



God's Covenant with **Abraham**

Volume 3 - Genesis 11:10 to 17



Meet Share Grow

Meet Together, Share Together & Encourage ONE ANOTHER



Coming Together
Once a Week



How to use this Scripture Engagement



Pray to Begin

Before you start each lesson, ask the Lord to use it to grow you in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



Read the Bible passage

Invite God to open your eyes and deepen your understanding of His Word as you read the passage.



Study the Scripture Engagement Guide

Go through the Scripture Engagement study provided to reflect on the meaning, context, and personal application of the passage you've read.



Reflect on the Scripture Engagement Questions

After every teaching, consider the Scripture Engagement questions listed for personal reflection and application and for your small group discussions.



Listen to Dr. J. Vernon McGee's Teaching

If you'd like to hear the complete audio teaching on the passage, [visit ttb.bible](http://ttb.bible) or scan the QR code on the last page to download the THRU the BIBLE app in your own language.



Use our recommended **pause and resume icon**. This will guide you to move through the content thoughtfully and at your own rhythm.

For your consideration

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God's Faithful Plan

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the record of Your faithfulness through generations from Shem to Abraham and for reminding us that Your promises never fail. Teach us to trust You when the path ahead is uncertain. Guard our hearts from self-reliance, and fill us with faith to follow where You lead, even when we do not see the full picture. May our lives, like Abraham's, become altars of worship that bear witness to Your covenant grace.

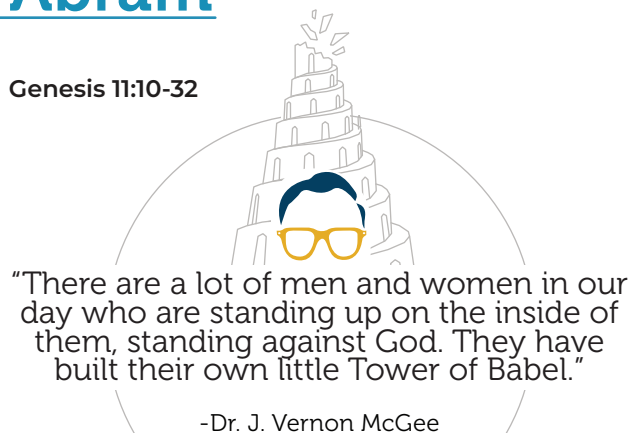
In Jesus' name, Amen.



Descendants from Shem to Abram



Genesis 11:10-32



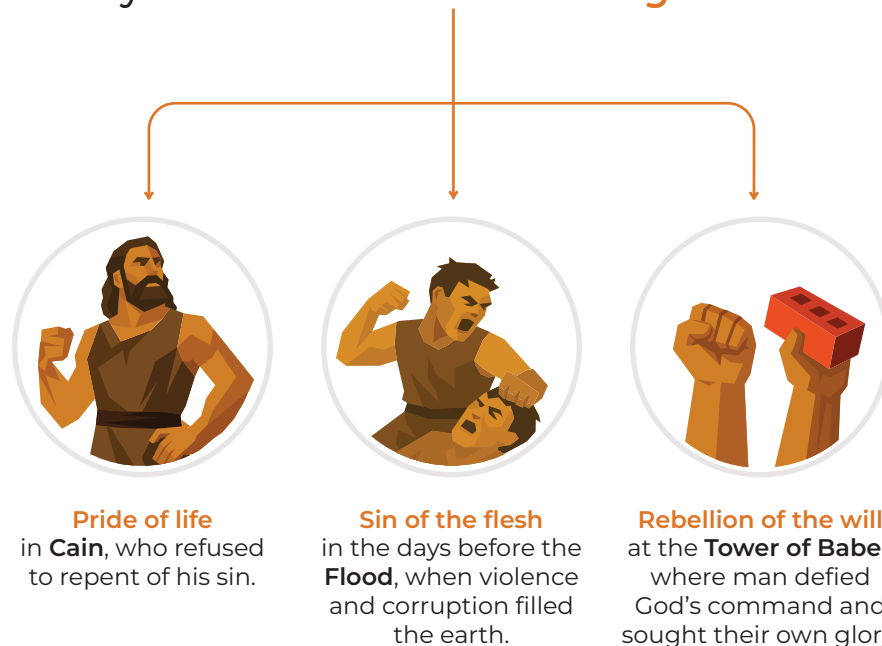
God's Faithful Plan

After the **Flood**, Scripture traces the **line of Shem**, the son of Noah, through whom **God's promise** would continue. What may appear to be a mere list of fathers and sons, generation after generation, was actually **God faithfully carrying forward His plan of redemption**.

This family line leads us to Terah, a man with three sons: Abram (later Abraham), Nahor, and Haran. Abram married Sarai (later Sarah), who was unable to bear children, leading to the miraculous birth of Isaac.

God often begins His greatest works where human strength runs out.

By this point in history, mankind had already shown **three recurring sins**:



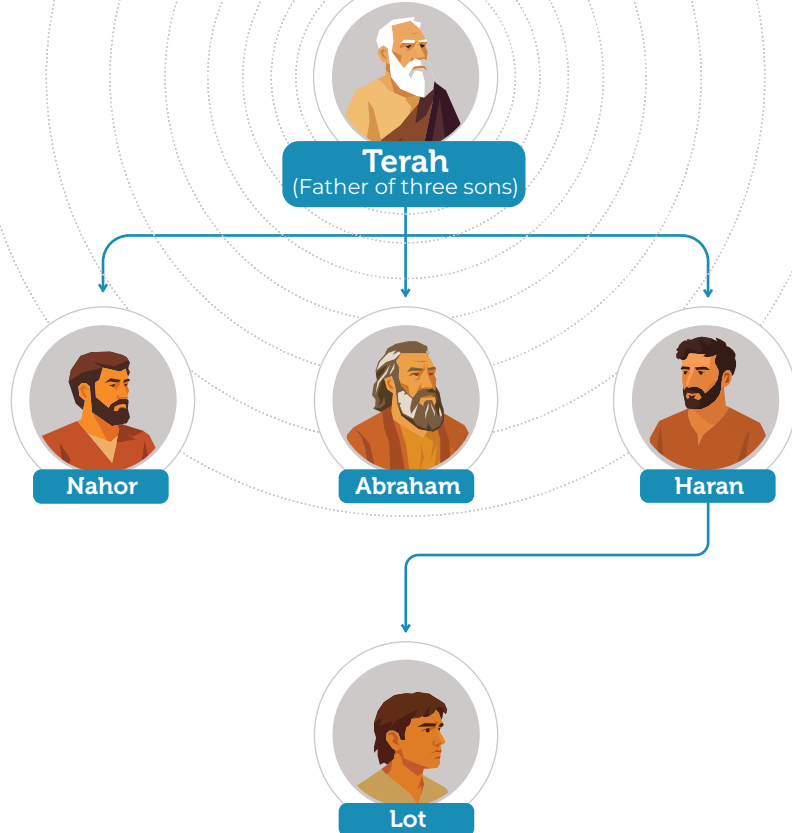
Though nations scattered and hearts grew hard, God narrowed His focus to one man and one family through whom He would bless all peoples.

