



*In the beginning...*

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים

# The Trials of Abraham

## Chapter 16-17



# The Trying of Our Faith

- 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
- 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
- 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
- 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

**James 1:2-5**

# Abraham's Trials

- The strife with Lot
  - Root: The natural bond
- The concern regarding inheritance
  - Root: The natural circumstances
- The problem of Hagar
  - Root: The natural solution
- The problem of Ishmael
  - Root: The natural order

# The Problem of the Natural

- *“The wind was actually boisterous, the waves were actually high, but Peter did not see them at first. He did not reckon with them, he simply recognised his Lord, and stepped out in recognition of Him and walked on the water. Then he began to reckon with the actual things, and down he went instantly. Why could not our Lord have enabled him to walk at the bottom of the waves as well as on the top of them? Neither could be done saving by recognition of the Lord Jesus”* - Oswald Chambers

# The Natural Mind

<sup>14</sup> But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

<sup>5</sup> For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

<sup>8</sup> So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

**Romans 8:5-8**



# Promises to Abram

- In Ur of the Chaldees:

I will make you a great nation;  
I will bless you and make your name great; and  
you shall be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you,  
And I will curse him who curses you;  
And in you all the families of the earth shall be  
*blessed.*”

# Promises to Abram

- At the age of 75

*Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.*

**Genesis 12:7**

# Promises to Abram

- After Separating from Lot

And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had *separated from him*: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

Genesis 12:14-17



# Promises to Abram

- After Separating from Lot

And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through its *length and its width, for I give it to you.*"

Genesis 12:14-17

# Promises to Abram

- After Defeating the Kings of the East

After these things the word of the LORD came to *Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."*

Genesis 15:1-6

# Promises to Abram

- After Defeating the Kings of the East

*But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"*

**Genesis 15:1-6**

# Promises to Abram

- After Defeating the Kings of the East

And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, *“This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.”*

**Genesis 15:1-6**

# Promises to Abram

- After Defeating the Kings of the East

*Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."*

**Genesis 15:1-6**



# Promises to Abram

- After Defeating the Kings of the East

And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

**Genesis 15:1-6**

- Now 10 years have passed...



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# Hagar

## Chapter 16



# Genesis 16

<sup>1</sup> Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.

<sup>2</sup> And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

**Genesis 16:1-2**

# Helping God?

- The temptation doesn't come screaming 'temptation' but common sense!
- *"The good is the enemy of the best"*

-Oswald Chambers

- Sarai's advice was practical and was according to Egyptian practice
  - Surrogate mothering common in Egypt
  - Moses will be "taken" as a son of Pharaoh's wife (Exodus 2)
- Abram doesn't want God's plan to be thwarted by his inability

# Lessons in Grace

- God can do it all
- God will do it all
- God has done it all



# Lessons in Grace

- <sup>17</sup>(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.
- <sup>18</sup> Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

**Romans 4:17-21**

# Lessons in Grace

- 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:
- 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
- 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

**Romans 4:17-21**

# Genesis 16

<sup>3</sup> And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

<sup>4</sup> And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

**Genesis 16:3-4**

**This didn't work out how Sarah had anticipated!**

# The Foundation of Failure

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

**James 1:14-15**

**We don't think through the consequences!**  
**Compromise in the Face of Anticipated Failure**

# Genesis 16

- 5 And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.
- 6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

**Genesis 16:5-6**



# Genesis 16

<sup>7</sup> And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

<sup>8</sup> And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.

<sup>9</sup> And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

**Genesis 16:7-9**

# Genesis 16

<sup>10</sup> And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. <sup>11</sup> And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. <sup>12</sup> 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.

Gen 16:10-12

# The Angel of the LORD

- First occurrence in the Bible
- Literally “Messenger of YHWH”
- The Messenger speaks in First Person
  - “I will”
- This has to be the “Expressed Image of God”

# The Angel of the LORD

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person...

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

# “Angel of YHWH”

- Identified with Yahweh

Gen 16:13; 22:11-12; 31:11, 13; 48:16;  
Jud 6:11, 16, 22; 13:22-23; Zech 3:1-2

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- Yet distinct from YHWH

Gen. 24:7; 2 Sam. 24:16; Zech. 1:12



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Gen. 24:7; 2 Sam. 24:16; Zech. 1:12

- May refer to a theophany of the preincarnate Christ

Cf. Gen. 18:1-2; 19:1; Num. 22:22;  
Jud. 2:1-4; 5:23; Zech. 12:8

# Hagar

- Hagar's name means "flight"
- She flees back toward Egypt
- She is pregnant with Abram's child
- "Way to **Shur**"
  - Hebrew word meaning "wall"
  - Fortified boarder of Egypt
- After asking Where, What and Why...
- God gives her His commandment.
  - "Return & Submit."

# Hagar

- The Promise

“I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.”

