A Matter of Life and Death
Genesis 18

Main Thought  The Lord brings life to those who believe and death to those who do not believe (John 5:24).

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT (1-15).**

**THEIR HOSPITALITY (1-8).**

- They ministered **personally** — even though old & servants!
- They ministered **immediately** — faith does not delay!
  - He hurried/ran to meet the visitors (2).
  - He hurried to tell Sarah (6).
  - He ran to prepare a calf (7).
  - He stood while others were served (8).
- They ministered **generously** — “fine meal” (6), “tender and good” (7), unlike other latter priests (Mal. 1:6-14).
- They ministered with **humility** — by bowing (2), by calling himself a servant (3, 5), calling a feast a morsel (5.KJV).
- They served **cooperatively** — Sarah baked, a young man dressed the meat, and others no doubt brought the milk.

**THEIR DOUBT (9-15).**

- Sarah and Abraham (17:17) both laughed in disbelief.
- The Lord read Sarah's mind (Psa. 139:1-2).
- The Lord encouraged them that nothing is too hard for the Lord? Ask Job (42:2), Jeremiah (32:17, 27), Gabriel (Luke 1:37), or Paul (Eph. 3:20-21). Nothing is impossible with God (Luke 18:27)!

**DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT (16-33).**

**DIVINE REVELATION (16-21).**

- God chooses to reveal his plans to us (Heb. 1:1-2), but not all (Deut. 29:29).
- God has entrusted to us his plans (Rom. 3:2; I Thess. 2:4).

**HUMAN INTERCESSION (22-33).**

- Abraham questioned God’s plans (Hab 1:2).
- Like Christ (Heb. 7:25), Abraham interceded for them.
- Like God (John 3:16), he had **compassion** for the lost even as few as ten(Ezek. 33:11; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4).