Terah's Journey and Delay

Terah left the thriving city of Ur of the Chaldeans and **journeyed toward Canaan**, taking along Abram, Sarai, and his grandson, Lot.

But instead of reaching their destination, they stopped in Haran, a place whose very name **means, "delay"**. There they settled for years, and Terah eventually died.

Even so, this pause did not cancel God's promise. The stage was now set for the Lord to speak to Abram, a turning point in Genesis and in the story of salvation itself.



A Major Turning Point in Genesis

This reveals **God's plan to bring hope and blessing to every nation** through **Abraham's line**, leading ultimately to the **Messiah**.



The Creation



The Fall



The Flood



The Tower

Genesis 1-11

About 2000 Years

A **universal history** including Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel.



Genesis 12-50

About 350 Years

A **covenant story** focusing on Abraham's family of faith.

God's rescue plan unfolds through His promises to Abraham and his descendants.



Reflection

Question 1

Where do you see patterns of pride, the pull of the flesh, or stubborn will at work in your own life?



Application

Question 2

Terah stopped in Haran, delaying the journey toward Canaan.

Are there any “delays” in your spiritual walk, where you’ve settled for less than full obedience to God’s call?

Write one practical step you can take to leave your “Haran” behind and follow God’s direction.

Draw your Application



God's Promises to Abram



Genesis 12:1-9



The first three verses give us the threefold promise of God to Abraham (Abram), and actually this is the hub of the Bible. The rest of Scripture is an unfolding of this threefold promise.

"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."
(Romans 4:3)

Instead of dealing with **the whole human race**, God calls **Abram**, later known as Abraham, to become **father of a great nation**, set apart for His purposes.

Abram was commanded to **leave his homeland, relatives**, and his **father's household** to journey to a land he had never seen.

Yet alongside this call came **God's threefold promise**, the heart of the covenant that would shape the rest of Scripture:

God's Threefold Promise



A Land: God would show Abram a land and give it to his descendants.



A Nation: God would make Abram's descendants into a great nation and make his name great.



A Blessing: Through Abram, "all the families of the earth shall be blessed." This blessing would ultimately be fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer who came from Abraham's line.

Abram's greatness was **not found in his status or wealth**, but **in his faith**. He trusted God enough to obey, even when he didn't know where he was going. Leaving behind **the comfort and sophistication of Ur**, he entered the rugged land of Canaan, **believing that obedience to God's word was better than any earthly security**.

Upon arriving in the land, **Abram's first acts revealed his heart**. He **pitched his tent** signifying a pilgrim's life of dependence and he **built altars to the Lord** wherever he settled, leaving behind a quiet testimony of worship.

His obedience led to deeper fellowship with God, as the Lord appeared to him again and confirmed His promises.

Abram's journey shows that God's promises invite us to **step out in faith**, **obey His word**, and **live as pilgrims whose hope is anchored in Him**.



Reflect & Apply

Question 1

Abram left the security of his homeland to follow God's call.

What comforts or securities in your life might God be asking you to release in order to trust Him fully?

Question 2

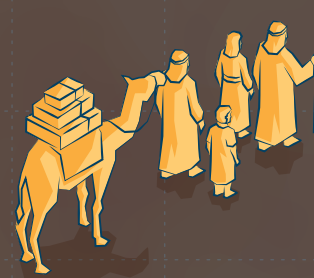
Abram built altars wherever he went, leaving behind a quiet testimony of worship.

What does it look like for you to build a "spiritual altar" in your daily life that points others to God's presence, or reminds you of your time in close communion with God?

Question 3

Write one action you will take to show trust in God's promise, even if the path ahead feels uncertain.

Visual Summary



- 1 **Terah** led Abram, Sarai, and Lot from **Ur** of the Chaldeans toward **Canaan**
- 2 **Terah** stopped in **Haran** where he died at age 205
- 3 **Abram** built an altar in **Shechem**
- 4 **Abram** built an altar in **Bethel**

Your Takeaway

Integrating **'God's Intelligence'** in my life.

McGee's Quote



“ My friend, what kind of testimony do you have? To have a testimony, you don't need to leave tracts in front of your house and you don't have to have a “Jesus Saves” bumper sticker on your car (then drive like a maniac down the freeway, as some folk do). That is no testimony at all. ”



Faith in God's Provision

Heavenly Father,

Teach us to trust You when famine tests us, when fear tempts us, and when choices stand before us. Guard us from leaning on our own understanding. Help us walk by faith, not by sight, so that our lives may bear witness to Your promises. Draw us back to the altar of worship when we wander.

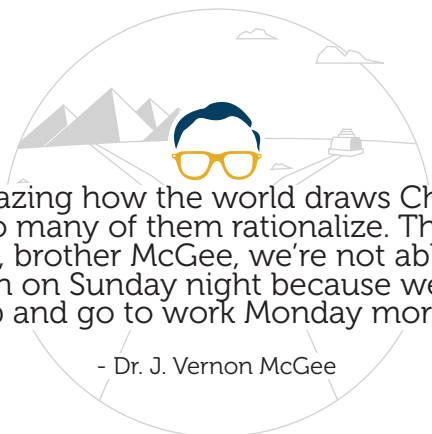
In Jesus' name, Amen.



Abram's Lapse of Faith



Genesis 12:10-20



"It's amazing how the world draws Christians today. So many of them rationalize. They'll say, 'You know, brother McGee, we're not able to come to church on Sunday night because we have to get up and go to work Monday morning.'"

- Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Famine and the World's Solution

"Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land." (Genesis 12:10)

Abram was in the very land God had promised when famine struck. Each day, pastures dried and sheep grew weak. Travellers warned that the famine was spreading and murmured about Egypt's grain and green valleys. Abram reasoned, "Perhaps Egypt will provide."

