

## MESSAGE NOTES

### God's Questions

#### Is Anything Too Hard For The Lord?

##### Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

<sup>7</sup> Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

<sup>9</sup> "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he said.

<sup>10</sup> Then one of them 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.

<sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

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

<sup>15</sup> Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."

But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

##### Isaiah 46:10

<sup>10</sup> I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.

I say, '**My purpose will stand,** and I will do all that I please.'

##### Psalms 33:11

<sup>11</sup> But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

##### Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but **it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.**

##### Ephesians 1:11-14

In him we were also chosen, **having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,** <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

#### Five of God's Promises from Scripture

- God's Presence (Deuteronomy 31:6, Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5)
- God's Provision (Psalm 34:10, Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:19)
- God's Forgiveness (Isaiah 1:18, Micah 7:18-19, Colossians 1:13-14)
- God's Guidance (Psalm 23:3, Proverbs 3:5-6, James 1:5)
- Eternal Life (John 3:16, John 11:25-26, Romans 6:23)

*Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus. In him, this is what we preach and pray, the great Amen, **God's Yes and our Yes together,** gloriously evident. God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ, putting his Yes within us. By his Spirit he has stamped us with his eternal pledge—a sure beginning of what he is destined to complete. 2 Corinthians 1:20 (The Message)*