

Genesis 18:1-16
Entertaining Angels

An entertaining visit ...

- I. YHWH at the Door
 - A. Wayfaring Strangers
 - 1. Facing Angels
 - 2. The Face of Jesus
 - B. Hospitality in an Instant
- II. The Lord Has Spoken
 - A. No Joke
 - B. Laughter Shall Come
 - 1. Child of Promise
 - 2. Joy in Jesus

... an ominous gaze.

Children, Listen ...

- 1. Who came to visit Abraham's tent?
- 2. Were all of them angels? Explain.
- 3. What did the Lord tell Abraham?
- 4. What did Sarah do when she overheard that?
- 5. Are God's promises always true?

But When the LORD Appears!

Scripture unveils the spirit world for us at different times and in many ways. God's angels are significant players behind the scenes of what we see with our eyes. They literally appear before the naked eyes of individuals most often at critical moments in the history of redemption. It is as if the thin veil is lifted for those intense moments to emphasize not only the glory of God but display His creatures that do His bidding beyond what we can see and touch. The angelic host is that close all the time. Angels appear in different modes on different occasions in the Bible – one time surrounded by the glory of the Lord – another as a common man – one time as a terrifying creature – another as comforting companion – one time hovering in the heavens – another walking the earth. What a wonderfully mysterious realm operates in the background of the providence we see. Yet one appearance from behind these scenes surpasses them all – one “man” in our text steps forward from the others – one “angel” alone is THE angel of the Lord. Of all the faces one could see this face is the most glorious of all, it is the face of Jesus. How this works we cannot know. But many years before the incarnation of Christ the second person of the Trinity appeared in human form to be seen “in person” by select individuals. Such is the case in our text today. In theology this is called a Theophany – an appearance of God to man. Such appearances throughout the Old Testament are always extraordinary, but the full manifestation of the Son of God in human flesh surpasses them all. When the second person of the Trinity actually unites with human flesh we see what we could never have imagined – “For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:6. (Paul means by “face” person) Have you seen the Lord in the “face of Jesus” by faith – if so, you have seen the glory of God. Such an encounter must be, by definition, transformational. Ponder the change that that has brought to your life and thank the Lord for His glorious revelation of Himself to you through His Son.