

# Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

## The Custodians of the Covenant and their Descendants

Part 7

### Genesis 15 AMPC

*1 After these things, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, **Fear not, Abram, I am your [a]Shield, your abundant compensation, and your reward shall be exceedingly great.***

*2 And Abram said, Lord God, what can You give me, since I am going on [from this world] childless and he who shall be the owner and heir of my house is this [steward] Eliezer of Damascus?*

*3 And Abram continued, **Look, You have given me no child; and [a servant] born in my house is my heir.***

*4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, **This man shall not be your heir, but he who shall come from your own body shall be your heir.***

*5 And He brought him outside [his tent into the starlight] and said, **Look now toward the heavens and count the stars—if you are able to number them. Then He said to him, So shall your descendants be.***

*6 And he [Abram] believed in (trusted in, relied on, remained steadfast to) the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness (right standing with God).*

*7 And He said to him, **I am the [same] Lord, Who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldees to give you this land as an inheritance.***

*8 But he [Abram] said, Lord God, by what shall I know that I shall inherit it?*

*9 And He said to him, **Bring to Me** a heifer three years old, a she-goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.*

*10 And he brought Him all these and cut them down the middle [into halves] and laid each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not divide.*

11 And when the birds of prey swooped down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 When the sun was setting, a deep sleep overcame Abram, and a horror (a terror, a shuddering fear) of great darkness assailed and oppressed him.

**13 And [God] said to Abram, Know positively that your descendants will be strangers dwelling as temporary residents in a land that is not theirs [Egypt], and they will be slaves there and will be afflicted and oppressed for 400 years. [Fulfilled in Exod. 12:40.]**

**14 But I will bring judgment on that nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.**

15 And you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old (hoary) age.

16 And in the [b]fourth generation they [your descendants] shall come back here [to Canaan] again, for the iniquity of the [c]Amorites is not yet full and complete.

17 When the sun had gone down and a [thick] darkness had come on, behold, a smoking oven and a flaming torch passed between those pieces.

**18 On the same day the Lord made a covenant (promise, pledge) with Abram, saying, To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates—the land of**

19 The Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,

20 The Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

21 The Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

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## **Genesis 16 AMPC**

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar.

**2 And Sarai said to Abram, See here, the Lord has restrained me from bearing [children]. I am asking you to have intercourse with my maid; it may be that I can obtain children by her. And Abram listened to and heeded what Sarai said.**

**3 So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her Egyptian maid, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his [secondary] wife.**

4 And he had intercourse with Hagar, and she became pregnant; and when she saw that she was with child, she looked with contempt upon her mistress and despised her.

**5 Then Sarai said to Abram, May [the responsibility for] my wrong and deprivation of rights be upon you! I gave my maid into your bosom, and when she saw that she was with child, I was contemptible and despised in her eyes. May the Lord be the judge between you and me.**

6 But Abram said to Sarai, See here, your maid is in your hands and power; do as you please with her. And when Sarai dealt severely with her, humbling and afflicting her, she [Hagar] fled from her.

7 But [a]the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness on the road to Shur.

8 And He said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, where did you come from, and where are you intending to go? And she said, I am running away from my mistress Sarai.

9 The Angel of the Lord said to her, Go back to your mistress and [humbly] submit to her control.

**10 Also the Angel of the Lord said to her, I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be numbered for multitude.**

**11 And the Angel of the Lord continued, See now, you are with child and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Ishmael [God hears], because the Lord has heard and paid attention to your affliction.**

*12 And he [Ishmael] will be as a [b]wild ass among men; his hand will be against every man and every man's hand against him, and he will live to the east and on the borders of all his kinsmen.*

*13 So she called the name of the Lord Who spoke to her, You are a God of seeing, for she said, Have I [not] even here [in the wilderness] looked upon Him Who sees me [and lived]? Or have I here also seen [the future purposes or designs of] Him Who sees me?*

*14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi [A well to the Living One Who sees me]; it is [c]between Kadesh and Bered.*

*15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son whom Hagar bore [d]Ishmael.*

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

### **Genesis 16:12 GNT**

12 But your son will live like a wild donkey; he will be against everyone, and everyone will be against him. He will live apart from all his relatives.”c

