



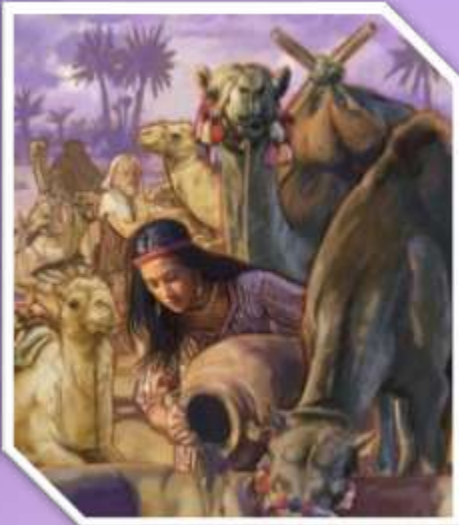
THE PROMISE



Abraham had left his land for the promised land more 50 years ago.

He was an elderly man, and his faith was stronger than ever. He was ready to rest because he trusted God's promise.

In that moment, God asked Abraham to offer the son of the promise. Then, he lost Sarah. Besides, Isaac was still single and had no children. Abraham had to walk by faith again.



- ▶▶▶ The test of faith
- ▶▶▶ The fulfillment of the promise
- ▶▶▶ Taking possession of the land
- ▶▶▶ Securing the seed
- ▶▶▶ More descendants from Abraham

THE TEST OF FAITH

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac."

(Hebrews 11:17)

God never requested human sacrifices (Jer. 7:31). Furthermore, sacrificing Isaac went against the promise: "for in Isaac your seed shall be called." (Gn. 21:12) Did Abraham misunderstand God's order (Gn. 22:2)?



Abraham knew God's voice (Jn. 10:1-4). He fully understood God's request, and he believed, "concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead." (Hebrews 11:19)

God was testing Abraham. His heart was being judged (Dt. 8:2). The result was satisfactory: "for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." (Gn. 22:12)

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE

"And Abraham said, 'My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.'" (Genesis 22:8)



A burnt offering was a type of sacrifice. The animal had to be fully consumed by fire (Ex. 29:18).

Isaac noticed there was no animal to sacrifice. Abraham sidestepped his questions by stating that God would provide one.

Indeed, God provided the animal for the burnt offering. That animal died instead of Isaac (Gn. 22:13). God confirmed the fulfillment of the promise this way (Gn. 22:18).

God has provided. Jesus is the Lamb who died so we can live (Jn. 1:36; Ro. 5:8; 6:8).



TAKING POSSESSION OF THE LAND

“So the field and the cave in it were deeded to Abraham by the Hittites as a burial site.” (Genesis 23:20 NIV)



Abraham “had reached the age of a hundred and twenty years” (E.G.W., PP 147) when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac. Therefore, Isaac was 20 years old, and Sarah was 110 years old.

17 years later, Sarah died (Gn. 23:1). She’s the only woman in the Old Testament whose age when passing away is mentioned. She was also the first woman to enter the promised land.

After negotiating with Ephron, Abraham bought the first piece of land that he could call his own in Canaan (Gn. 23:17-18).

Abraham buried Sarah in the cave of Machpelah at Hebron. Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Leah, and Joseph were also buried there.



SECURING THE SEED

"The Lord God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there." (Genesis 24:7)

Abraham made plans to find a wife for Isaac to secure his offspring (Gn. 24:1-4).

There are two remarkable points in this story: prayer [Abraham's, Eliezer's, Isaac's], and trusting that God was in control of the process.

There were unmistakable signs that the Angel was guiding Eliezer to choose Rebekah as Isaac's wife.

However, God let Rebekah choose by herself (Gn. 24:8, 50-51, 57-59).



MORE DESCENDANTS FROM ABRAHAM

"Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah." (Genesis 25:1)



Abraham lived for 175 years (Gn. 25:7). Besides Isaac, he had one son with Hagar (Gn. 25:12), and another six with Keturah (Gn. 25:1-2).

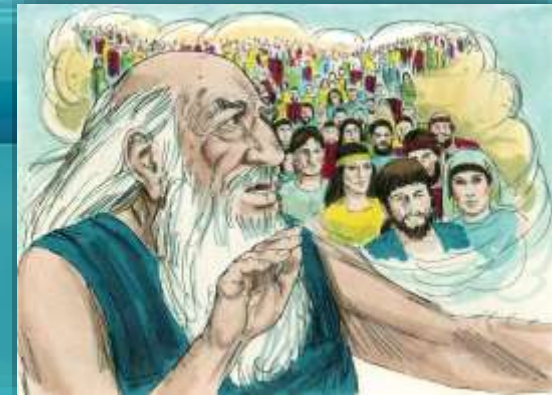
Abraham sent the seven sons of his concubines far away, because only Isaac could inherit the promised land (Gn. 25:6).



There are two short genealogical records in Genesis 25:2-4 and 12-18 which emphasize that the promise to Abraham was fulfilled: "and you shall be a father of many nations." (Gn. 17:4)



The Lord remained true to His promises of grace to His faithful servant Abraham, whose faith is depicted in Scripture as a great example of salvation by faith.



“God gave His Son to a death of agony and shame. The angels who witnessed the humiliation and soul anguish of the Son of God were not permitted to interpose, as in the case of Isaac. There was no voice to cry, ‘It is enough.’ To save the fallen race, the King of glory yielded up His life. What stronger proof can be given of the infinite compassion and love of God? ‘He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?’ Romans 8:32”

E. G. W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 13, p. 154)