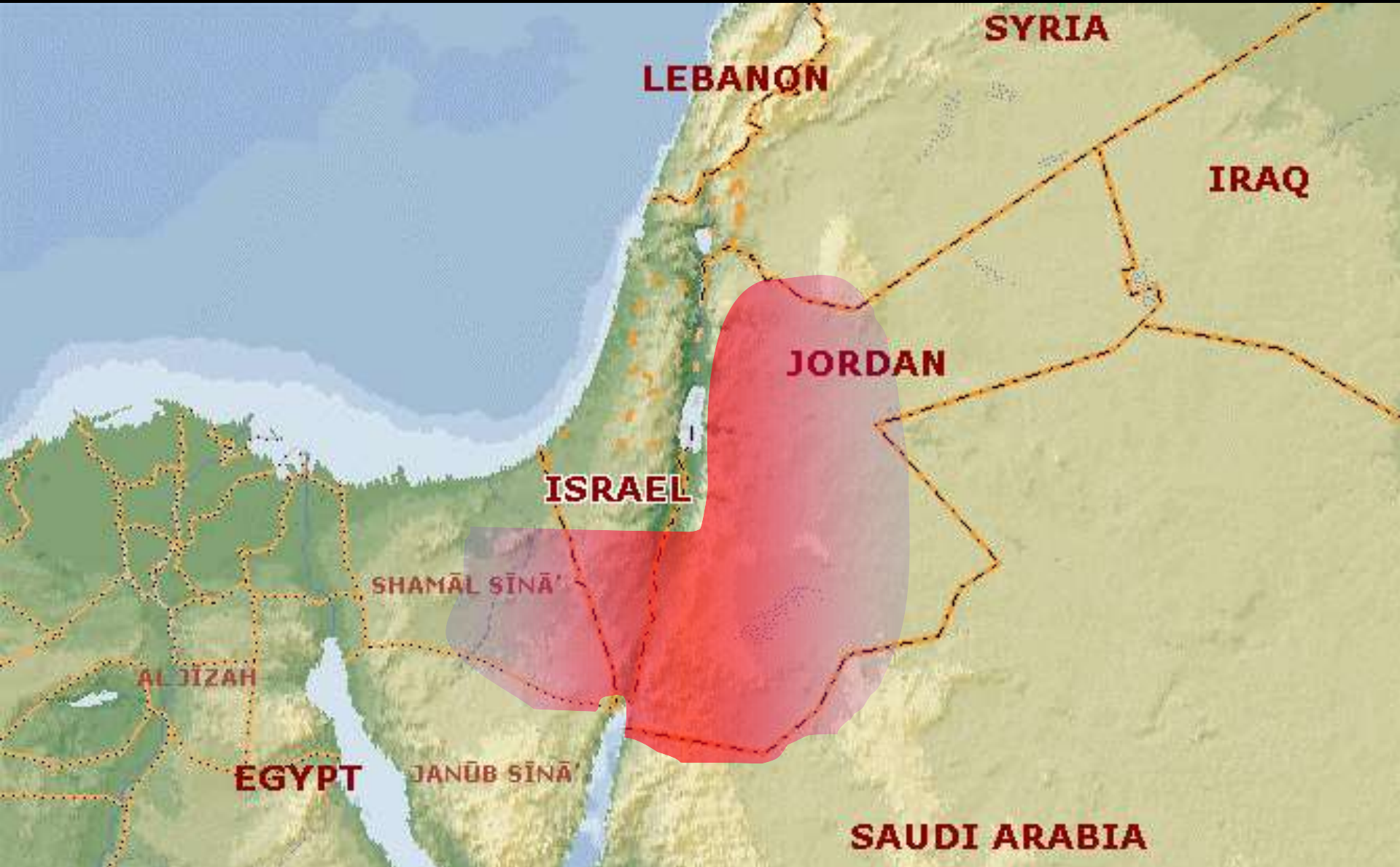
# Prophecy Concerning Ishmael

- Ishmael means “God hears”
- 5 Prophetic Attributes:

# Prophecy Concerning Ishmael

- 1. “I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.”
  - Ishmael becomes the father of 12 tribes
  - Listed in Genesis 25:12-16
  - Occupy most of the Middle Eastern Region
- Destiny of these Descendants
  - *“They dwelt from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt as you go toward Assyria”* (Gen 25:18)
    - Havilah = Arabia
    - Shur = Eastern Boarder of Egypt

# Descendants of Ishmael





# Descendants of Ishmael

- 12 Sons Ishmael = “God will hear”
- Nebajoth = “Fruitfulness”
- Kedar = “Darkness”
- Adbeel = “Chastened of God”
- Mibsam = “Sweet odour”
- Mishma = “Hearing”
- Dumah = “Silence”