Egypt seemed like the logical and sensible choice. Others were going there. Reports from travellers confirmed its abundance. Abram could explain his decision well, "There is no pasture here, and Egypt has plenty." Yet one question lingers:

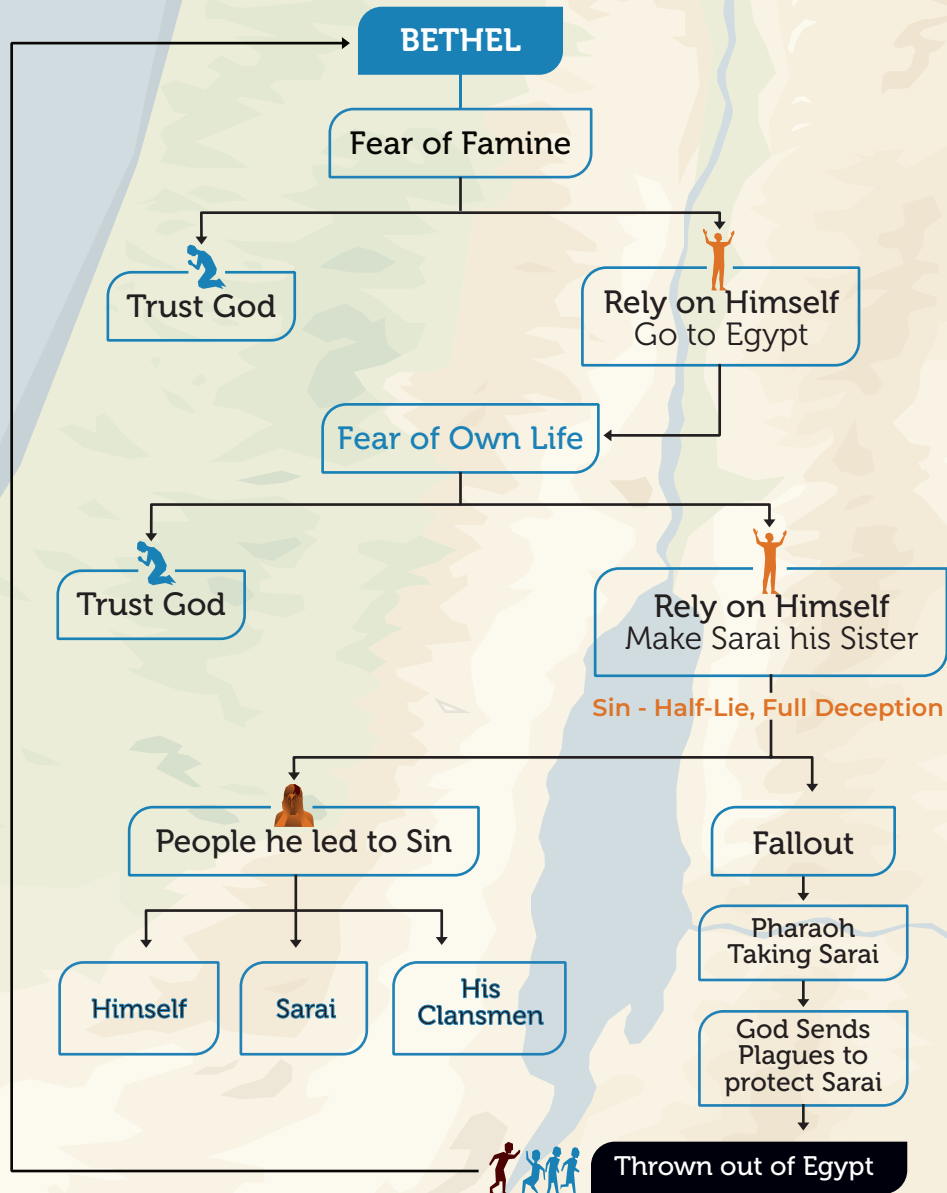


Did God tell Abraham to go to Egypt?
What would you choose?

The land of promise was also the land of testing.



“And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, ‘Indeed I know ...’” Abram made his choice and his fear grew as he approached Egypt. He had to make a choice again.



“And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the Lord.” (Genesis 13:3-4)



There is always a way back to the altar for Abram, the Prodigal Son, and any man or woman who wants to come back to God.





Reflection

Question 1

When you face seasons of scarcity, uncertainty, or pressure to act quickly, what usually guides your choices? Are you led by your faith in God's promises or by practical solutions that seem safer? Why?

Question 2

Identify one situation where you tend to respond in fear. Pause before acting, pray about it, and deliberately choose a step that shows trust in God's leading. Replace fearful half-truths with courageous trust.

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Application

Question 3

Think of a time when God gave you a second chance at His altar.
Write or draw it out.



Abram and Lot

 **Genesis 13:1-13**

Riches and Strife

“Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.”
(Genesis 13:2, 5-7)



What would the Canaanites and the Perizzites have seen between Abram and Lot? Unity and harmony, or division and quarreling?

Wealth commonly creates strife and quarreling in families.

 **When God blesses us with wealth, how should we behave as Christians?**

We see an example of how we should behave:

“So Abram said to Lot, ‘Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brethren. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.’”
(Genesis 13:8-9)

As the elder, Abram could have claimed the best land, but instead he humbled himself and offered Lot the choice.

 **Are we willing to sacrifice what is rightfully ours for the Kingdom’s sake?**

Lot lifted his eyes and saw the fertile valley. It reminded him of Egypt. The grass was green, the rivers watered the land, but beyond the beauty was Sodom, steeped in sin. Step by step, Lot pitched his tent closer, until he lived in its shadow.

 **Are our choices based on green grass and fertile land or what God wants of us?**



“*Lot lifted up his eyes, he saw the plain, and he headed in that direction. That is the biggest mistake he ever made in his life.*”





Reflection & Application

Question 1

What opportunities or “greener pastures” in your life look appealing on the surface yet may draw you away from God’s best? How can you discern the difference?

