

Abraham

Nathan Wicker / General

Legacy

// INTRO

New Series: Legacy

Legacy

: something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past

Series Focus: Abraham, David, Peter

- › Turn in your bibles to [Genesis 12](#)

Genesis Facts:

- Genesis means “beginnings”
 - Believed to be written by Moses
 - Chapters 1-4 detail creation and the fall of man from **unity** with God to **separation**
 - Chapters 5-11 detail the wickedness of the world and God’s response
 - Chapter 12-50 are about one family: Abraham and the three generations that followed him
- › Stand in honor for the reading of God’s Word

[Genesis 12:1-9](#) (ESV)

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, **“To your offspring I will give this land.”** So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

› Pray

Genealogy Backstory

- [Genesis 6](#), corruption is abounding in the Earth and it says the God's heart was grieved, yet Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord
- God spares Noah and his family from a global flood that wiped every living thing off the planet, except that which was on the ark (boat).
- After the flood subsides, God make a covenant with Noah and tells him to be fruitful and multiply
- Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, Japheth
- One night, Noah gets drunk and laying in his tent “uncovered”
- Ham “looks on his father's nakedness” and then goes to tell his brothers Shem and Japheth.
- Shem and Japheth cover their father up
- Noah wakes up, realizes something is off and curses Ham and his ancestors!

Genesis 9:25–27 ESV

²⁵ he said, “Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.” ²⁶ He also said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. ²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant.”

table of nations images

- We see that the land of Caanan (Ham's Descendant) is the future promised land that one day, Shem's descendants will possess.

ABRAHAM'S PROMISE CYCLE

Over the course of Abraham's life we see 5 times where God speaks promises to him. All those promises are related to Abraham's offspring.

1. **God calls** out to Abram

2. **Abram moves** (takes action, has faith)

3. **Abram sacrifices** to God

4. **Abram waits**

Promise 1 – [Genesis 12](#)

God calls Abram to leave his place of comfort with his family and go where God leads him.

EVENTS

Egypt

- Abraham takes his family to Egypt and has Sarai position herself as his sister instead of his wife
- The Pharaoh takes Sarai to be his wife and God rains down plagues on Egypt
- Pharaoh sends them off with gifts

Genesis 13:1-4 ESV

¹ So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. ² Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³ And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴ to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD.

| **Bethel** = dwelling house, temple, family, dynasty

Ai = to do wrong, be bent, twisted or confused

Genesis 13:5-8 ESV

⁵ And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, ⁶ so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, ⁷ and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land. ⁸ Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen."

- Abram honors Lot in this moment
- Abram can we forget all the **stuff** and remember that we are **kinsmen** (family)

Lot & Abram Separate

- Lot goes down by the Jordan Valley south of the Dead Sea
- Abram settles in the land of Caanan

Promise 2 – [Genesis 13](#)

Genesis 13:14-18 ESV

¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵ for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. ¹⁷ Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." ¹⁸ So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Cycle: God Speaks, Abram Moves, Abram Sacrifices

Promise 3* – [Genesis 15](#)

[Genesis 15](#) (ESV)

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ **And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.** ⁷ And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." ¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

- Abram and Sarai try to fulfill the promise in their own power and it produces Ishmael

Promise 4* – [Genesis 17](#)

Covenant is Made

Names are Changed

[Genesis 17:1-8](#) (ESV)

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “**I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,** ² **that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.**” ³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

NAME CHANGES

Abram = exalted father

Abraham = father of a multitude

Sarai = dominative princess

Sarah = princess, queen (speaks of refinement and wisdom)

NAME GIVEN

This time the promise includes specific promise, a son, Isaac

NEW REACTION

Both Abraham and Sarah *laugh* at this promise, seeing that there’s no way for this promise to be fulfilled.

Isaac = he laughs

Genesis 18:14 **ESV**

¹⁴ 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.”

Promise 5** – [Genesis 22](#) [closing]

- Isaac is now a young boy, maybe early teens
- God shows up again with a new command...

Genesis 22:2 **ESV**

² He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

[Genesis 22:3–18](#) (ESV)

³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God,

seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven¹⁶ and said, “**By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,**¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

James 2:23 ESV

²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

Hebrews 11:8–12 ESV

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.