

## The Way of the Lord

Genesis 18

### Introduction:

*The Oaks of Mamre - In modern Hebron*

*Sodom, Gomorra, Adamah, Zeboim & Zoar formed a 'pentapolis'*

*Three Guests - Genesis 18:1-15 - The critical statement is, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" what God says to Abraham and Sarah certainly heard him say it.*

**Summary:** First, God pursued his own persistently until the written word was available. Second, it was Abraham's faith thus far and it was time for Sarah to hear from God.

**Question:** What does God do to bring us along spiritually?

Ones' Determination - Genesis 18:16-33 - True obedience - Deuteronomy 30:6; Jeremiah 31:33

**Summary:** The combination of the Genesis event and the parable of Jesus should tell us that pleading with God is encouraged. God cares about justice, but we often care about the timing more than the justice and we must trust God to know the important distinction.

**Conclusion:** "Is anything too hard for God?" The hard thing is to believe that nothing is too hard for God! Sarah is so certain that she laughs at the suggestion of having a child yet she gets pregnant in 3 months and 9 months later gives birth to Isaac (Genesis 21:1-3).

(Genesis 18:22-32; Luke 18:1-8) Abraham intercedes for his nephew and the widow intercedes for herself. There is no difference regarding the object of intercession; the issue is interceding in earnest and for what you believe to be a just cause. God loves when we intercede for what is 'right'!

God is concerned with Abraham's goal and the blessing of all nations; Abraham is concerned with the people who live in Sodom and his nephew Lot. One of the blessings that Sodom was unaware of; who was concerned for their survival. Don't give up on your lost or wayward loved ones!

The only person able to enter and survive in a pagan evil environment is the Holy God, and he came on a mission to show us the way out, Jesus Christ whose birth we celebrate; but it was the reverse in this story. When Lot left Sodom it was for his good,  
when Jesus left heaven it was for our good;  
at Christmas we thank God for that glorious distinction.