

PUBLIC READING OF SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18 - God's conversation with Abraham

Paul instructed Timothy to “give attention to the public reading of scripture”¹, presenting it as a key responsibility of his ministry (*1 Timothy 4:12-16*). It is not surprising that Paul would give “the public reading of scripture” such a prominent place; he wrote that God’s scriptures contain everything people need to be “equipped for every good work” (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*). We will therefore take time to read through God’s conversation with Abraham in Genesis 18 as a way of deepening our understanding of God’s Bible and His will for our lives.

Genesis 18:1-15

God’s visit to Abraham and His promise regarding Sarah’s pregnancy reveal His faithfulness

Genesis 18:16-33

God’s faithfulness balances both righteousness and justice and models His expectations for Abraham

Applications

- God *is* faithful.
- God’s faithfulness extends both to us and to His character. Because He is faithful to His character, He cannot neglect justice.
- While God does not neglect justice, His faithfulness to His righteousness means that He balances His justice with generous mercy.
- We are to respond to God’s faithfulness with our own faithfulness – faithfulness to Him and faithfulness to one another.
- Righteousness and justice offer a key expression of our faithfulness – we should be committed to treating everyone in ways that reflect God’s character.
- As with Abraham, God plans for us to be people whose faithfulness to righteousness and justice provide Him a way to bring blessings to the world. One key way that God brings blessings to the world comes through the ways that our faithfulness transforms us into better people who make our world a better place.

¹ All quotes from the Bible come from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* (ESV Permanent Text Edition, Crossway, 2016) unless otherwise noted.