

Sarah

“MOTHER OF NATIONS.”



“In the Beginning”

“And he said, ‘I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son.’ And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. . . .Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, ‘After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?’. . . Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”

From Genesis 18:10-14 KJV

We learned a song when we were young about Abraham having many sons. But who was the mother of those sons. We aren't told; Sarah was his wife. She was already old when she had Isaac. Did she mother the other sons? Instead I think it probably means that there were many generations descended from Abraham and Sarah. According to what we read in the Bible, Sarah was a beautiful woman. Her given name at birth was

Sarai. That name meant “princess”. Her beauty is referred to twice in Genesis. God changed her name to Sarah meaning “*Mother of Nations.*” Throughout the story of Abraham and Sarah, Sarah is shown as the helpmate of Abraham and they consulted with each other on decisions. When we think about the responsibility of Abraham we can see the importance of his having a wonderful wife to help him. They were a wonderful team, but they sometimes did things “their way” which caused some problems for them.

One time, Pharaoh took her in as one of his concubines, but God protected her. She and Abraham had told the Pharaoh that she was Abraham's sister! According to Genesis 12, Pharaoh and his household were inflicted with a disease because he took Sarah as his concubine. She was actually his half-sister, but more importantly she was his wife. Because Abraham had said she was his sister, the Pharaoh did give her back, and Abraham received many material possessions in exchange.

God chose Abraham and Sarah to bear children that would become the generations of today. Yes, we had Adam and Eve, but people kept straying from the truth then, just as they do now. So, God chose Abraham at age 100 and Sarah at age 90, who was far past the child bearing age to bear the future generations.

When Sarah heard that she would bear a child, she laughed. When God asked about her laughing, she denied it; she was afraid. But, she could also have been very happy. For years she had been scorned by other women because

she had no children. God approached Abraham and asked why she had laughed. God tested Abraham to see if he thought anything was too great for God to do. Do you blame her for being afraid? It was more than Sarah could comprehend. Abraham and Sarah decided to take things into their own hands instead of waiting for God. Sarah arranged for Abraham to sleep with her maid servant, Hagar, so Abraham would be able to have the child that God said he was going to have. They weren't willing to wait. After all they were getting too old to bear a child. Hagar and Abraham had a son named Ishmael, but that wasn't God's plan.

After the birth of Ishmael God appeared to Abraham again. God told Abraham that about the same time next year, Sarah would have a son and his name would be called Isaac which means “Laughter”. In time Isaac was born and it was the beginning of the 12 tribes, but not before God warned Abraham and the other people that they must change their ways or be destroyed.



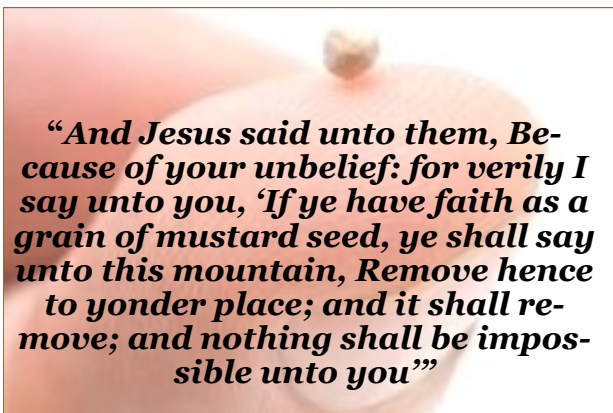
“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11

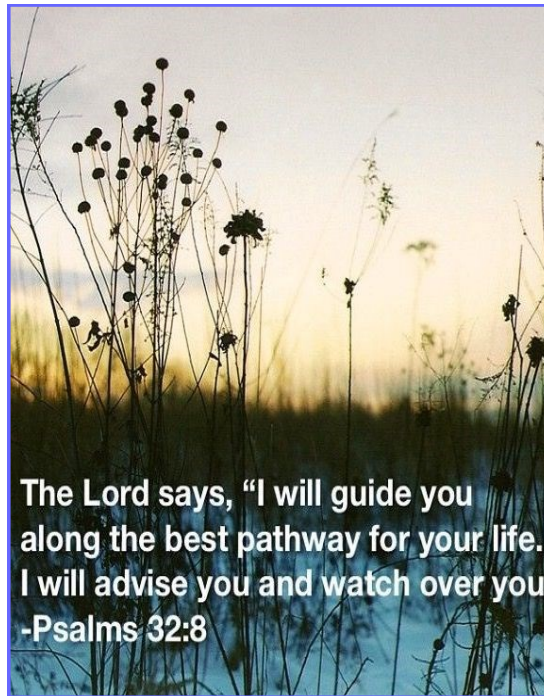
Laughter can be an important tool in our lives. We have all heard the adage that we could either laugh or cry. Sometimes we laugh so hard we cry. Laughter can be the result of happiness and amusement, but it can also sometimes show our bewilderment or unbelief that anyone could think such a thing might be possible. Certainly Sarah didn't think a 90 year old woman could have a child. She didn't cry, she laughed.

If we believe that God created the world and all that is in it, how can we not believe that He could help a 90 year old woman have a child? I never cease to be amazed when I look at a flower, and wonder how the small plant knows what nutrients to take from the ground, and why is it so beautiful. I wonder at the green hues in the spring and the colored leaves in the fall. I wonder at the small baby and his wonderful future. God gives the knowledge of medicine, the spirit of exploring in many areas. God gives us love and forgiveness. God gives us everything we could ever want and more. We just have to have faith that He will take care of us.

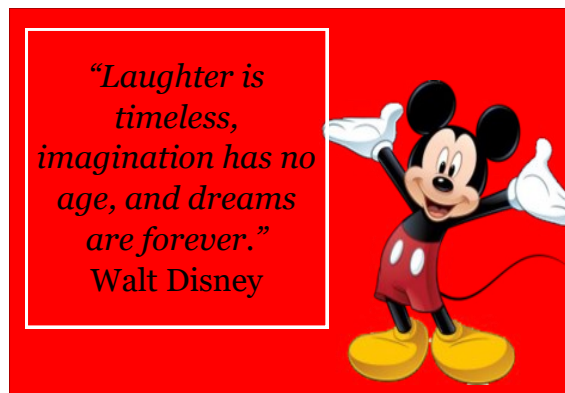
God promised that to the people as he spoke to them in a parable found in Matthew 17:20.



Sometimes God had to put things in the form of a parable so we could grasp the meaning to our lives.



If we don't accept God and the fact that we are not in charge, how could we possibly think that things such as the beauty that surrounds us daily just happens. We too laugh just as Sarah did because we don't understand. We let our personal being come into play with our faith and we don't comprehend.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for all that You have given to us. Help us to realize that through You all things are possible, whether they are small or large. We are all equal in Your eyes. Amen.

1. How would we have reacted if told the promise given to Abraham and Sarah?
2. Why did Sarah laugh? Why did Abraham doubt?
3. Have you ever doubted God in anything large or small, only to find out that if you ask, God will answer?
4. Are you a child of Abraham and Sarah?
5. How can we help others to see the power of Our Heavenly Father today?

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