

Abraham is Justified by Faith (c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 15

Abraham Believed God

- 1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram! I am your shield and the one who will reward you in great abundance.”
- 2 But Abram said, “O sovereign LORD, what will you give me since I continue to be childless, and my heir is Eliezer of Damascus?”
- 3 Abram added, “Since you have not given me a descendant, then look, one born in my house will be my heir!”
- 4 But look, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but instead a son who comes from your own body will be your heir.”
- 5 The LORD took him outside and said, “Gaze into the sky and count the stars—if you are able to count them!” Then he said to him, “So will your descendants be.”
- 6 Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD [counted it to him as righteousness]. [[Rom 4:18–25](#)]

Cutting the Covenant

- 7 The LORD 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 Abram said, “O sovereign LORD, by what can I know that I am to possess it?”
- 9 The LORD said to him, “Take for me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”
- 10 So Abram took all these for him and then cut them in two and placed each half opposite the other, but he did not cut the birds in half.
- 11 When birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
- 12 When the sun went down, Abram fell sound asleep, and great terror overwhelmed him.
- 13 Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign country. They will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years.
- 14 But I will execute judgment on the nation that they will serve. Afterward they will come out with many possessions. [[Acts 7:6–7](#)]
- 15 But as for you, you will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.
- 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will return here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its limit.”
- 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking firepot with a flaming torch passed between the animal parts.
- 18 That day the LORD made a covenant with Abram: “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River—
- 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,
- 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,
- 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites.”

Birth of Ishmael (2080 BC)

Genesis 16

- 1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had not given birth to any children, but she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar.
- 2 So Sarai said to Abram, “Since the LORD has prevented me from having children, have sexual relations with my servant. Perhaps I can have a family by her.” Abram did what Sarai told him.
- 3 So after Abram had lived in Canaan for ten years, Sarai, Abram’s wife, gave Hagar, her Egyptian servant, to her husband to be his wife.
- 4 He had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. Once Hagar realized she was pregnant, she despised Sarai.
- 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “You have brought this wrong on me! I allowed my servant to have sexual relations with you, but when she realized that she was pregnant, she despised me. May the LORD judge between you and me!”
- 6 Abram said to Sarai, “Since your servant is under your authority, do to her whatever you think best.” Then Sarai treated Hagar harshly, so she ran away from Sarai.
- 7 The LORD’s angel found Hagar near a spring of water in the desert—the spring that is along the road to Shur.
- 8 He said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?” She replied, “I’m running away from my mistress, Sarai.”
- 9 Then the LORD’s angel said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her authority.
- 10 I will greatly multiply your descendants,” the LORD’s angel added, “so that they will be too numerous to count.”
- 11 Then the LORD’s angel said to her,

“You are now pregnant
and are about to give birth to a son.
You are to name him Ishmael,
for the LORD has heard your painful groans.”

12 He will be a wild donkey of a man.
He will be hostile to everyone,
and everyone will be hostile to him.
He will live away from his brothers.”

13 So Hagar named the LORD who spoke to her, “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “Here I have seen one who sees me!”
14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi. (It is located between Kadesh and Bered.)
15 So Hagar gave birth to Abram’s son, whom Abram named Ishmael.
16 (Now Abram was 86 years old when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael.)

Circumcision Given as the Sign of the Covenant (2067 BC)

Genesis 17

Yahweh Appears to Abram

1 When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am the sovereign God. Walk before me and be blameless.
2 Then I will confirm my covenant between me and you, and I will give you a multitude of descendants.”

Abraham: Father of Many Nations

3 Abram bowed down with his face to the ground, and God said to him,
4 “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of a multitude of nations.
5 No longer will your name be Abram. Instead, your name will be Abraham because I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. [[Rom 4:17](#)]
6 I will make you extremely fruitful. I will make nations of you, and kings will descend from you.
7 I will confirm my covenant as a perpetual covenant between me and you. It will extend to your descendants after you throughout their generations. I will be your God and the God of your descendants after you.
8 I will give the whole land of Canaan—the land where you are now residing—to you and your descendants after you as a permanent possession. I will be their God.”

The Covenant of Circumcision

9 Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep the covenantal requirement I am imposing on you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.
10 This is my requirement that you and your descendants after you must keep: Every male among you must be circumcised.
11 You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskins. This will be a reminder of the covenant between me and you.
12 Throughout your generations every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, whether born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not one of your descendants.
13 They must indeed be circumcised, whether born in your house or bought with money. The sign of my covenant will be visible in your flesh as a permanent reminder.
14 Any uncircumcised male who has not been circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin will be cut off from his people— he has failed to carry out my requirement.”

Sarah: Mother of Nations

15 Then God said to Abraham, “As for your wife, you must no longer call her Sarai; Sarah will be her name.
16 I will bless her and will give you a son through her. I will bless her and she will become a mother of nations. Kings of countries will come from her!”

Abraham’s Reaction of Disbelief

17 Then Abraham bowed down with his face to the ground and laughed as he said to himself, “Can a son be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?”
18 Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live before you!”

The Promise of Isaac

19 God said, “No, Sarah your wife is going to bear you a son, and you will name him Isaac. I will confirm my covenant with him as a perpetual covenant for his descendants after him.
20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you. I will indeed bless him, make him fruitful, and give him a multitude of descendants. He will become the father of twelve princes; I will make him into a great nation.
21 But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this set time next year.”
22 When he finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

Abraham Obeys Yahweh

23 Abraham took his son Ishmael and every male in his household (whether born in his house or bought with money) and circumcised them on that very same day, just as God had told him to do.

24 Now Abraham was 99 years old when he was circumcised;

25 his son Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised.

26 Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised on the very same day. [[Rom 4:9-12](#)]

27 All the men of his household, whether born in his household or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

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