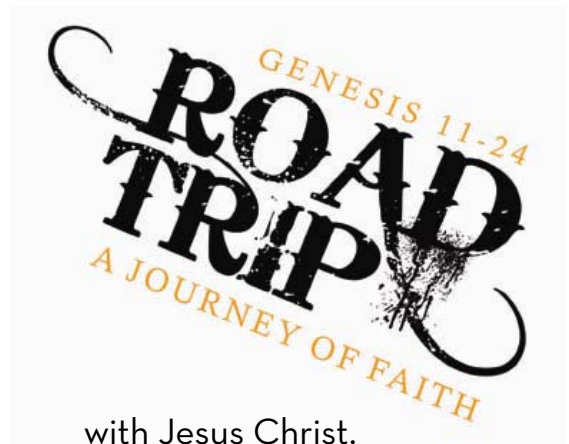




Provision On Our Journey of Faith

Genesis 18



- I. God's provision develops out of an _____ with Jesus Christ.
Genesis 18:1-8; Luke 10:38-42
 - A. Our heart in God's provision includes:
 - Heart of _____: and bowed himself to the earth, vs. 2
 - Heart of _____: My Lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass Your servant by. vs. 3
 - Heart of _____: vs. 4-8
 - Heart of _____: and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate

- II. God's provision for my journey is based on God's _____, not mine. Genesis 18:9-15
 - A. God controls the _____ of His provision. It is His choice, not ours. "I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son." vs. 10
 - B. God's _____ will make it happen, not just my strength.
Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. vs. 11
 - C. God's _____ will sustain me even when I lack faith and have doubts. Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" vs. 12
 - D. God's _____ fulfills His provision for us, in spite of our own failures.
And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh..." Sarah denied it however, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid...vs. 13-15

- III. God's provision will be fulfilled. How should we respond?
Genesis 21:1-8
 - A. We must wait for God to act. He will not forget.
Then the Lord took note of Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had promised.
vs. 1
 - B. We must remain faithfully obedient. ...as God had commanded him... vs. 3-5
 - C. We must give honor and thanks to God. vs. 6-8

Digging Deeper

Based on numerous comments I have heard this last week, waiting on God's provision for our lives is one of the most difficult assignments and yet one of the most rewarding ones as well. Since I was two years old, I can remember wanting things from God NOW! But He always knows better than me, for which I am increasingly thankful.

Before God provided a child for Abraham, He wanted to spend time dining with him in Genesis 18:1-8. Why do you think He did this? This appearance of the Lord in Genesis 18:1 is considered the pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ. As God, Jesus has always existed. He did not begin at His human birth from Mary. He is the Creator of the heavens and earth, Colossians 1:16, and was not created by God. As our eternal God, He has appeared in Old Testament times to communicate to people who did not have the benefit of the Word of God as we have it now.

As Abraham waited for a child, Jesus wanted to spend time dining with him. It was customary to have a feast when a covenant is established.

Read about Gideon's encounter with the Lord in Judges 6:11-16. How did the Lord encourage him? How can He encourage you?

Read Luke 19:5-10. What do you learn about Jesus' dining with Zaccheus? What is the spiritual outcome of that fellowship?

Read Revelation 3:19-22. What does Jesus desire to do with all believers? Is there anything that prevents His fellowship with you? What is it? Will you confess it now?

Read Luke 10:38-42. What is most important to Jesus about our lives?

God's provision can sometimes seem impossible. What assurance did the Lord give Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 18:14?

What can you learn about His provision for you from the following similar passages?

Jeremiah 32:17-27
Luke 1:37-38

Write out what provision you want the Lord to provide for your life and ask Him humbly based on these great promises.

When you feel weak and unable to do all you want to do, like Sarah laughing about having a child at her old age, what do the following passages teach you?

II Timothy 2:13
Psalm 103:8-14
II Corinthians 4:7
II Corinthians 12:7-10