# Prophecy Concerning Ishmael

- 2. “He shall be a wild man;”
  - “wild” = Literally “wild ass”
  - Meaning, “an untamable animal”

# Prophecy Concerning Ishmael

- 3. “His hand shall be against every man,”
  - Arabian Legacy of Tribal War
  - T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia)
    - Objective:  
*“Unify the feuding Arab tribes against the Turks.”*

# Prophecy Concerning Ishmael

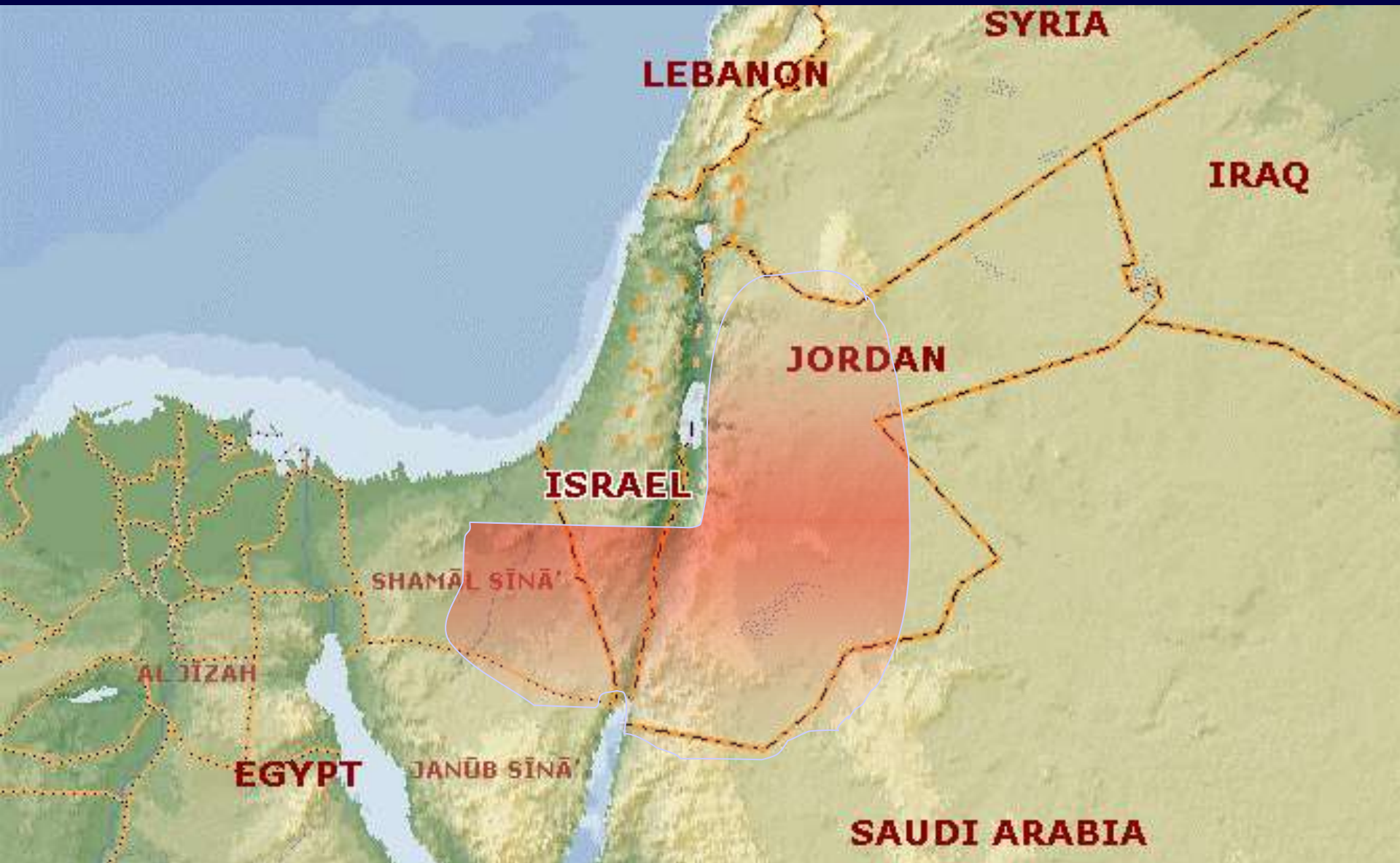
- 4. “And every man’s hand against him.”
  - The Domination of the Arabs
  - Conquered by the:
    - Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians
    - Greek Empire, Roman Empire
    - European Crusaders
    - Mongolian Empire, Ottoman Empire
    - British Empire

# Prophecy Concerning Ishmael

- 5. “And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.”
  - The Attribute of Conflict (wild ass man) will be with ALL of his brethren.
  - They will dwell “in the presence” of the Children of Israel.

