
Genesis 18:15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

■ **And then there were three...** ■

Genesis 21:1 Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised.² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

■ *Genesis 21:3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.* ■

Genesis 21:4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him.⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶ Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."⁷ And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children?

■ *Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."* ■

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Sarah

Women of the Old Testament—part 3

May 22, 2016

■ **Waiting on the promises of God** ■

Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

² But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."

■ *⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."* ■

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

■ **Taking matters into your own hands** ■

Genesis 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar;

■ *Genesis 16:2 ...so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said.* ■

Genesis 16:3 So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar

and gave her to her husband to be his wife.

Genesis 6:4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived....

Genesis 6:4 ... When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

Psalms 106:12 Then they believed his words; they sang his praise.¹³ But they soon forgot his works; they did not wait for his counsel.

¹⁴ But they had a wanton craving in the wilderness, and put God to the test in the desert;

¹⁵ he gave them what they asked, but sent a wasting disease among them.

Genesis 16:5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me."⁶

"Your servant is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

God's faithfulness in spite of man's rebellion

Genesis 17:15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.

¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Genesis 17:17 Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

God shows up!

Genesis 18:1 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

³ He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by."

Genesis 18:9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said.

Genesis 18:10 Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

Genesis 18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Genesis 18:13 Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?'"¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son."
