

Timeline of Truth – God Prophecies the Birth of a Son to Abraham & Sarah (Gen 18:1-15)

<p>¹ Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.</p> <p>² So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw <i>them</i>, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,</p>	<p>1. God <u>Appears</u> to Abraham</p>
<p>³ and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.</p> <p>⁴ "Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.</p> <p>⁵ "And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant." They said, "Do as you have said."</p> <p>⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead <i>it</i> and make cakes."</p> <p>⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave <i>it</i> to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it.</p> <p>⁸ So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set <i>it</i> before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.</p>	<p>2. Abraham Offers <u>Hospitality</u></p>
<p>⁹ Then they said to him, "Where <i>is</i> Sarah your wife?" So he said, "Here, in the tent."</p>	<p>3. Question #1: <u>Where</u> Is Sarah?</p>
<p>¹⁰ And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son."</p>	<p>4. God Declares His <u>Promise</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>Process</u> – Physical Rejuvenation • The <u>Person</u> – Sarah • The <u>Product</u> – A Son
<p>(Sarah was listening in the tent door which <i>was</i> behind him.)</p>	<p>5. Sarah <u>Heard</u> the Plan</p>
<p>¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; <i>and</i> Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.</p>	<p>6. Sarah's <u>Present</u> Condition</p>
<p>¹² Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Might Abraham NOT told Sarah what happened in Genesis 17?</i></p>	<p>7. Sarah's <u>Response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason #1: <u>I</u> am too old! • Reason #2: <u>He</u> is too old!
<p>¹³ And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear <i>a child</i>, since I am old?'</p>	<p>8. Question #2: Why Did Sarah <u>Laugh</u>?</p>
<p>¹⁴ "Is anything too hard for the LORD?"</p>	<p>9. Question #3: Is There <u>Anything</u>...?</p> <p>Compare similar circumstances with the angel's statement to Mary in Luke 1:37: "For with God nothing will be impossible."</p>
<p>At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."</p>	<p>10. God <u>Repeats</u> His Specific Promise</p>
<p>¹⁵ But Sarah denied <i>it</i>, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid.</p>	<p>11. Sarah <u>Denies</u> Laughing</p>
<p>And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"</p>	<p>12. God <u>Confirms</u> That Sarah Did Laugh</p>

¹⁶ Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all ¹⁷ (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations ") in the presence of Him whom he believed-- God, **who gives life to the dead** and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; ¹⁸ who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." ¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, **he did not consider his own body, already dead** (since he was about a hundred years old), and the **deadness of Sarah's womb**. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." (Rom 4:16-22)