

Abraham is Justified by Faith (c. 2085 BC)

Genesis 15

Abraham Believed God

- 1 After these things the word of Yahweh came to Abram in a vision, saying: “Do not be afraid, Abram; I *am* your shield, *and* your reward *shall be* very great.”
- 2 Then Abram said, “O Yahweh, my Lord, what will you give me? I continue to be childless, and my heir is Eliezer of Damascus.”
- 3 And Abram said, “Look, you have not given me a descendant, and here, a member of my household *is* my heir.”
- 4 And behold, the word of Yahweh *came* to him saying, “This *person* will not be your heir, but your own son will be your heir.”
- 5 And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward the heavens and count the stars if you are able to count them.” And he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”
- 6 And he believed in Yahweh, and he reckoned it to him *as* righteousness. [[Rom 4:18–25](#)]

Cutting the Covenant

- 7 And he said to him, “I *am* Yahweh, who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give this land to you, to possess it.”
- 8 And he said, “O Yahweh God, how shall I know *that* I will possess it?”
- 9 And he said to him, “Take for me a three-year-old heifer, and a three-year-old female goat, and a three-year-old ram, and a turtledove and a young pigeon.”
- 10 And he took for him all these and cut them in pieces down the middle. And he put each piece opposite the other, but the birds he did not cut.
- 11 And the birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.
- 12 And it happened, as the sun went down, then a deep sleep fell upon Abram and, behold, a great terrifying darkness fell upon him.
- 13 And he said to Abram, “You must surely know that your descendants shall be *as* aliens in a land not their own. And they shall serve them and they shall oppress them four hundred years.
- 14 And also the nation that they serve I will judge. Then afterward they shall go out with great possessions. [[Acts 7:6–7](#)]
- 15 And *as for* you, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.
- 16 And the fourth generation shall return here, for the guilt of the Amorites is not yet complete.”
- 17 And after the sun had gone down and it *was* dusk, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between those half pieces.
- 18 On that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram saying, “To your offspring I will give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates river,
- 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.”

Birth of Ishmael (2080 BC)

Genesis 16

- 1 Now Sarai, the wife of Abram, had borne him no children. And she had a female Egyptian servant, and her name *was* Hagar.
- 2 And Sarai said to Abram, “Look, please, Yahweh has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my servant; perhaps I will have children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
- 3 Then Sarai, the wife of Abram, took Hagar, her Egyptian servant, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to Abram her husband as his wife.
- 4 And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And *when* she saw that she had conceived, then her mistress grew small in her eyes.
- 5 And Sarai said to Abram, “May my harm *be* upon you. I had my servant sleep with you, and *when* she saw that she had conceived, she no longer respected me. May Yahweh judge between me and you!”
- 6 And Abram said to Sarai, “Look, your servant *is* under your authority. Do to her that which *is* good in your eyes.” And Sarai mistreated her, and she fled from her presence.
- 7 And the angel of Yahweh found her at a spring of water in the wilderness, at the spring by the road of Shur.
- 8 And he said to Hagar, the servant of Sarai, “From where have you come, and where are you going?” And she said, “I am fleeing from the presence of Sarai my mistress.”
- 9 Then the angel of Yahweh said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit yourself under her authority.”
- 10 And the angel of Yahweh said to her, “I will greatly multiply your offspring, so that they cannot be counted for *their* abundance.”
- 11 And the angel of Yahweh said to her:

“Behold, you are pregnant
and shall have a son.
And you shall call his name Ishmael,

for Yahweh has listened to your suffering.

- 12 And he shall be a wild donkey of a man,
his hand *will be* against everyone,
and the hand of everyone *will be* against him,
and he will live in hostility with all his brothers.”

13 So she called the name of Yahweh who spoke to her, “You *are* El-Roi,” for she said, “Here I have seen after he who sees me.”

14 Therefore the well was called Beer-Lahai-Roi; behold, it *is* between Kadesh and Bered.

15 And Hagar had a child for Abram, a son. And Abram called the name of his son whom Hagar bore to him, Ishmael.

16 And Abram *was* eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

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

Genesis 17

Yahweh Appears to Abram

1 When Abram *was* ninety-nine years old Yahweh appeared to Abram. And he said to him, “I *am* El-Shaddai; walk before me and be blameless

2 so that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you exceedingly.”

Abraham: Father of Many Nations

3 Then Abram fell upon his face and God spoke with him, saying,

4 “*As for* me, behold, my covenant *shall be* with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

5 Your name shall no longer be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. [[Rom 4:17](#)]

6 And I will make you exceedingly fruitful. I will make you a nation, and kings shall go out from you.

7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you, and between your offspring after you, throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant to be as God for you and to your offspring after you.

8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land in which you are living as an alien, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting property. And I will be to them as God.”

The Covenant of Circumcision

9 And God said to Abraham, “Now *as for* you, you must keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you, throughout their generations.

10 This *is* my covenant which you shall keep, between me and you, and *also* with your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

11 And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

12 And at eight days of age you shall yourselves circumcise every male *belonging* to your generations *and* the servant born in your house and the one bought from any foreigner who is not from your offspring.

13 You must certainly circumcise the servant born in your house and the one bought from any foreigner. And my covenant shall be with your flesh as an everlasting covenant.

14 And *as for any* uncircumcised male who has not circumcised the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people. He has broken my covenant.

Sarah: Mother of Nations

15 And God said to Abraham, “*as for* Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, for Sarah *shall be* her name.

16 And I will bless her; moreover, I give to you from her a son. And I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations. Kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Abraham’s Reaction of Disbelief

17 And Abraham fell upon his face and laughed. And he said in his heart, “Can a child be born to a man a hundred years old, or can Sarah bear a child at ninety?”

18 And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!”

The Promise of Isaac

19 And God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear a son for you, and you shall call his name Isaac. And I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant to his offspring after him.

20 And *as for* Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I will bless him and I will make him fruitful, and I will multiply him exceedingly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

21 But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this appointed time next year.”

22 When he finished speaking with him, God went up from Abraham.

Abraham Obeys Yahweh

23 And Abraham took Ishmael his son and all who were born of his house, and all *those* acquired by his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskin on the same day that God spoke with him.

24 Abraham *was* ninety-nine years old when he circumcised the flesh of his foreskin.

25 And Ishmael his son *was* thirteen years old when he circumcised the flesh of his foreskin.

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

27 And all the men of his house, those born in the house, and those acquired by money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

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