



Genesis

THE STORY BEGINS

An Improbable Promise

Genesis 17:15-21, 18:1-15

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And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Genesis 17: 15-16

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They laughed...

*Then Abraham fell on his face **and laughed** and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”*

Genesis 17: 17

The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” ...

*So **Sarah laughed** to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”*

Genesis 18:10, 12

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*The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ **Is anything too hard for the LORD?** At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”*

Genesis 18:13-14

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*And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “**If you can!** All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “**I believe; help my unbelief!**”*

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*But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.*

*For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

Psalm 73:2-3

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*But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end..*

Psalm 73:16-17

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*When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,
I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward you.
Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.*

Psalm 73:21-24

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Know His Promises

John 1:12 -- Receive him – you have the right to be called a child of God

Ephesians 2:8-9 -- Saved by grace, his workmanship created for good works

Hebrews 13:5 -- I'll never leave you or forsake you

Proverbs 3:5-6 -- trust him and he'll lead you

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Know His Promises

Phil 4:19 –God will supply all your needs

Philippians 4:6-7 He will hear your worries and peace of God will guard your heart and mind

I Corinthians 12:18 – you have gifts to be shared

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Slow down to pay attention

*But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.*

Psalm 73:16-17

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Persevere in faithful patience

...with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, *2 Peter 3:8-9*

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. *Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)*

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- Know His Promises
- Slow down to pay attention
- Persevere in faithful patience

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