genuine care toward his guests by the things he offered them (3-5)

The Sacrifice of His Service

True service requires a willingness to sacrifice

"took a calf, tender and good" (7)

Compare **Mal 1:13**

The Steadfastness of His Service

"he stood by them under the tree while they ate"

The posture of a servant who is ever ready to do the bidding of his master

Ties in with Gen 17:26 "That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael..."

¹And the **LORD** appeared to **him** by the *oaks of Mamre*, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

Gen 13:18 "So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron..."

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*.

In the Ancient Near East animal food is not usually provided, except for special visitors

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*.

Who Were the Three Men?

*The **LORD** / **Angels**

"the **LORD** appeared"
12:7, 17:1, 26:2,24, 35:9

LORD (1) יהוה (YHWH)

Lord (3) אָדֹנָי ('ādō·nāy)

Both are names for the one true God

Compare to "Angel of the **LORD**" in **Gen 16:7-12**

Gen 18:22 So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the **LORD**.

Gen 19:1 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.

Gen 19:12-13 Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. ¹³For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the **LORD**, and the **LORD** has sent us to destroy it."

Gen 19:24 Then the **LORD** rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the **LORD** out of heaven.

***Possibilities**

1.) One man was the **LORD**, and the other two were simply angels

2.) All three represented the presence of the **LORD**

**B. Messages for
Abraham-Part 1 (9-15)**

The Message About the Son

-The inquiry before the message

"Where is Sarah your wife?" (9)

This message only concerned Abraham as the father and Sarah as the mother of Isaac (17:16)

-The incredible in the message

"Abraham and Sarah were old...the way of women had ceased to be with Sarah" (11)

-The insolence for the message

"Sarah laughed"

-The indicting in the message

*Omniscience of God

Ps 139:1-4

"Laughed to herself"

"Why did Sarah laugh..."

*Power of God

Luke 1:37

"Is anything too hard for the LORD?" (14)

*Grace of God

"Sarah shall have a son" (14)

-The iniquity after the message

"Sarah denied it"

"I did not laugh"

⁹They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent."

LORD (1) יהוה (YHWH)

¹⁰The LORD 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.

Gen 17:1,17 → Abraham was 99, Sarah was 90

¹¹Now *Abraham and Sarah were old*, advanced in years. *The way of women* had ceased to be with Sarah.

Gen 11:30 "Now Sarai was barren; she had no child"

¹²So *Sarah laughed to herself*, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"

¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "*Why did Sarah laugh* and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'"

¹⁴*Is anything too hard for the LORD?* 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,*" for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

God repeats the promise he made to Abraham in Gen 17:15-21

Note the difference in God's reaction after Abraham laughed (17:15-21)

LORD / Three Men

3378 יהוה (*yhwh*): n.pr.; ≡ Str 3068, 3069, 3070, 3071, 3072, 3073, 3074; TWOT 484a—LN 12.9 (true God) (njb) **Yahweh**: Jehovah, the Lord as an euphemism for *Adonai*, most versions the name of the one true God, with a focus on sure existence and His relationship to his covenant persons and peoples (Ex 3:15), see also 3363¹

151 אֲדֹנָי (*'ăḏō-nāy*): n.pr.; ≡ Str 136; TWOT 27b—**1.** LN 12.1–12.42 (masc.) **Lord**, Master, i.e., a title of the true God with a focus on the authority and majesty of a ruler (Ge 18:27), see also 123; **2.** LN 12.1–12.42 unit: אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה (*'ăḏō-nāy yhw(h)*), יְהוָה (*yhwh*) Sovereign Lord, formally, Majestic Lord Yahweh, i.e., a title of the true God with a focus on the authority and majesty of a ruler, yet also implying a relationship based in promise, covenant, or other relational factors (Ge 15:2)²

Adonai (אֲדֹנָי, *adonay*). A name belonging to God, which is translated “Lord.” Its vowels are found in the Masoretic Text with יהוה (*yhwh*) (YHWH). When the ancient Hebrew reader came to these letters, he/she always substituted in pronunciation the name “Adonai.”³

Genesis 18:22 (ESV)

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord.

Genesis 19:1–2 (ESV)

¹ The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth ² and said, “My lords, please turn aside to your servant’s house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way.” They said, “No; we will spend the night in the town square.”

Genesis 19:12–13 (ESV)

¹² Then the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. ¹³ For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it.”

Genesis 19:24 (ESV)

²⁴ Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven.

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

³ Halcomb, M. (2012). Adonai. In (J. D. Barry & L. Wentz, Eds.) *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

Him (v.1)

Genesis 17:26 (ESV)

²⁶ That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised.

Oaks of Mamre

Mamre—manliness.

(1.) An Amoritish chief in alliance with Abraham (Gen. 14:13, 24).

(2.) The name of the place in the neighbourhood of Hebron (q.v.) where Abraham dwelt (Gen. 23:17, 19; 35:27); called also in Authorized Version (13:18) the “plain of Mamre,” but in Revised Version more correctly “the oaks [marg., ‘terebinths’] of Mamre.” The name probably denotes the “oak grove” or the “wood of Mamre,” thus designated after Abraham’s ally.

This “grove” must have been within sight of or “facing” Machpelah (q.v.). The site of Mamre has been identified with Ballatet Selta, i.e., “the oak of rest”, where there is a tree called “Abraham’s oak,” about a mile and a half west of Hebron. Others identify it with er-Rameh, 2 miles north of Hebron.⁴

Genesis 13:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.

Sacrifice of His Service

Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf—Animal food is never provided, except for visitors of a superior rank when a kid or lamb is killed. A calf is still a higher stretch of hospitality, and it would probably be cooked as is usually done when haste is required—either by roasting it whole or by cutting it up into small pieces and broiling them on skewers over the fire. It is always eaten along with boiled corn swimming in butter or melted fat, into which every morsel of meat, laid upon a piece of bread, is dipped, before being conveyed by the fingers to the mouth.⁵

Malachi 1:13 (ESV)

¹³ But you say, ‘What a weariness this is,’ and you snort at it, says the Lord of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the Lord.

⁴ Easton, M. G. (1893). In *Easton’s Bible dictionary*. New York: Harper & Brothers.

⁵ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible* (Ge 18:7). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Repeat of Promise

Genesis 17:15–21 (ESV)

¹⁵ And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” ¹⁹ God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

Age of Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 17:1 (ESV)

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,

Genesis 17:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

The Way of Women

Genesis 11:30 (ESV)

³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

Omniscience of God

Psalm 139:1–4 (ESV)

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

Power of God

Luke 1:26–38 (ESV)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ ***For nothing will be impossible with God.***" ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.