

**From Age To Age – A Divine Agenda  
From the First Adam to the Last – God’s Story  
Lesson 4 – Outline  
An Eternal Promise**

**It started with a Call**

**\* Why Abram?**

- Father figure (the meaning of his name)
- Faith figure (his heart) – Genesis 15:6; Hebrews 11:8-19
- Friend figure (relationship to God) – 2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8
- Follower figure (his character) – Genesis 12:1, 4

**\* How to recognize a call from God**

- Seeing the need
- Feeling the burden – Habakkuk 1:1-4
- Asking the question: Who is going to do something? – Isaiah 6:8
- What about me, what am I to do?

**\* What was Abram called to do? – Genesis 12:1–3**

- Leave his country, people and father’s household
- Go to a land that God will show him
- Be blessed and be a blessing

**\* What was Abram promised by God?**

- A great nation – Genesis 12:2; 46:2-3
- A great name – Genesis 12:2
- A land to him and his offspring forever – Genesis 12:7; 13:15
- Many children – Genesis 13:16

**Then an Unconditional Covenant with Promise – Genesis 15:1 – 15:21**

**\* The LORD came to Abram in a vision – Genesis 15:1–8**

- “Do not be afraid, I am your shield, your very great reward” – Genesis 15:1
- But Abram had no children, so who would be his heir (reward), Eliezer? – Genesis 15:2-3
- No – The LORD would show him – Genesis 15:4-5
  - It will be a son from your own body – Genesis 15:4
  - Look and count the stars, so shall your offspring (seed) be – Genesis 15:5
- Abram believed the LORD, and he credited to him as righteousness – Genesis 15:6
- The LORD said: “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.” – Genesis 15:7
- But Abram said, “How can I know?” – Genesis 15:8

**\* The LORD described to Abram the preparation for walking the blood trail – Genesis 15:9–11**

**\* But Abram fell into a deep sleep – Genesis 15:12**

- \* The LORD told Abram the future for his descendants to the fourth generation – Genesis 15:13–16
- \* Then God alone walked the blood trail as a smoking pot with a blazing torch passing between the pieces of sacrificed animals – Genesis 15:17
- \* On that day the LORD cut an unconditional everlasting covenant with Abram giving his descendants the land from the river Egypt to the Euphrates River, noting the present ten occupants of the land – Genesis 15:18–21

#### **Interrupted with a Son of Impatience – Genesis 16:1 – 16:16**

- \* Because Sarai was barren she proposed an alternative plan to Abram – Genesis 16:1– 4
  - She said to Abram: “Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her.” – Genesis 16:1–2
  - Abram agreed to what Sarai said – Genesis 16:2
  - Having waited 10 years Sarai took her Egyptian maidservant, Hagar, and gave her to Abram and he slept with her and she conceived – Genesis 16:3-4
  - Then pregnant Hagar began to despise her mistress – Genesis 16:4
- \* This resulted in a conflict between Sarai and Abram which led to Hagar fleeing – Genesis 16:5–6
- \* The angel of the LORD found Hagar – Genesis 16:7–14
  - She was near a spring in the desert beside the road to Shur – Genesis 16:7
  - She told him she was running away from her mistress – Genesis 16:8
  - He told her to go back and submit to her mistress and that her descendants will increase and be too numerous to count – Genesis 16:9-10
  - He also foretold that she would have a son, named Ishmael, for the LORD has heard her misery – Genesis 16:11
  - Ishmael will be a wild donkey of a man in conflict and hostility with all his brothers – Genesis 16:12
  - Hagar gave the name El Roi to the LORD who spoke to her because He is the God who sees and the well was called Beer Lahai Roi which means the well of the Living-One who sees me – Genesis 16:13-14
- \* So Hagar bore Abram a son and Abram at 86 years old named him Ishmael – Genesis 16:15–16

#### **Involving a Sign of the Covenant in the Flesh – Genesis 17:1 – 17:27**

- \* The LORD God Almighty declared seven “I will’s” to Abram in their covenant relationship – Genesis 17:1–8
  - Abram was 99 years old when the LORD confirmed His covenant between Him and Abram – Genesis 17:1