Question 2

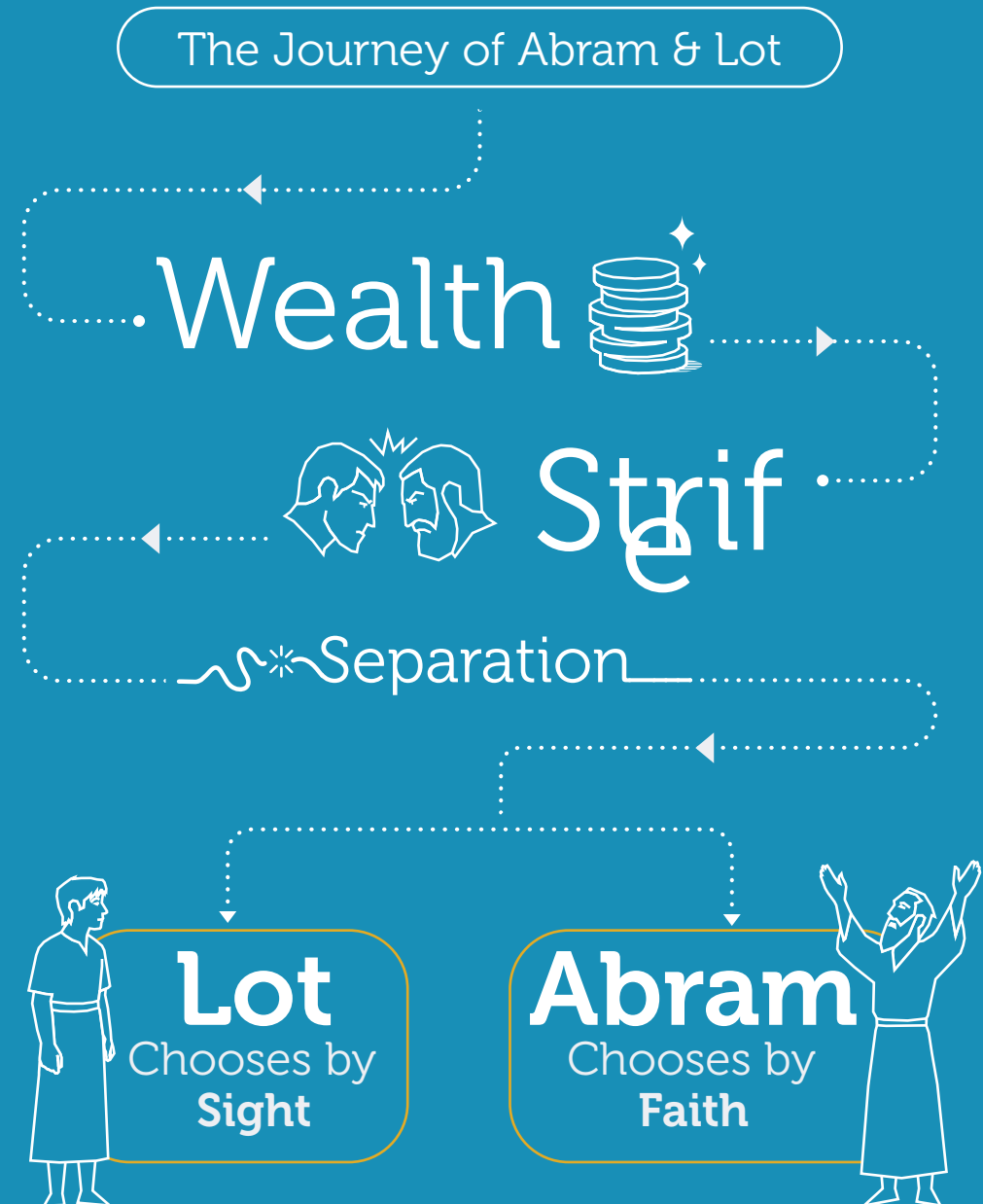
What does it mean for you personally to walk by faith, not by sight?

Question 3

Think of a person you are in conflict with, a family member, a friend, or someone at church. What can you sacrifice in order to make amends with that person?



Visual Summary



Your Takeaway

Integrating **'God's Intelligence'** in my life.

McGee's Quote



“No man falls suddenly. It always takes place over a period of time. You lift the flap of your tent, and you pitch your tent toward Sodom and that’s the beginning.”



Promise, Battle, and Integrity

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for teaching us through Abram's life that true blessing comes by faith, not by our own efforts. Help us walk in Your promises, trusting You as our provider and honoring You in every season of our lives. May our victories bring honor to Your name and reveal the riches of Your grace.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



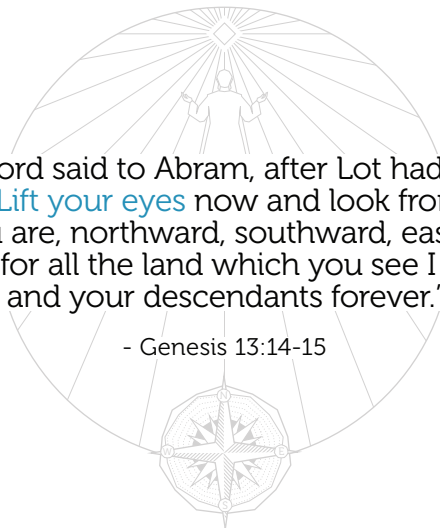
God Reaffirms His Promise



Genesis 13:14-18

And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, 'Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are, northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.'

- Genesis 13:14-15



When Lot finally departed, **God spoke again**. The silence that followed Abram's compromise in Egypt was broken by divine assurance. Sometimes **God's voice becomes clearer** after we **let go of relationships, habits, or ties that keep us from full obedience** (2 Corinthians 6:17-18). Abram could hear God's voice clearly again.



What relationships, habits, or ties are you holding on to?

God told him, "**Lift your eyes now...**" Earlier, Lot had lifted his eyes toward Sodom and **saw worldly opportunity**. Abram now lifted his eyes toward heaven and **saw divine promise**. What a contrast! **One looked by sight, the other by faith.**

God's covenant was **clear and specific**. The land had boundaries, direction, and permanence. McGee reminds us that God deals with what is real, not vague dreams or symbolic hopes. **Heaven is as real as the land Abram stood upon**. God's promises are **tangible, dependable, and eternal**.



Is Heaven a real place?



Faith Vision

God's Promise

“Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.”
(Genesis 13:17)

Faith doesn't just see, it walks. God invited Abram to explore the land, to **step into His promise**. Every footprint was an **act of belief**.

True faith leads to works, works in obedience to God.



“God does not deal with that which is theoretical, but with that which is actual and real.”

“Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the Lord.”
(Genesis 13:18)

Abram moved to **Mamre in Hebron**, names that mean **richness** and **communion**. There, he **built another altar**. You could always tell where Abram had been, because **he left behind a testimony of faith**.

McGee notes that while man has left footprints and flags on the moon, **Abram left altars on earth**. The difference is profound. Abram's riches were spiritual, **the richness of communion with God**.





Reflection

Question 1

Is anything in the world holding you back from daily communion with God?

Question 2

Is your faith passive, or is your faith resulting in works? (*James 2:20-26*)



Application

Question 3

What kind of testimony are you leaving behind, footprints of ambition or altars of worship?

Take time to “lift your eyes” and see God’s promises rather than your problems. Walk by faith in obedience, and act on one thing God has already told you to do.

Build a spiritual altar today. Create a journal to mark the times and places that bear witness to God's faithfulness in your life.

