

# THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

## ABRAHAMIC COVENANT-PART 2: THE BLESSINGS KEEP COMING

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### Another Promise Within the Covenant: Land - Genesis 15:7-21

7 He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.” 8 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?” 9 So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.” 10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. 11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.” 17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

### Covenant of Circumcision - Genesis 17:1-14

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. 2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4 “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. 8 The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

9 Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. 10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. 12 For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. 13 Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. 14 Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

## CONTINUE READING...

### Abraham Tested - Covenant Affirmed: Genesis 22:1-18

1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.  
2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." 15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

## LET'S OBSERVE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THESE PASSAGES

### Study for Genesis 15:7-21

#### Terms and Conditions:

- God promised, "To your \_\_\_\_\_ I give this \_\_\_\_\_, from the Wadi of \_\_\_\_\_ to the great river, the \_\_\_\_\_" (Genesis 15:18).
- Abraham's role was to believe in God's promise and remain \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

#### Blessings:

- Abraham's descendants would inherit the \_\_\_\_\_ promised to him.

#### Consequences:

- None. God pledged Himself to fulfill this promise.

#### Attribute of God: Sovereignty and Commitment

- God is sovereign over all lands and faithful to fulfill His commitments.

#### Choose the Type: Unconditional or Conditional

- The covenant of land depended entirely on God, as demonstrated in the symbolic ceremony where He alone passed through the animal pieces.



## CONTINUED STUDY...

### Study for Genesis 17:1-14

#### Terms and Conditions:

- Walk before God and be \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 17:1).
- Every male among Abraham's descendants must be \_\_\_\_\_ as a sign of the covenant (Genesis 17:10-12).

#### Blessings:

- "I will make you exceedingly \_\_\_\_\_" (Genesis 17:6).
- "I will establish My covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_ after you" (Genesis 17:7).
- "I will give to you and your descendants the \_\_\_\_\_ of Canaan as an everlasting possession" (Genesis 17:8).

#### Consequences:

- Any male who is not circumcised will be \_\_\_\_\_ from his people (Genesis 17:14).

#### Attribute of God: Faithfulness and Holiness

- God's faithfulness is evident in His commitment to Abraham's descendants. His holiness is reflected in the call to walk blamelessly and set themselves apart with the sign of circumcision.

#### Choose the Type: Conditional or Unconditional

- While the ultimate promise of descendants and land is unconditional, the sign of the covenant—circumcision—is a conditional requirement for Abraham and his descendants to participate in the blessings.

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### Study for Genesis 22:1-18

#### Terms and Conditions:

- God commanded Abraham to take his son, his only son \_\_\_\_\_, and go to the region of \_\_\_\_\_ to sacrifice him as a burnt offering (Genesis 22:2).
- Abraham was to demonstrate his trust in God through \_\_\_\_\_ and complete \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Blessings:

- "I will surely \_\_\_\_\_ you and make your descendants as numerous as the \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky and as the \_\_\_\_\_ on the seashore" (Genesis 22:17).
- "Through your offspring all nations on \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_, because you have obeyed me" (Genesis 22:18).

#### Consequences:

- Blessings are tied to Abraham's obedience. If Abraham had disobeyed, he might not have experienced the fullness of God's promises.

#### Attribute of God: Faithfulness and Provision

- God's faithfulness is evident as He reaffirms His promises to Abraham. His provision is revealed through the ram He provides as a substitute sacrifice (Genesis 22:13).

#### Choose the Type: Conditional or Unconditional

- This moment builds on God's earlier promises to Abraham but highlights the importance of obedience as a response to God's faithfulness.

## NOW, LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

In Genesis 15:7-21, God makes a promise to Abraham, assuring him that his descendants will inherit the land of Canaan. This covenant is sealed with a powerful and symbolic ceremony where God alone passes through the pieces of sacrificed animals, showing that He takes full responsibility for fulfilling the promise. What's striking is that Abraham trusted God completely, even though he wouldn't live to see this promise fulfilled. He lived by faith, knowing the covenant was for future generations. For us, this is a reminder that obedience and trust often mean working toward something bigger than ourselves, even if we don't see the results in our lifetime.

In Genesis 17:1-14, God reaffirms His covenant with Abraham and establishes circumcision as a sign of this lasting agreement. This covenant wasn't just for Abraham but for his descendants, showing God's faithfulness to every generation. Even when Abraham and Sarah had doubts (as seen in Genesis 16, when they took matters into their own hands by involving Hagar), God remained faithful to His promise. This reminds us that while we may grow impatient or try to control our circumstances, God's timing and faithfulness never waver. He calls us to trust Him fully and to rely on His plans rather than our own shortcuts.

Then in Genesis 22:1-18, Abraham's obedience reaches its peak when God asks him to sacrifice his son Isaac. It's a test of faith so unimaginable that most of us can't fathom what Abraham must have felt. But even in this, Abraham trusted God, believing in His provision. At the last moment, God provides a ram in place of Isaac, reaffirming the covenant and blessing Abraham for his unwavering obedience. This story shows us that God is both a provider and a promise keeper. When we walk in obedience, even when it costs us, God remains faithful to meet our needs and fulfill His promises.

These passages are a powerful call to trust God in the long-term. Life often feels like waiting, waiting for direction, fulfillment, or clarity. Like Abraham, we're reminded to be patient, to trust God's timing, and to obey even when the future seems distant or uncertain. God is faithful to His promises, from generation to generation, and our obedience today can have ripple effects far beyond what we can see. In moments of doubt or impatience, we can take comfort in knowing that God is always working, and His provision will come at just the right time.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- In what areas of your life do you need to trust God's timing, even if you may not see the results right away?
  - How can Abraham's faith inspire your patience?
- Are there situations where you've tried to take control instead of waiting on God's plan?
  - How can you surrender those areas, and trust that God is faithful to fulfill His promises?
- What steps of obedience is God asking you to take right now, even if it feels costly or unclear?
  - How does Abraham's trust in God's provision encourage you to take those steps?

### *Closing Prayer...*

Heavenly Father, thank You for being a faithful and trustworthy God, one who keeps promises from generation to generation. Just as You assured Abraham that his descendants would inherit the land You promised, even though he wouldn't see it himself, help us to trust in Your plans for our lives. Teach us to walk by faith, knowing that the seeds of obedience we plant today may grow into blessings for others long after we're gone. Strengthen our hearts to believe in Your timing, even when the fulfillment of Your promises seems distant.

Lord, forgive us for the times we have grown impatient and taken matters into our own hands, like Abraham and Sarah did in their doubt. We know that Your plans are always better than anything we can achieve on our own. Help us to wait on You with patience and faith, trusting that You are always working for our good. Just as You remained faithful to Abraham despite his missteps, we thank You for Your grace and steadfast love that never falters, even when we fall short.

Father, we are in awe of Abraham's obedience when You called him to sacrifice Isaac, and we thank You for showing us Your provision through that story. Help us to trust You in our own moments of testing, believing that You will provide and sustain us as we walk in obedience to Your will. May we hold nothing back from You, knowing that Your plans are perfect and Your promises are sure. Teach us to live lives of faith that inspire others and reflect Your goodness and faithfulness. In Jesus name we pray, amen.



*Homework:* Read Genesis 17:1-14 - Taking Matters Into Your Own Hands; Not Waiting on God.

*Next Week:* We will be covering the *Faithfulness of God* in the Mosaic Covenant. **Read Deuteronomy 7:7-11.**