



Notes for Adult discussion groups at  
On-Line@9 Worship Service  
22 July 2007

## GOD'S MESSENGERS

### Genesis 18 v 1-10

“As Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent during the hottest part of the day, he looked up and saw three men standing there. As soon as he saw them, he ran out to meet them. Bowing down with his face touching the ground, he said, “Sirs, please do not pass by my home without stopping; I am here to serve you. Let me bring some water for you to wash your feet; you can rest here beneath this tree. I will also bring you a bit of food; it will give you strength to continue your journey. You have honoured me by coming to my home, so let me serve you.” They replied, “Thank you; we accept.” Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, “Quick, take a sack of your best flour, and bake some bread.” Then he ran to the herd and picked out a calf that was tender and fat, and gave it to a servant, who hurried to get it ready. He took some cream, some milk, and the meat, and set the food before the men. There under the tree he served them himself, and they ate. Then they asked him, “Where is your wife, Sarah?” “She is there in the tent,” he answered. One of them said, “Nine months from now I will come back, and your wife Sarah will have a son.”

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### Some Background:

When Abraham was 75, God had spoken to him and told him to leave his home country and his relatives, and to set out for a land which God would show him. God promised to give him many descendants, and that they would become a great nation [Gen 12, 1-2]. So Abraham had set out from Haran with just his immediate family, and his slaves and possessions.

After much travel - and probably several years - Abraham finally settled in Canaan, as God told him that this was the land which He was going to give to his descendants [Gen 12, 7]. After a while, Abraham heard God say to him that he would give him a great reward, but Abraham said to God that this would not be much use to him as he had no children. God then told Abraham to go out and look at the sky, and try to count the stars; He said that Abraham would have as many descendants as the stars [Gen 15, 5]. A few years later, God told Abraham that he would make His covenant with him, and repeated the promise that he would give him many descendants [Gen 17, 2, 4, 16 & 19].

### Questions

1. Abraham had been given this message about having a child several times before. Why was he given it again?  
What type of message is it?  
What is different about the way the message comes this time?
2. Do we identify with the idea that a message from God can be delivered by a person - a messenger? What type of messages have we received through people?
3. God might want to use us as messengers to other people. Are we aware of having done that? What do we feel about the responsibility and privilege? Share experiences.

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