Draw your Application



Sodom & Gomorrah

 Genesis 14:1-24

Genesis 14 introduces the **first recorded war** in Scripture. **Though it seems like an interruption in Abram's story**, it becomes a crucial chapter linking **worldly conflict** with **spiritual calling**.



Critics once doubted this record, but archaeology has confirmed the existence of these very kings. **Amraphel is identified as Hammurabi**, proving again that **God's Word** stands true against time and skepticism.

Amid these battles, **Lot was taken captive**. **The man who once chose Sodom** for its prosperity was now carried off as a prisoner with its downfall. **The city that promised comfort brought captivity**.



 Are you living too close to the world?

Beware, lest you be caught in its ruin.



“In one sense, this is a most remarkable chapter... one of the most important in the Book of Genesis.”

“Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.” (Genesis 14:14)

When Abram heard of Lot's capture, **faith moved him to act**. He gathered his trained servants and pursued the invading kings all the way north to Damascus. Though vastly outnumbered, Abram trusted that **the battle belonged to the Lord**. By strategy and courage, **he overcame the enemy**, rescuing Lot, the captives, and all their possessions.

 Why do you think Abram set out to rescue Lot?



Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, brought out bread and wine and blessed Abram. (Genesis 14:18–19)

Melchizedek appears suddenly in Scripture, without genealogy or background, showing a priest-king who worships God Most High (“El Elyon”).

His role foreshadows Jesus: an eternal Priest and King with no beginning or end (*Psalms 110:4; Hebrews*). The bread and wine he offers point forward to Christ’s sacrifice and the fellowship of the Lord’s Supper.

Abram gave Melchizedek a tithe of everything he had taken. His act declared publicly that his victory came from God, not his own strength.



Why do you think Melchizedek was introduced here?

In the previous chapter, we saw Abram make wrong choices. Here again, Abram is at a point where a choice is being put in front of him. Has being in communion with God again changed him?

The king of Sodom came offering Abram wealth and reward. According to the laws of the day, Abram had a right to the spoils, yet he refused. **God had already prepared Abram for this temptation** through Melchizedek’s blessing. Strengthened by worship, Abram would not let worldly gain rob God of glory.

He declared his allegiance to **El Elyon, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth**. Abram wanted no man to boast, “I made him rich.” He **desired** that **every success** pointed **only** to **God’s hand**.





Reflection

Question 1

How does Abram's refusal to take riches from Sodom reveal that he trusted God as the true source of blessing?

Question 2

How do you recognize and resist subtle temptations that could compromise your witness for God?



Application

Question 3

Before making a life decision, examine your heart and commit your motives to God. If your motive is for selfish gain, and not to honor God, re-examine that decision and resolve in advance to honor Him.

Draw your Application



Your Takeaway

Integrating **'God's Intelligence'** in my life.

McGee's Quote



“ Abraham just believed God. He just accepted what God said, and he believed God. That is the way you get saved: to believe that God has done something for you, that Christ died for you and rose again. God will declare you righteous by simply accepting Christ. ”



God's Covenant with Abram

Dear Heavenly Father,

When fear or doubt fills my heart, remind me of Your promise, "Do not be afraid. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." Help me trust You completely and rest in Your love, knowing You never fail me.

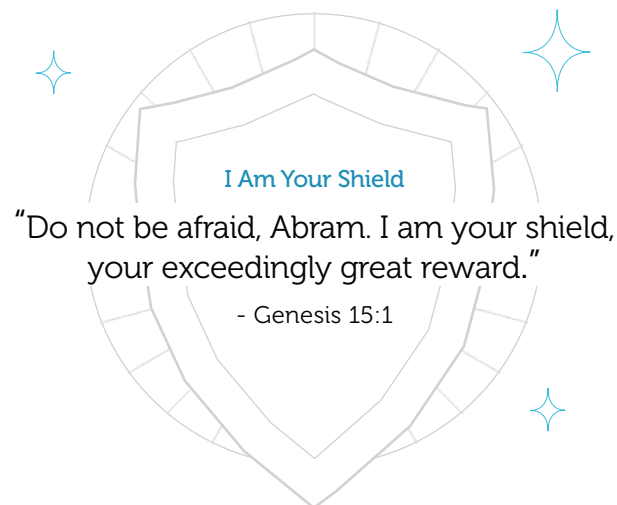
In Jesus's name, Amen.



Abram's Faith



Genesis 15:1-6



After **Abram's courageous rescue of Lot** and his **refusal of the riches from the king of Sodom**, **God appears to him again in a night vision**. This is the **fourth time God has revealed Himself to Abram**, now as the One who **delivered him from Ur** and who continues to **reaffirm His covenant promise**.

The Lord's voice breaks through the stillness, "Do not be afraid, Abram." **God meets His servant with comfort and reassurance**. Perhaps Abram felt the fear of retaliation or the uncertainty of tomorrow. God answers the unspoken question, "I am your shield." **His protection is personal**.

 Have you ever feared the cost of obedience?

Abram learns that faith may lead through risk. But every sacrifice made in obedience to God is met with His presence.

Then God adds, "I am your reward." Abram, who had turned away from earthly plunder offered by the king of Sodom, is now offered heaven's portion, God Himself.

 What is the greatest reward that you can receive?

Yet the ache of an unfulfilled promise rises in his heart. "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless?" (v.2) Abram's prayer is not polished but sincere. He is not just a religious man, but one who speaks to God with honesty, and God listens.



The Lord replies with patient assurance, "One who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He leads Abram outside beneath the night sky. "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them. So shall your descendants be."

The heavens themselves become a message of grace - **limitless, brilliant, and beyond human calculation**. Beneath the vast sky, Abram is reminded that **God's promise reaches farther than his eyes can see and wider than his mind can imagine**.

💬 The stars that he saw includes us. How does it make you feel that God thought of you then?



If you can work for your salvation, then God owes it to you. But, my friend, God never saves by any other means except grace. He has never had any other method of saving, and if you ever get saved, it will be because you believe God, you accept Christ as your Savior, and you believe that God has provided salvation for you.

Standing under that canopy of stars, Abram believes. God has spoken, and that is enough. In this simple moment, Scripture records one of the greatest truths in all of redemptive history:

“

And he believed in the Lord,
and He accounted it to him
for righteousness.

Genesis 15:6

”



Who made this promise?
God Himself

The Trustworthiness of
God Himself

What **has God**
already done?