# Descendants of Ishmael

Then





# Descendants of Ishmael Now



# Genesis 16

<sup>13</sup> And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, **Thou God** seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me? <sup>14</sup> Wherefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered. <sup>15</sup> And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael. <sup>16</sup> And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

**Gen 16:13-16**

# Flesh vs. Spirit

- Abraham 430 years *before* the Law

Promises preceded the Law: cannot be disannulled

Galatians 3:17

- Ishmael vs Isaac

– Two sons of two principles: Flesh; Spirit

– Ishmael: of the flesh, in unbelief

- “The son of the bondwoman will not be heir...”

– Isaac: of promise, in response to faith

- The Ultimate Triumph of Faith: the offering of Isaac

Galatians 4:21-32





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בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים

# The End of the Flesh Life Chapter 17



# Genesis 17

- <sup>1</sup> And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.
- <sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.
- <sup>3</sup> And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

**Genesis 17:1-3**

# Genesis 17

<sup>4</sup> As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

<sup>5</sup> Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

<sup>6</sup> And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

**Genesis 17:4-6**



# Genesis 17

<sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

<sup>8</sup> And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

**Genesis 17:7-8**

# Genesis 17

<sup>9</sup> And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

<sup>10</sup> This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

**Genesis 17:9-10**

# Genesis 17

<sup>11</sup> And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

<sup>12</sup> And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

**Genesis 17:11-12**

# Genesis 17

<sup>13</sup> He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

<sup>14</sup> And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

**Genesis 17:13-14**

# Circumcision

- Vitamin K, clotting element, not formed until the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> day
- Prothrombin, also necessary
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> day: 30% of normal
  - 8<sup>th</sup> day: peaks at 110%, then levels off at 100% of normal
- How did Moses know to circumcise on the 8<sup>th</sup> day?

Gen 17:1

# Papyrus Ebers

1332 BC

- **Embedded splinter?**
  - Apply worm's blood & ass's dung.
- **Loosing Hair?**
  - Apply 6 fats
    - Horse, Hippopotamus, Crocodile, Cat, Snake, Ibex
- **Turning Gray?**
  - Anoint with blood of black calf which has been boiled in oil or fat of rattlesnake

# Papyrus Ebers

1332 BC

## The well-stocked medicine cabinet:

- Lizard's blood
- Swine's teeth
- Putrid meat
- Moisture from pig's ears
- Milk goose grease
- Asses' hooves
- Animal fats
- Excreta from animals
  - Human, Donkeys, Antelopes, Dogs, Cats, Flies



# Circumcision of the Heart

- **Moses:**

- God would “circumcise the hearts” of His people so that they might be devoted to Him

Deut. 30:6

- **Unbelief:**

- having an uncircumcised heart

Jer. 9:26; Ez. 44:7-9

- **Paul:**

- “circumcision of the heart” evidences salvation and fellowship with God

Rom 2:28-29; 4:11

# Genesis 17

<sup>15</sup> And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

<sup>16</sup> And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

**Genesis 17:15-16**



Aleph א

= “First”; “Strength”; or “Leader”



Bet



- “House”; “Family”
- Beth Lehem; Beth-El; etc.



Aleph-Beth: “Leader of the House”

= “Father”

H Heh ה

(Hands lifted up; open window)

= “Behold”; “Revealed”

Also, “Breeze”; “wind;” “Spirit”

אהב אהב אהב

Revealing the *heart* or *essence* of  
the Father...

“Love”



# Names Changed

Genesis 17

אַבְרָם

Abram

שָׂרַי

Sarai

# Names Changed

Genesis 17

אַבְרָם

Abram

שָׂרַי

Sarai

אַבְרָהָם

Abraham

שָׂרָה

Sarah

# Genesis 17

<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

<sup>18</sup> And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

**Genesis 17:17-18**

# Genesis 17

<sup>19</sup> And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

<sup>20</sup> And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

**Genesis 17:19-20**

# Genesis 17

<sup>21</sup> But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

<sup>22</sup> And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

**Genesis 17:21-22**

# Genesis 17

<sup>23</sup> And Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and all that were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house; and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the selfsame day, as God had said unto him.

<sup>24</sup> And Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

<sup>25</sup> And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

# Genesis 17

26 In the selfsame day was Abraham circumcised, and Ishmael his son.

27 And all the men of his house, born in the house, and bought with money of the stranger, were circumcised with him.

**Genesis 17:26-27**



# Abrahamic Covenant

## Genesis 12

1. Make a great nation
2. Bless you and your name
3. Make you a blessing
4. Bless those who bless you,  
curse those who curse you
5. Give this land to your seed

## Genesis 15

1. Covenant to Abraham's physical seed
2. Land defined: Euphrates to Nile

## Genesis 17

1. Covenant with physical seed, forever
2. Land of Canaan everlasting possession



calvary  
chapel  
portsmouth

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