

Genesis 17:17, 18:12, 21:6
ABRAHAM'S AND SARAH'S LAUGHTER

- I. Unbelieving laughter.
 - A. Abraham (17:17) and Sarah (18:12) both laughed sinfully.
 - 1. They laughed in unbelief at God's Word, and therefore at God for saying they would have a son at 90 and 100.
 - 2. Additionally, Abraham laughed because he did not see another son necessary when he already had Ishmael.
 - B. All unbelief is a laughing at God and His Word.
 - 1. Unbelief cannot conceive of God's ways (calls them foolish and stupid) and refuses to believe what it cannot understand.
 - 2. Also believers can think in an unbelieving way.
- II. God responded to Abraham and Sarah individually.
 - A. God responded to Abraham by repeating Himself: Sarah would give Abraham a son.
 - 1. First, God gave the son a name (Isaac), and second, declared that the covenant would go through Isaac, not Ishmael.
 - 2. God added that this does not mean that Ishmael would be cut out of all the blessings of salvation.
 - B. God responded to Sarah for her unbelieving laughter (18:13-15).
 - 1. God very gently rebukes her, "Nay; but thou didst laugh" (15b).
 - 2. While we might understand her unbelieving laughter and lying, it is inexcusable.
- III. El Shaddai is most certainly able and sufficient to turn the laughter of unbelief into the laughter of faith and trust.
 - A. He, to whom nothing is impossible, will turn their mourning into joy and their sadness into laughter.
 - B. When they receive the promised child, he is named "Isaac" (to laugh) (21:3) in obedience to God's Word (17:19).
 - C. What do we learn.