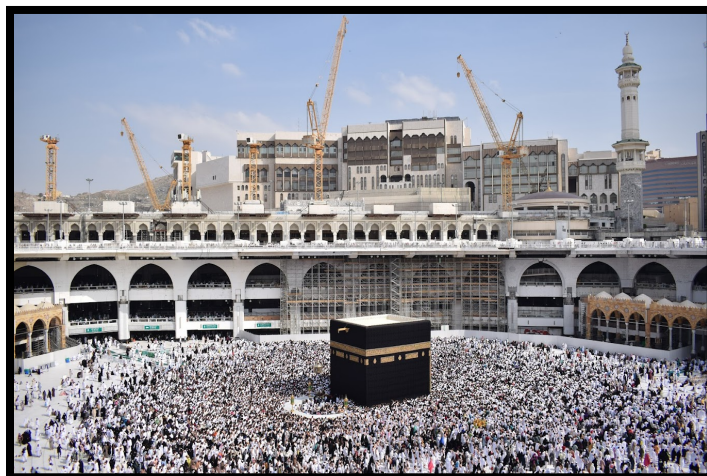
### **Genesis 16:12 KJV**

12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

I am going to give you a crash course on Islam and Ishmael... this is what Islam teaches (believes), much of it lines up with the Word but then... a twist or deceit. In the Old Testament, Abraham cannot have a child with his wife Sarah. She gives him her handmaiden Hagar, with Abraham she has a child, a son Ishmael. Eventually though in her old age Sarah conceives of a child with divine help and that child is Isaac.

After the birth of her son Sarah forces Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away from their home. Although in the Quran, it is Allah who tells Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael into the desert. Typically, Jews and Christians believe they are descendants of Isaac, Muslims believe they are inheritors of Ishmael's legacy that they along with Jews and Christians are the children of Abraham. They also believe it was Ishmael not Isaac that Abraham almost sacrificed to God.

The despairing of Ishmael's life is celebrated with the festival Eid Al Adha, when God spared Ishmael the boy was replaced with a ram, it is because of this Muslims take animal sacrifices during the festival. Ishmael is highly regarded in Islam for his goodness and His wisdom. After wandering in the desert with his mother, they settled in Mecca. There it is believed Ishmael built the Kaaba with Abraham.



**Note:** Mecca is the most important place in the Islamic religion as the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad. The nearby Medina is the second-most important place in Islam, due to the Prophet Muhammad's temporary exile there, and is also where the prophet was laid to rest at the time of his death.





So... Abram and Sarai had a different plan. They couldn't wait and thought God had left them childless. Even though HE said I would do some "thing" they wanted long enough so they did some "thing" and that is what happened.

**Genesis 17 AMPC**

**1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, I am the Almighty God; walk and live habitually before Me and be perfect (blameless, wholehearted, complete).**

**2 And I will make My covenant (solemn pledge) between Me and you and will multiply you exceedingly.**

3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him,

**4 As for Me, behold, My covenant (solemn pledge) is with you, and you shall be the father of many nations.**

**5 Nor shall your name any longer be Abram [high, exalted father]; but your name shall be Abraham [father of a multitude], for I have made you the father of many nations.**

6 And **I will make you** exceedingly fruitful and I will make nations of you, and [a]kings will come from you.

7 And **I will establish** My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting, solemn pledge, to be a God to you and to your posterity after you.

8 And **I will give to you** and to your posterity after you the land in which you are a stranger [going from place to place], all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Notice God is telling Abraham - I will make the plan happen and not you. You must do it MY Way and I will make you exceedingly fruitful.

**9 And God said to Abraham, As for you, you shall therefore keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.**

**10 This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your posterity after you:** Every male among you shall be circumcised.

11 And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be a token or sign of the covenant (the promise or pledge) between Me and you. 12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male throughout your generations, whether born in [your] house or bought with [your] money from any foreigner not of your offspring.

13 He that is born in your house and he that is bought with your money must be circumcised; and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

14 And the male who is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.

**15 And God said to Abraham, As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai; but Sarah [Princess] her name shall be.**

**16 And I will bless her and give you a son also by her. Yes, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.**

**17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said in his heart, Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a son?**

**18 And [he] said to God, Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!**

**19 But God said, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son indeed, and you shall call his name Isaac [laughter]; and I will establish My covenant or solemn pledge with him for an everlasting covenant and with his posterity after him.**

**20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard and heeded you: behold, I will bless him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly; He will be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. [Fulfilled in Gen. 25:12-18.]**

**21 But My covenant, My promise and pledge, I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.**

**22 And God stopped talking with him and went up from Abraham.**

23 And Abraham took Ishmael his son and all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among [those] of Abraham's house, and circumcised [them] the very same day, as God had said to him.

**24 And Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised.**

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

26 On the very same day Abraham was circumcised, and Ishmael his son as well.

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

### **Genesis 18 AMPC**

1 **Now the Lord appeared to Abraham** by the oaks or terebinths of Mamre; as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day,



2 He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood at a little distance from him. He ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the ground

3 And said, My lord, if now I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant, I beg of you.

4 Let a little water be brought, and you may wash your feet and recline and rest yourselves under the tree.

5 And I will bring a morsel (mouthful) of bread to refresh and sustain your hearts before you go on further—for that is why you have come to your servant. And they replied, Do as you have said.

