

EPHESIANS - Our Heavenly Account Statement

“FLOURISHING IN THE WILL OF GOD”

Genesis 17:1 - 18:15

Lesson #21

April 20, 2022

REVIEW:

A. What I Don't Understand Genesis 17:1-27

- 1) With the goal of getting thoughts and words aligned God changes his name, changing his conversations.
- 2) God sends renewal, but how will it be received?
- 3) Take my flesh plan and bless it!
- 4) How does Abraham go from believing God, leaving his home for an unknown land, to laughing as God speaks His will and plan to Him?
- 5) When he first heard God's plan it brought joy and expectation, but now doubts fill his mind when he hears it spoken.
- 6) It's not that the plan was impossible TO UNDERSTAND; it was simply understood AS IMPOSSIBLE
- 7) An alternative route that was easier to imagine as achievable was proposed.
- 8) You can ask God to bless something extra, but not to take His blessing of what He planned!
- 9) Though Abraham laughed at first, he set out to immediately act on what God said.
- 10) Too often we waste time trying to UNDERSTAND HOW GOD WILL DO HIS PART, instead of just doing OUR PART

B. What I do Understand Genesis 18:1

- 1) There is not that much time that passes here. Ch. 17 began when he was 99 years old and Isaac is born at age 100 (Ch.22)
- 2) Once we get lined up with the will of God, DOING what we understand and BELIEVING what we don't, things can happen pretty quick.
- 3) Before Chapter 17, Abraham was thinking and speaking things against the declared will of God.
- 4) His change is made visible by the WAY HE RESPONDS in Chapter 18.

C. Someone Involved Doesn't Understand . . Genesis 18:1-15

- 1) This time Abraham excepts what God says without doubting, but Sarah does not.
- 2) In the time between the visits Abraham increased his willingness to believe what he didn't understand, but Sarah did not.
- 3) Is Sarah unimportant?
- 4) God doesn't seem to need EVERYONE IN FAITH, just the ONE HE IS WORKING through.
- 5) Examples:
- 6) God knows when you laugh at His promises, even when you laugh by yourself in the tent!

APPLICATION: To understand more of the will of God, ACT ON WHAT YOU DO UNDERSTAND

Not understanding HOW should not prevent you when you do understand WHAT