

*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

One of the threads in the story of Abraham is the mounting sense of desperation that he and his wife Sarah are unable to have a child. Isaac is eventually born to them both, but his birth comes miraculously in their old age, and after her longing to conceive. Sarah is called to believe that God would give her a child even though she is past childbearing age, just as Abraham was called to believe that God would give him a homeland even though he was a wandering nomad. The story of these Patriarchs is building up the picture of a God who can be trusted to bring life where there was none, and who brings hope out of hopelessness - a promise that we will see fulfilled in the miraculous childbearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It is not unreasonable that Sarah ponders what God might be doing in her life, and if he is capable of performing what he has promised. Can God be trusted, she wonders, or is his promise just another form of wishful thinking? Sarah's story is establishing a principle that will endure in humanity's relationship with God. He is always bringing creativity, fertility, life where the situation seems barren. She leads us forwards towards discovering the utter reliability of God. Is this something that we trust in every aspect of our lives