God's Character
is reliable
He does not
change
Faith is rooted in
who God is

> Past faithfulness
> Previous deliverance
> Evidence from history

**ABRAM'S
FAITH**

Righteous Faith

Genesis 15

Evidence

Faith is not dependent
on visible proof

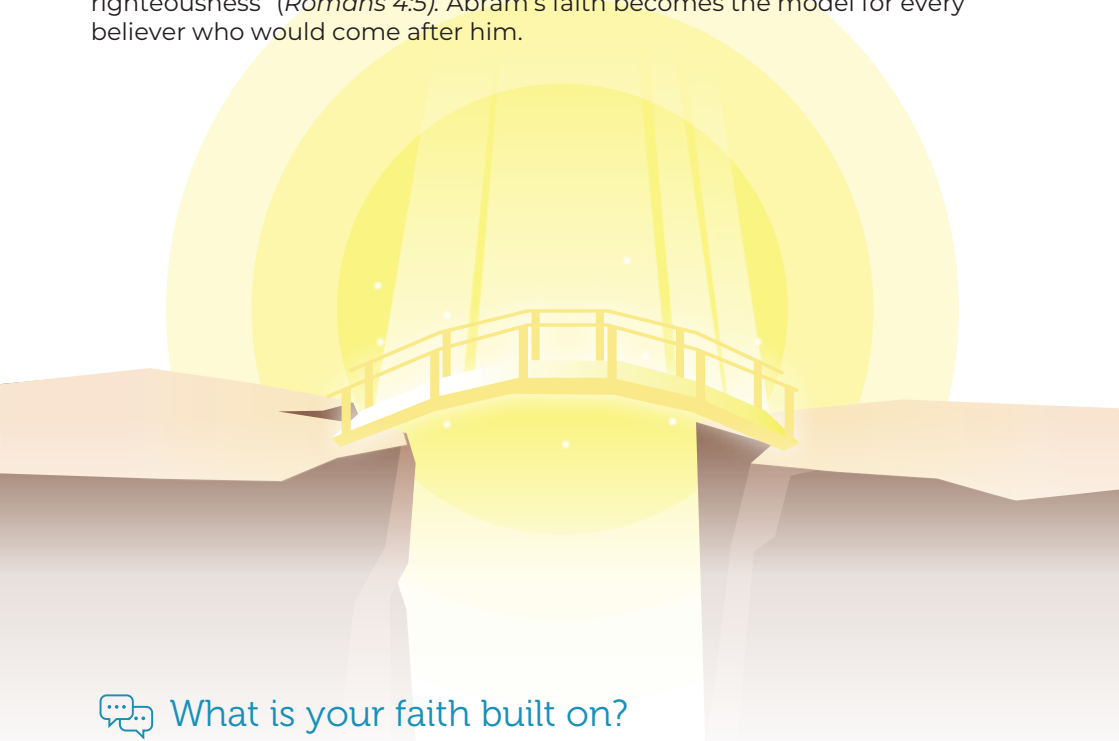
Work

Faith is not earned
by performance

Explanation

Faith does not require
full understanding

Centuries later, the Apostle Paul would point back to this moment to explain how all who believe are justified by faith: “But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness” (*Romans 4:5*). Abram’s faith becomes the model for every believer who would come after him.



 What is your faith built on?

Write down the things you are wrongly basing your faith on. What should you build your faith on instead?

God's Covenant with Abram



Genesis 15:7-21

When Abram asks, “Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?” God responds not with rebuke but with assurance. He invites Abram into a covenant that will make His promise legally and spiritually certain.



Abram gathers the animals, prepares the sacrifice, and waits. As the sun sets, scavenger birds descend upon the carcasses, and Abram drives them away- a picture of perseverance while waiting for God to act.

As darkness falls, **a deep sleep comes over Abram**. In that stillness, God reveals the future: Abram's descendants will live as strangers in a foreign land, serve under bondage for four hundred years, and afterward return with great possessions.

God also shows His patience and mercy toward the Amorites, giving them time to repent before judgment comes.



While Abram slept, **God unfolded the covenant:**

Revelation came not in striving, but **in surrender.**



A **smoking furnace** and a **blazing torch** appear. They symbolize Christ. The furnace speaks of judgment, and the lamp speaks of Him as the light of the world. They move between the pieces of sacrifice. Abram does not walk through them, **God alone does.**

This covenant does not depend on human effort but entirely on God's faithfulness. **Abram contributes nothing; God commits everything.**

What would it mean for you to truly rest while God walks through the covenant for you?



The covenant scene reveals grace at its purest. Centuries later, Christ would walk through the sacrifice of the cross on our behalf, sealing the everlasting covenant of salvation with His blood.

That night, the boundaries of the promised land were marked, and the covenant was sealed with light and fire. **God's Word was enough. His covenant, unbreakable.**



I wasn't even there nineteen hundred years ago to make a contract, but God the Father and God the Son were there, and the Son went to the cross, and He died for my sins. I was paralyzed by sin. I could not promise anything, and you couldn't either.



Reflection

Question 1

How can you live in the peace that comes from knowing God's covenant has already been fulfilled through Christ?

Question 2

How does this passage strengthen your confidence in the promises of God today?



Application

Question 3

Write down ways you will rely on God's grace and not on your strength.

Draw your Application



Your Takeaway

Integrating **'God's Intelligence'** in my life.

McGee's Quote



“What did Abram promise to do? Nothing. He believed God. And God will save you - save you by grace - if you will believe what He has done for you.”



Abram's Faith Tested

Lord,

Teach us to wait for Your timing and not take matters into our own hands. When we have to wait, help us trust Your promise and rest in Your plan. May our choices be led by belief, not by our impatience.

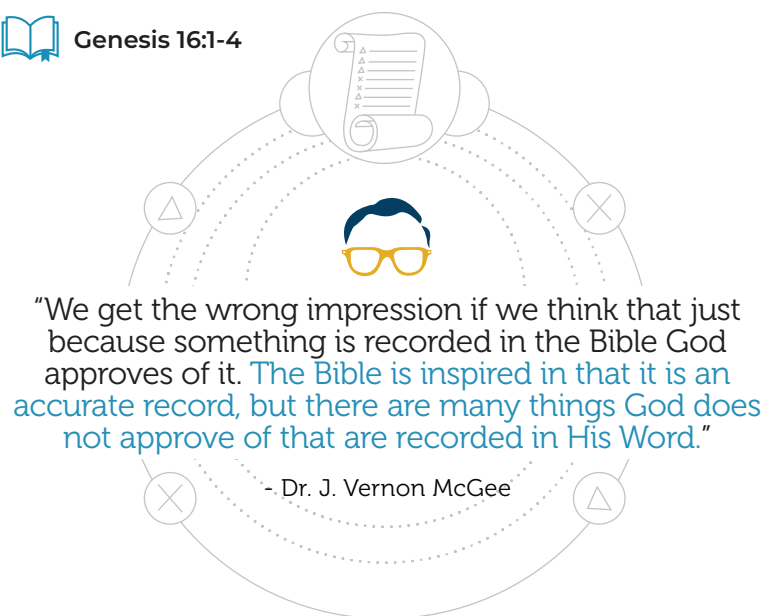
Amen



Shortcuts to the Promise



Genesis 16:1-4



This chapter begins with the introduction of a new character in Abram's story, Hagar. Abram had brought home two things from Egypt - wealth, and Hagar the Egyptian maid. Both of these led Abram to sinful decisions.



