

THE LIFE OF ABARAHAM

7. Abraham Receives the Promise

(Leader's Notes)



Introduction

God had given Abraham many wonderful promises. He said he would bless Abraham and make him into a great nation. Yet Abraham had no children! Finally Abraham followed his wife's suggestion and tried to fulfill God's promise in his own way – as a result Ishmael was born. However God had promised that Abraham would have a son through his wife Sarah. Once again God appeared to Abraham to assure him that he had not forgotten his promise. By this time Abraham was 99 years old!

Scripture Reading: Genesis 17:1-11, 15-24

A. THE PROMISE RENEWED

- ☆ God reminded Abraham of the promises he had already given, and explained them in more detail. What new things did God say? V4-5, 15-16
(Previously God had said Abraham would be the father of a great nation, but in v4-5 God adds, 'many nations'. Also God said that Kings would come from him and he changed his name to Abraham. The same promise is given to Sarah and her name is changed from Sarai to Sarah.)
- ☆ When God gives a promise there are often commands and conditions for us to fulfil. What were the commands and conditions that God gave to Abraham? V1, 10
*(Abraham was to walk before God and be blameless – v1
He and his descendants were to be circumcised – v10)*

Circumcision was an outward sign of the relationship between God and Abraham, and it was a mark of ownership that God would be his God. Since the time of Jesus Christ we no longer need to have that sign to show we are God's children. Now the Holy Spirit is the sign that we belong to God and have a relationship with him. See Romans 2:29

Scripture Reading: Genesis 21:1-7

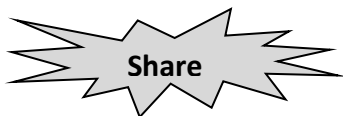
B. THE PROMISE RECEIVED

- ☆ Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born! Why do you think God chose to keep Abraham and Sarah waiting so long?
(The plan that God had for Abraham and Sarah was beyond what they could imagine. The greater the purpose, the greater the preparation! This test of faith was preparing him to become the father of our faith. Not only that, the birth of Isaac would be a miracle. Through this God would receive the glory.)



What can we learn about God's promises and faith from Abraham's life? Also see Hebrews 10:35-36, 11:11-12

(We need to hold onto God's promises and not give up, as God is faithful to his word. Faith pleases God and enables his power to activate those promises.)



Has God given you promises in the past that have already been fulfilled? Share with us what God promised and how it came to pass.

Conclusion

God is faithful! We need to learn to trust him and hold onto his promises. He will fulfill them in the right time and in his way. Although we don't always understand the way God does things, we know that his ways are higher than ours.