

# Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord?

Gen 18:1-14

1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; 2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, 3 And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: 4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: 5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said. 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead *it*, and make cakes upon the hearth. 7 And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave *it* unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. 8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set *it* before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat. 9 And they said unto him, Where *is* Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. 10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard *it* in the tent door, which *was* behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah *were* old *and* well stricken in age; *and* it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. 12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? 13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? 14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Introduction:

1. Abraham served the Lord
  - a. He served the Lord immediately
    1. Abraham was resting in the heat of the day when he saw three strangers approaching
    2. Few people traveled when the sun was so hot and Abraham was both curious and courteous
    3. He could have ignored the travelers
  - b. He served the Lord speedily
    1. He “ran” to meet the visitors - he hastened into the tent - the young man hastened to dress the meat -
    2. Remember that this is a 99 yr old man who is running around in the heat of the day
  - c. He served the Lord generously
    1. Abraham gave the visitors his best
    2. Vs 6 - “fine meal” - vs 7 - a calf “tender and good”
  - d. Abraham served the Lord humbly
    1. Vs 2 - He bowed - Vs 3, 5 - he called himself a servant - he called this feast a “morsel of bread”
    2. He interrupted the afternoon nap to serve the 3 strangers
2. One of the visitors was the Lord Jesus Christ and He told Abraham that Sarah would have a child in 9 months
  - a. She was 89 and she was barren
  - b. Sarah was in the tent and heard the promise of God and she laughed questioning whether two elderly people could have a child
  - c. The Son of God knew that she laughed and commented “Is anything too hard for God?”
3. Is anything too hard for God?
  - a. Job 42:2 I know that thou canst do every *thing*...

- b. Jer 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee:
  - c. Lu 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.
4. The word “impossible” appears 9x in the Bible
- a. Only once does it apply to God – Heb 6:18  
18b ... it was impossible for God to lie...
  - b. 3x the Bible says, “with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”
5. God has never come to a situation and said, “Well, I’d like to help, but this is an impossible situation and I can do nothing.”

## I. NO PROMISE IS TOO HARD FOR GOD TO FULFILL

### A. A Promise Made – Lu 1:30-33

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

- 1. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary
- 2. Gabriel promised Mary...
  - a) *...that she would conceive and give birth to a son and call His name Jesus*
  - b) *...that Jesus would be great and he would be called the Son of the Highest*
  - c) *... that Jesus would sit on David’s throne and reign over the house of Jacob forever*
- 3. Mary questioned the angel - vs 34

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

4. Gabriel explained to Mary what would happen

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

- a) *Ordinarily it would be impossible for a woman to have a child without a man*
- b) *Nothing is impossible for God*

## **B. A Promise Kept – Lu 2:6-7**

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

1. God made sure Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem
2. Jesus was born to Mary and she was still a virgin

## **C. The Application**

1. No promise is too hard for God to keep
2. The promises may appear difficult or impossible to us
3. God still keeps His promises today
  - a) *Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
  - b) *John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of*

*God abideth on him.*

- c) *John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*
- d) *John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
- e) *Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*
- f) *Phil 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
- g) *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

4. We can put our faith in God's promises

No Promise is Too Hard for God to Fulfill

## **II. NO PROBLEM IS TOO HARD FOR GOD TO SOLVE**

### **A. The Problem – Ex 14**

9 But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon. 10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. 11 And they said unto Moses, Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? 12 *Is* not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For *it had been* better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the

wilderness. 13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

1. Pharaoh had reservations about letting Israel go free
2. He assembled his army and they pursued the children of Israel
3. The army of Egypt was behind the children of Israel and the Red Sea was in front of them
4. They were in trouble
5. God had promised to get them to the promised land

### **B. The Problem Solved**

21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry *land*, and the waters were divided. 22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry *ground*: and the waters *were* a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, *even* all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, 25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. 26 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. 27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

1. In order to save the children of Israel God split the Red Sea

2. The Egyptians figured that they could cross the Red Sea
3. God released the water and it came crashing in on the Egyptians

### ***C. The Application***

1. Israel had a real problem – it was not a problem for God
2. Our problems are not problems to God
3. We need to take our problems to God
  - a) *Problems with children*
  - b) *Problems with money*
  - c) *Church problems*

No Problem is Too Hard for God to Solve....

## **III. NO PLACE IS TOO HARD FOR GOD TO SEND A REVIVAL**

### ***A. The City of Nineveh***

1. This city was founded by Nimrod after the flood
2. It became the capitol of Assyria
3. Nineveh was known as a wicked city

### ***B. The Revival - Jonah 3***

1 And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, 2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. 3 So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. 4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. 5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. 6 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered *him* with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed,

nor drink water: 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that *is* in their hands. 9 Who can tell *if* God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? 10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

1. Jonah finally arrived in the city and he proclaimed a simple message
2. In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed
  - a) *The message was plain*
  - b) *The gospel message is simple*
  - c) *This message would humble the Ninevites and sinners need to be humbled - no arrogant soul bows at the cross and cries out for salvation*
  - d) *The message was gracious - it was a warning and God did not have to warn them*
3. The people believed God, proclaimed a fast, they wore sackcloth
4. The greatest to the least participated and God spared the land

### **c. The Application**

1. God can revive our nation today
2. Our early American revival
3. The Scotch revival
4. God can send a revival on our church that would change the town of Winston-Salem

No Place is Too Hard for God to Send Revival....

## **IV. NO SOUL IS TOO HARD FOR GOD TO SAVE**

### **A. Saul of Tarsus – Acts 9**

1. The Sinner

1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

a) *Vs 1 – He threatened believers*

b) *Vs 2 – Saul received permission to go to Damascus to capture believers and return them to Jerusalem*

## 2. The Salvation

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

a) *Vs 3-6 – The Lord came to him*

b) *What will you have me to do?*

## **B. The Application**

1. If you are lost, you are not so bad that God can't save you
2. God can save your lost loved ones
3. God can save that lost husband

## Conclusion:

1. With God nothing is impossible...
  - a. No promise is too hard for God to keep
  - b. No problem is too hard for God to solve
  - c. No place is too hard for God to send revival
  - d. No soul is too hard for God to save

2. Jimmy Smith developed an interest in foreign missions while attending Houston Baptist University. After learning of his interest, two missionaries invited him to visit their work in Guatemala. Money was very tight so he and his wife knew the trip would be impossible unless God intervened. Several weeks later, Smith went fishing with a deacon in his church named Gene Alexander. They talked about an upcoming fishing tournament offering a \$20,000 prize for catching a particular fish. Gene knew of Smith's desire to visit Guatemala and promised him \$5,000 for the trip if he caught the fish. Upon learning of the prize fish, Mrs. Smith logged it in her prayer journal and began talking to God. Then on the day of the tournament, Gene reeled in the \$20,000 fish as his first catch of the day. Officials speculated the odds of landing that fish as his first catch were 1 in 6.8 billion. Jimmy Smith and his wife made the trip and God confirmed his call on their lives. They later returned to Guatemala and served as foreign missionaries. Of course things like this have happened before. See Matthew 17:27 for the details.