In *Galatians 4:21-25*, Paul uses Hagar as an allegory. He speaks of Hagar and her offspring as being under the law, and he speaks of Sarai and her offspring as being free and of the promise.



Which do you want to be joined to, **the law** or **Christ**?

Sarai's words reveal the ache of deferred hope, "**The Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.**" (*Genesis 16:2*)



Her reasoning is natural but not spiritual. In desperation she suggests what culture allowed and was a common practice in those times. God does not approve it and will not accept an offering this way, because it was wrong.

Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. Instead of standing in faith, he yields to human reasoning. It was the voice of impatience replacing the voice of promise.

 Have you ever grown impatient waiting on God?

Hagar conceives and pride takes over. What began as a shortcut to blessing becomes a source of division and now both must face the fruit of unbelief. The true failure here is not moral, but spiritual. It is unbelief, trying to fulfill God's promise without God's power.

 Write down areas of your life where you are **most tempted** to “help God out”. How can you learn to wait in faith?

Conflict between Sarai and Hagar



Genesis 16:5-16



Conflict grows quickly. Hagar, now pregnant, faces harsh treatment from Sarai and flees into the wilderness alone and afraid.

Yet it is here, in her exile,
where grace finds her.



"Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur." *Genesis 16:7*

This is the first mention of the Angel of the Lord in Scripture, believed to be the pre-incarnate Christ, seeking the lost even then. The same God who met Abram in glory now meets a servant girl in distress.

Do you believe Christ still sees you in your wilderness?

Further into Hagar's story we see how God does not excuse sin, but He extends compassion. Hagar will bear a son, Ishmael, which means, "God hears". God saw her pain and heard her cry.



How gracious God is to Hagar! It is not her sin, so God very graciously deals with her.

Hagar is overwhelmed by the fact that she is seen by God and names the Lord,

"El Roi"

(יְאֵרֹא לֹא)

"You-Are-The-God-Who-Sees."

Genesis 16:13

How gracious God is to those who wander. He does not overlook the outcast or forget the faint-hearted. The same God who sought Hagar in the desert seeks us when our faith fails.





Reflection

Question 1

What does Hagar's encounter with God reveal about His compassion for the unseen and forgotten?

Question 2

What does this passage reveal about the danger of rushing God's promises?



Application

Question 3

Can you share a testimony or song from your life about a moment when you experienced God as El Roi, “the God who sees me”?

Draw your Application



Tests of Abram



Genesis 12 - 16

Before moving forward, it helps to look back. Abram's life journey is a tapestry of tests where faith is continually stretched and refined by the Lord.



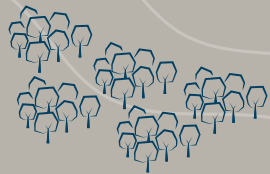
The Call from Ur

Abram leaves home at God's command, stepping out in faith.



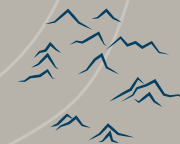
The Famine in Canaan

Fear drives him to Egypt, where he gains wealth and Hagar, both future stumbling blocks.



The Test of Riches

Prosperity leads to strife with Lot, but generosity prevails as Abram chooses peace over possession.



The Test of Power

After victory over the kings, he refuses worldly reward and honors God as his source.



The Test of Waiting

Ten years without a son brings impatience and compromise, resulting in the birth of Ishmael.

More Trials Yet to Come



Reflection

Question 1

Which of Abram's tests most mirrors your current journey of faith?



Application

Question 2

How do setbacks become stepping stones in your walk with God?

Draw your Application



Your Takeaway

Integrating **'God's Intelligence'** in my life.

McGee's Quote



It is difficult for a little, finite man to conceive of the infinite God, and all of us come short of understanding and of knowing Him. I think that a theme which will engage us throughout the endless ages of eternity is just coming to know God. That is worthy of any man's study. To come to know God is something that will dignify a man's position throughout eternity.

“



The Covenant Confirmed

Dear Heavenly Father,

Remind me that You are Almighty and faithful to every promise. Strengthen my faith to walk before You blamelessly, to believe in what seems impossible, and to rest in Your everlasting covenant.

Amen.



God Renames Abram and Sarai



Genesis 17:1-19

"Here was a man who was a father before he had any children. Abraham was Abraham, father of a multitude, by faith at that time."

- Dr. J Vernon McGee

Fourteen years have passed and Abram is now ninety-nine years old. The Lord appeared to him again. God breaks the silence with a new revelation of His name: **El Shaddai "I am Almighty God"**. This name means "the All-Sufficient One". The God who has absolute power to do what He promises.



What was God revealing about Himself through the name El Shaddai?

This is the fifth recorded appearance of God to Abram, and the word "covenant" appears thirteen times in this chapter. God comes to reaffirm His promise and to rule out Ishmael as the heir. His covenant is not built on human effort but divine ability.

“

No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

Genesis 17:5

”

Abram means "exalted father," but Abraham means "father of a multitude". God changes his name before the promise is fulfilled. In faith, Abraham must live by what God calls him, not by what he sees.



Have you ever been called to believe before seeing?

Try and imagine the scene with us: travelers stopping by Abraham's tent, asking, "What's your name?" and laughing when he replies, "Father of a multitude", though he has no child through Sarah. Yet Abraham continues to believe. He becomes a father by faith long before Isaac's birth.

Faith calls things that are not as though they were.



God has made a covenant with these people that is an everlasting covenant. Since it is, it is not one that will be easily broken, and it is not one that is going to run out. God did not give them a ninety-nine-year lease on the land. God gave them an everlasting possession.



From verses 6 to 9, God's promise unfolds in detail. This is not a temporary arrangement. God says the covenant is **everlasting** - a word that appears repeatedly in His assurance.

This covenant is not conditional upon Abraham's perfection but upon God's promise. It rests entirely on the "I will" of God.

Finally we are introduced to **the sign of the covenant: circumcision**.

"This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised."