- The LORD's seven "I will's"
  - I will confirm My covenant between Me and you – Genesis 17:2
  - I will greatly increase your numbers – Genesis 17:2
  - I will make you very fruitful – Genesis 17:6
  - I will make nations of you and kings will come from you – Genesis 17:6
  - I will establish My covenant as an everlasting covenant – Genesis 17:7
  - I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you, the whole land of Canaan – Genesis 17:8
  - I will be their God – Genesis 17:8
- As God's covenant to Abram, Abram's name will be Abraham for he is the father of many nations – Genesis 17:3-5
- \* God said to Abraham, you must keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come – Genesis 17:9–14
  - The sign of the covenant is circumcision that you are to keep – Genesis 17:10-11
  - It involves every male eight days old – Genesis 17:12-13
  - It is an everlasting covenant in the flesh – Genesis 17: 13
  - Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant – Genesis 17:14
- \* God will bless Sarai – Genesis 17:15–16
  - Sarai's name will be Sarah – Genesis 17:15
  - God will bless her and give Abraham a son, and she will be the mother of nations, kings will come from her – Genesis 17:16
- \* Abraham laughed questioning, "Will a son be born to a man 100 years old? Will Sarah bear a child at 90 years? – Genesis 17:17
- \* What about Ishmael? – Genesis 17:18, 20
  - Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing"
  - God said to Abraham, "I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation."
- \* But Isaac will be the promised son – Genesis 17:19, 21
  - God said, "Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac, I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him."
- \* Abraham followed through with the covenant in the flesh – Genesis 17:22–27
  - When God had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him – Genesis 17:22
  - On that very day Abraham took Ishmael and the males in his household and circumcised them – Genesis 17:23
  - Abraham was 99 years old when he was circumcised and Ishmael was 13. They were circumcised on the same day – Genesis 17:24-26
  - Every male in Abraham's household, both born and bought, were circumcised – Genesis 17:27

### **Fulfilled with A Son of Promise – Genesis 21:1 – 21:7**

- \* The LORD fulfilled what He had promised – Genesis 21:1–3**
  - Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised – Genesis 21: 1-2
  - Abraham gave his son the name Isaac – Genesis 21:3
- \* Isaac was circumcised at eight days old as God commanded – Genesis 21:4**
- \* Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him – Genesis 21:5**
- \* Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter” – Genesis 21:6**
- \* Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? – Genesis 21:7**

### **Conflict Brewing – Genesis 21:8 – 21:21**

- \* Tension between Sarah with Isaac and Hagar with Ishmael – Genesis 21:8–10**
- \* Abraham was concerned but God answered – Genesis 21:11–13**
  - “Do not be so distressed”
  - “Listen to whatever Sarah tells you”
  - “Because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned”
  - “I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring”
- \* Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away the next morning – Genesis 21:14–21**
  - He sent them off with food and water – Genesis 21:14
  - They wandered in the desert of Beersheba – Genesis 21:14
  - When the water was gone, she thought the boy would die and began to sob – Genesis 21:15-16
  - God heard the boy crying and the angel of God called to Hagar, “Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying” – Genesis 21:17
  - God provided water for them – Genesis 21:18-19
  - God was with Ishmael as he grew up and Hagar got a wife for him from Egypt – Genesis 21:20 -21

### **Followed by a Test of Faith – Genesis 22:1 – 22:19**

- \* God tested Abraham – Genesis 22:1–2**
  - God called Abraham by name and Abraham answered – Genesis 22:1
  - God told Abraham what He wanted – Genesis 22:2
    - Take your son, your only son, Isaac to Moriah
    - Sacrifice him as a burnt offering
    - On one of the mountains I will tell you about

- \* Abraham responded by faith – Genesis 22:3–10**
  - Early the next morning Abraham set out for the place God had told him about – Genesis 22:3
  - When they arrived, he told the two servants that he and the boy will worship and then we will come back to you – Genesis 22:4-5
  - Abraham placed the wood on Isaac and Abraham carried the fire and knife – Genesis 22:6
  - Isaac said, “The fire and wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” – Genesis 22:7
  - Abraham answered, “God Himself will provide the lamb” – Genesis 22:8
  - Abraham built an altar, bound Isaac on the wood on the altar – Genesis 22:9
  - He reached and took the knife to slay his son – Genesis 22:10
- \* But the angel of the LORD called out from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham do not lay a hand on the boy. Now I know that you fear God.” – Genesis 22:11–12**
- \* God provided the lamb in the thicket caught by its horns – Genesis 22:13–14**
- \* The angel of the LORD called a second time to Abraham – Genesis 22:15–18**
  - Because you have not withheld your son, I will bless you – Genesis 22:15–17
  - I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore – Genesis 22:17
  - Through your offspring all nations will be blessed because you have obeyed Me – Genesis 22:18
- \* Then Abraham returned to his servants and they set off for Beersheba – Genesis 22:19**