6 So Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, Quickly get ready three measures of fine meal, knead it, and bake cakes.

7 And Abraham ran to the herd and brought a calf tender and good and gave it to the young man [to butcher]; then he [Abraham] hastened to prepare it.

8 And he took curds and milk and the calf which he had made ready, and set it before [the men]; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

**9 And they said to him, Where is Sarah your wife? And he said, [She is here] in the tent.**

**10 [a][The Lord] said, I will surely return to you when the season comes round, and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son. And Sarah was listening and heard it at the tent door which was behind Him.**

**11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in years; it had ceased to be with Sarah as with [young] women. [She was past the age of childbearing].**

**12 Therefore Sarah laughed to herself, saying, After I have become aged shall I have pleasure and delight, my lord (husband), being old also?**

**13 And the Lord asked Abraham, Why did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I really bear a child when I am so old?**

**14 Is anything too hard or too wonderful [b]for the Lord? At the appointed time, when the season [for her delivery] comes around, I will return to you and Sarah shall have borne a son.**

15 Then Sarah denied it, saying, I did not laugh; for she was afraid. And He said, No, but you did laugh.

16 The men rose up from there and faced toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

17 And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham [My friend and servant] what I am going to do,

18 Since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed through him and shall bless themselves by him?

19 For I have known (chosen, acknowledged) him [as My own], so that he may teach and command his children and the sons of his house after him to keep the way of the Lord and to do what is just and righteous, so that the Lord may bring Abraham what He has promised him.

20 And the Lord said, Because the shriek [of the sins] of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is exceedingly grievous,

21 I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether [as vilely and wickedly] as is the cry of it which has come to Me; and if not, I will know.

22 Now the [two] men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord.

23 And Abraham came close and said, Will You destroy the righteous (those upright and in right standing with God) together with the wicked?

24 Suppose there are in the city fifty righteous; will You destroy the place and not spare it for [the sake of] the fifty righteous in it?

25 Far be it from You to do such a thing—to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as do the wicked! Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth execute judgment and do righteously?

26 And the Lord said, If I find in the city of Sodom fifty righteous (upright and in right standing with God), I will spare the whole place for their sake.

27 Abraham answered, Behold now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord.

28 *If five of the fifty righteous should be lacking—will You destroy the whole city for lack of five? He said, If I find forty-five, I will not destroy it.*

29 *And [Abraham] spoke to Him yet again, and said, Suppose [only] forty shall be found there. And He said, I will not do it for forty's sake.*

30 *Then [Abraham] said to Him, Oh, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak [again]. Suppose [only] thirty shall be found there. And He answered, I will not do it if I find thirty there.*

31 *And [Abraham] said, Behold now, I have taken upon myself to speak [again] to the Lord. Suppose [only] twenty shall be found there. And [the Lord] replied, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.*

32 *And he said, Oh, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again only this once. Suppose ten [righteous people] shall be found there. And [the Lord] said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.*

**33 And the Lord went His way when He had finished speaking with Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.**

During their visit with Abraham, the three men warned him that God's judgment was about to fall upon Sodom and Gomorrah. They also promised that Abraham's wife, Sarah, would have a baby by the same time next year.

Some have suggested that all three of these "men" were angelic beings who appeared to Abraham in the form of men. However, Genesis 18:1 says that it was "the LORD" (Yahweh) who appeared to Abraham. It is the LORD who speaks in verses 13, 20, 26, and 33. Abraham stands "before the LORD" in verse 22. So, one of the three "men" was God Almighty taking on the appearance of a man and the other two were the angels who later visited Sodom and spoke to Lot in Genesis 19.

Abraham's response to the appearance of the three men also suggests that he instinctively knew that he was in the presence of God. A typical response to visitors in that culture was to rise and wait for them to approach the home. But Abraham ran to meet them and "bowed low to the ground," a prostrate posture reserved for royalty or deity.

Sarah laughed... that was not good. She couldn't believe what was going to take place because it was physically impossible. But, this would happen later as well. Her and Abraham had already had a child so why another one? Supernaturally? They wanted God's outcome but doing it their way... the Law. Begrudgingly doing what God said "do it My way" not waiting for God's Perfect Plan to unfold...

### **Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 AMPC**

*9 The thing that has been—it is what will be again, and that which has been done is that which will be done again; and there is nothing new under the sun.*

*10 Is there a thing of which it may be said, See, this is new? It has already been, in the vast ages of time [recorded or unrecorded] which were before us.*

There was a prophecy about John the Baptist made by the Never Wrong Prophet Isaiah...do you remember? Well, look what happened when mom and dad found out that this prophecy would be fulfilled through them.