Genesis 17:10

This physical act symbolized being spiritually set apart and belonging to God's family. Circumcision was the badge of the covenant, not the basis of it. They did not have to do this in order to get the covenant; God had already made the covenant with them.

Likewise, for believers today, good works do not earn salvation; they testify that we belong to God. We do not work to become His children. We obey because we are His children.



Have you been 'circumcised'?

New Names

GOD (Revelation)

EL SHADAI

יְדִשׁ לֵא

I am Almighty God

ABRAM

ABRAHAM

[Father]

[Father of a Multitude]

אַבְרָם

אַבְרָהָם

SARAI

SARAH

[My Princess]

[Princess]

סָרַי

סָרָה



“As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and also give you a son by her.” *Genesis 17:15-16*

Her name changes too. From **“my princess”** to **“princess”**, a mother of nations.

Abraham’s response is beautiful, **“Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed.”** *Genesis 17:17*

This laughter is not unbelief but wonder. He rejoices in the sheer impossibility of it all. It is a laughter of joy that God would do the unthinkable.

But as joy rises, so does a pang of pain. Abraham remembers Ishmael. **“And Abraham said to God, ‘Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!’”** *Genesis 17:18*

It is a plea from a father’s heart. Abraham loves his son, but God’s plan is sovereign.

God does not accept Ishmael as the heir of promise. His covenant will come through Isaac, the child of faith and miracle.

When God fulfills His promise, no human plan can replace it.

 Have you ever tried to pass your plans off as God’s plans?

Faith before Fulfillment

You shall be a father of many nations.
Genesis 17:4





Reflection

Question 1

What does circumcision as a covenant sign teach us about the difference between inward faith and outward acts?

Question 2

How does Abraham's laughter remind you that joy often accompanies faith in the impossible?



Application

Question 3

What is one area in your life where you need to stop negotiating with God and simply trust His “I will”?

Draw your Application



Ishmael's Inheritance



Genesis 17:20-27



God holds to the promise that He has made. God is not to be deterred or deferred from this at all. He is going to do the exact thing that He said He would do. He speaks as if Isaac were already born and in their midst. He speaks of things that are not as if they are - and it is going to be next year.

God does not ignore Abraham's love for Ishmael. In His mercy, He promises blessing, though not the covenant. Ishmael will be fruitful, the father of twelve princes and a great nation, but the covenant will pass through Isaac.



💬 Did God have to bless Ishmael? What do His actions teach us?

"But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year." *Genesis 17:21*

God's will is settled. Abraham need not plead further. Sometimes God's answer is firm, and obedience is the only faithful response. Abraham immediately obeys.

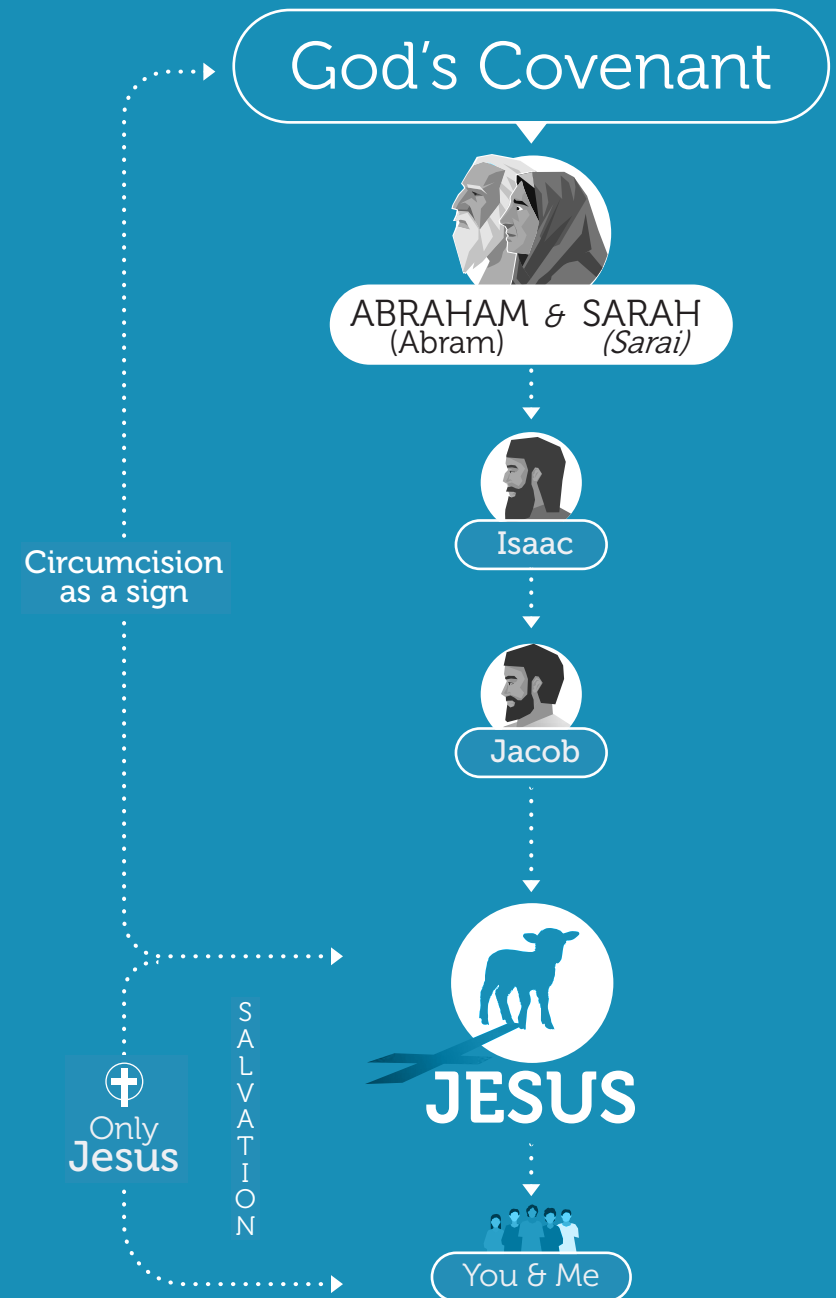
"So Abraham took Ishmael his son, all who were born in his house, and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him." *Genesis 17:23*

After God revealed the covenant, Abraham immediately obeys. Even though Ishmael didn't belong to the covenant, he is also included in the act of obedience since he belonged to Abraham's household.



 What is one **act of obedience** you can take as a **sign of faith in God's promise**, even before the results appear?

Question 1

[illegible]



“ What kind of covenant did God make with Abraham? An everlasting covenant. If it is everlasting, is it good today? It certainly is. God promised you and me everlasting life if we will trust Christ - that is a covenant God has made.



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