

God Appears To Abraham

To show that the more we allow God to shape us, the more he reveals His will to us – the closer we get to Him, the closer He gets to us.

We have been looking at the development of man into a “difference maker”.

Remember, Abraham was told by God:

- That from his descendants would come a great nation
- That his name would become great
- That He would bless those who blessed him and curse those who cursed him
- That in His seed, all the families of the earth would be blessed

Afterwards, we began to see how God took him through various circumstances in order for his faith to grow. Remember:

- He had to leave his country, family and father’s house – chapter 12
- He had to go into Egypt (where he lied about his wife) – chapter 12
- He had to get away from his nephew, Lot (when his humility was tested) – chapter 13
- He had to rescue his nephew (where he learned warfare) – chapter 14
- He had to deal with strife in his family (Sarai and Hagar) – chapter 16

Now, after he is 99 years old, things begin to change and he begins to see the fulfilment of the promises that God gave him. As we look at the main events of Abraham’s life, we can see the things that he learned from God:

- Leaving his home taught him to follow and depend on God
- Going to Egypt helped him to learn that God would protect him
- Leaving his nephew taught him the value of humility
- Rescuing his nephew taught him warfare
- Dealing with strife taught him diplomacy

However, this in Chapter 18 God comes to Abraham in a very different way; as a friend. (Read the chapter)

1. God appeared to him as a man (vs 1,2)
2. Abraham shows great hospitality (vs. 3-8)
 - a. He has their feet washed
 - b. He gives them rest under the tree
 - c. He feeds them the best of his food
3. God tells Abraham two very important things:
 - a. Specifically when his wife is going to have her baby (9-15)
 - i. Why did he tell him this? Because he wanted him to be prepared
 - b. Exactly what he is going to do with Sodom (16-21)
 - i. Why did he tell him this? Because he wanted him to intercede

What can we learn from all this?

- God does not want to hide his purposes and plans from us, but we are often not in a position to handle what He wants to do.
- When God makes a promise to us, He will fulfil it in His time – whether we believe it or not.
- God is looking for His people to stand in the gap for others.
- Finally, when we allow God to shape us, He will reveal his purposes to us. Let Him make us mature. If we can handle it, He will tell us what He is doing.