### **Luke 1 AMPC**

*1 Since [[a]as is well known] many have undertaken to put in order and draw up a [[b]thorough] narrative of the surely established deeds which have been accomplished and fulfilled [c] in and among us,*

*2 Exactly as they were handed down to us by those who from the [[d]official] beginning [of Jesus' ministry] were eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word [that is, of [e]the doctrine concerning the attainment through Christ of salvation in the kingdom of God],*

**3 It seemed good and desirable to me, [and so I have determined] also after [f]having searched out diligently and followed all things closely and traced accurately the course from the highest to the minutest detail from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,**

4 [My purpose is] that you may know the full truth and understand with certainty and security against error the accounts (histories) and doctrines of the faith of which you have been informed and in which you have been [g]lorally instructed.

5 In the days when Herod was king of Judea there was a certain priest whose name was Zachariah, [h]of the daily service (the division) of Abia; and his wife was also a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

6 And they both were righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.

7 But they had no child, for Elizabeth was barren; and both were [i]far advanced in years.

8 Now while on duty, serving as priest before God in the order of his division,

9 As was the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter [the [j]sanctuary of] the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

10 And all the throng of people were praying outside [in the court] at the hour of incense [burning].

11 And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zachariah saw him, he was troubled, and fear took possession of him.

13 But the angel said to him, Do not be afraid, Zachariah, because your petition [k]was heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you must call his name John [God is favorable].

14 And you shall have joy and exultant delight, and many will rejoice over his birth,

15 For he will be great and distinguished in the sight of the Lord. And he must drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit even [l]in and from his mother's womb.

16 And he will turn back and cause to return many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God,



17 And he will [himself] go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn back the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient and incredulous and unpersuadable to the wisdom of the upright [which is [m]the knowledge and holy love of the will of God]— in order to make ready for the Lord a people [perfectly] prepared [in spirit, [n]adjusted and disposed and placed in the right moral state].

**18 And Zachariah said to the angel, By what shall I know and be sure of this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.**

**19 And the angel replied to him, I am Gabriel. I stand in the [very] presence of God, and I have been sent to talk to you and to bring you this good news.**

**20 Now behold, you will be and [o]will continue to be silent and not able to speak till the day when these things take place, because you have not believed what I told you; but my words are [p]of a kind which will be fulfilled in the appointed and proper time.**

**21 Now the people kept waiting for Zachariah, and they wondered at his delaying [so long] in the [q]sanctuary.**

**22 But when he did come out, he was unable to speak to them; and they [[r]clearly] perceived that he had seen a vision in the [s]sanctuary; and he kept making signs to them, still he remained dumb.**

23 And when his time of performing priestly functions was ended, he returned to his [own] house.

24 Now after this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant, and for five months she secluded herself [t]entirely, saying, [I have hid myself]

25 [u]Because thus the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He deigned to look on me to take away my reproach among men.

**26 Now in the sixth month [after that], the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth,**

**27 To a girl never having been married and a [v]virgin engaged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.**

**28 And he came to her and said, Hail, O favored one [[w]endued with grace]! The Lord is with you! [x]Blessed (favored of God) are you before all other women!**

29 But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled and disturbed and confused at what he said and kept revolving in her mind what such a greeting might mean.

30 And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace ([y]free, spontaneous, absolute favor and loving-kindness) with God.

31 And listen! You will become pregnant and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus.

32 He will be great (eminent) and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His forefather David,

33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob throughout the ages; and of His reign there will be no end.

34 And Mary said to the angel, How can this be, since I have no [intimacy with any man as a] husband?

35 Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and so the holy (pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God.

36 And listen! Your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is now the sixth month with her who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.

38 Then Mary said, Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord; let it be done to me according to what you have said. And the angel left her.

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Going back to our foundational passage for this series...

**John 8:12-13, 17-18, 23-25 AMPC**

*12 Once more Jesus addressed the crowd. He said, I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not be walking in the dark, but will have the Light which is Life.*

*13 Whereupon the Pharisees told Him, You are testifying on Your own behalf; Your testimony is not valid and is worthless.*

**17 In your [own] Law it is written that the testimony (evidence) of two persons is reliable and valid.**

*18 I am One [of the Two] bearing testimony concerning Myself; and My Father, Who sent Me, He also testifies about Me.*

*23 He said to them, You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world (of this earthly order); I am not of this world.*

*24 That is why I told you that you will die in (under the curse of) your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He [Whom I claim to be—if you do not adhere to, trust in, and rely on Me], you will die in your sins.*

*25 Then they said to Him, Who are You anyway? Jesus replied, [Why do I even speak to you!] I am exactly what I have been telling you from the first.*



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