

Text: Gen.18:1-33 **Title:** "The Hope of Blessing and Rescue"
Series: God's Blessing: to Abe & beyond **Sun 30 June 2019**

Nursing and funeral homes do not use _____

In a nutshell: The Lord uses His power to keep His promise of BLESSING and to justly RESCUE the righteous in the face of coming judgement.

1) v.14 "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (v.1-15) The Lord reminds Sarah that

He has the power to BLESS Abe & Sarah with offspring

Abe feared death (Gen 12 & 20)

Abe listened to Sarai (Gen 16)

Abe & Sarah doubted God's power, but the Lord was gracious...

APPL: faith is in the Lord's power to keep His promise...

25-year-old promise of offspring (Gen 12, 15, 17)

v.11 – 2 facts

v.12 – Sarah laughed

v.14 – Is anything too hard...?

The Lord's rebuke worked

Heb.11:11-12

Sarah changed – NOT her circumstances and NOT the Lord

2) v.25 "Shall not the Judge of all the Earth do what is just?" (v.16-33) God

is just so He will keep His promise to RESCUE the righteous

Three things:

1. v.17-18 – The Lord decided to bless...

2. v.19 – The righteous will receive the promise.

3. v.20-21 – The wicked will be punished.

In brief, the Lord's promise to Abe is innumerable offspring who are righteous by faith AND do righteousness and justice.

Turn to Rom.4:13-25

v.13 - Law-keeping will not make us righteous

v.16 - faith which makes us Abe's righteous offspring

v.23-25 - 'delivered-up' = on the cross Jesus paid for our sin;

Jesus raised from the dead to prove 'our justification' = our sin-debt is paid.

Back to Gen 18...

It's no coincidence that the events of Gen 18 are tied together...

What do we do?

1) Ignore the offer

2) Tell others – might mock or think you're loopy

Do you do what Abe did?

Closing prayer

Song: "O the Mercy of God"

Benediction:

Follow-up:

- > Have you received God's promise of righteousness by faith in Jesus?
- > If so, you are blessed by Jesus our Lord and rescued from judgement, so...
 - For whom do you or will you pray?
 - Who do/will you tell about the Lord's blessing & warn of judgement?

Overview of Gen 12-17:

- Ch12 – Abe (75) promised loads of offspring (famine; Egypt; beautiful Sarah)
 - (Ch13 – Abe & Lot separate)
 - (Ch14 – Abe rescues Lot & people/stuff of Sodom)
- Ch15 – Abe promised own son & offspring like stars; "righteous by faith"
(covenant cut -> ONLY Lord passed through)
- Ch16 – Abe (86) + Sarah's Hagar = Ishmael = trouble
- Ch17 – Abe (99) & males circumcised; Isaac promised; Ishmael blessed too