



## Portion:

## Title:

### SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 12:1-17:27
- Hebrews 5-8; 11:11-12
- Luke 7:18-23; 11:9-13
- John 16:23-24
- James 4:2-3
- Galatians 3:5-29; 4:21-31
- Hebrews 12:22-23; 4:12-13

### ARE YOU THE ONE?

- From Abram to Abraham
- 24 Year Journey of Promises
- A Long Look at Melchizedek
- Are You the One?
- Fulfilling Promises Yourself
- It's Isaac not Ishmael
- Untwisting Galatians

*Are you the one or should I look for another? It's hard to imagine that you can experience so many encounters with God, and still have doubts. At times, even after you have tasted the promises of God, you still might end up in a difficult situation. In those moments do you look for another? At other times you have to wait on the Lord for what seems like a lifetime. During those long dry seasons, do you look for another? Do you find another? And what happens while you are enjoying the other, and Yahweh encounters you with what you have been waiting for? Only, you're no longer waiting, as you already took matters into your own hands. All of a sudden*

*you're in a sticky wicket; on one hand you have been enjoying "another," and now God is ready to fulfill His promises. If your reaction is, "God, can't I just keep what I already have, and You can bless that?", you're in good company! Abram soon to become Abraham did just that. "Why not let Ishmael inherit what you have promised me?" Let's explore this all too common occurrence in our walk of faith, "Are you the one, or should I look for another?"*

**THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

"Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child? " And Abraham said to God, **"Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"** Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him." Genesis 17:17-19 NKJV

Consider Genesis 17:18 carefully...

"If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!" NIV

"If only you would accept Ishmael!" CEB

"Why not let Ishmael inherit what you have promised me?" CEV

"If only Yishma'el could live in your presence!" CJB

“If only Ishmael were acceptable to you!” CSB

“If only Ishmael could live in your favor!” NABRE

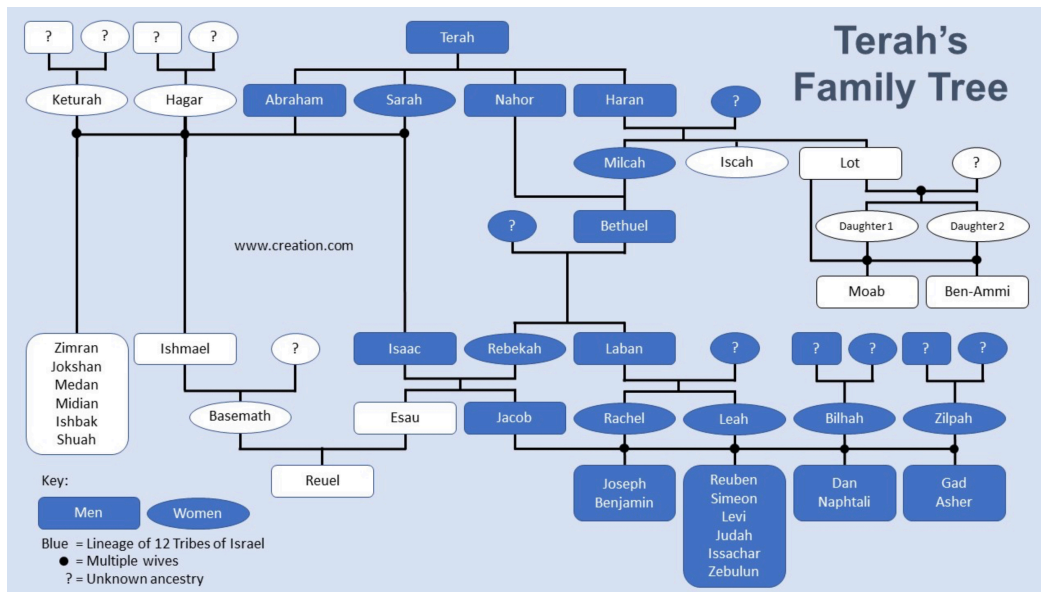
**OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

“Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, ‘**Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?**’ When the men had come to Him, they said, ‘John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, **Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?**’ **And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.**” Luke 7:18-21 NKJV

## Let’s Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. The third reading from the book of Genesis is named “go forth.” It is a long one comprised of six full chapters. The first verse instructs Abram to go forth from his country. This portion introduces Abraham and tells the story of his pilgrimage in pursuit of God.
2. I feel it is important to set the stage for this week’s portion by simply reviewing the very end of last week’s reading, the descendants of Terah, Abraham’s father.

### 3. This is the genealogy of Terah: (Genesis 11:27-32)



- Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.
- Haran begot Lot, Milcah and Iscah, and then he dies.
- Abram marries Sarai (\*his half-sister) and Nahor marries Milcah (Haran's daughter, his niece).
 

\* "But indeed she [Sarah] is truly my [Abraham's] sister. She is the daughter of my father [Terah], but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife." Genesis 20:12
- Sarai seems to be barren.
- Terah takes his son Abram, his grandson Lot, and his daughter-in-law Sarai to the land of Canaan but settles in Haran where he dies.
- Now the stage is set for Abraham's pilgrimage in pursuit of God.

4. **Big Promises to Abram:** Yahweh tells Abram to go out of his father's house and leave the country he is in and go to the land that Yahweh will show him. He promises:
  - a) *"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."*  
Genesis 12:2-3
5. Abram, at 75 years old, obeys Yahweh and leaves Haran with his wife and nephew Lot, and all their possessions and heads for Canaan.
6. When he arrives in Canaan Yahweh appears to him and tells him *"To your descendants I will give this land."* Genesis 12:7
7. Each stop along the way Abram builds an altar to commemorate that place and he calls on the name of Yahweh.
8. Abram continues his journey south, as there is famine in the land, and heads towards Egypt.
9. When he gets close to Egypt he is fearful for his life as he feels Sarai's beauty will inspire the Egyptians to kill him and take her from him (if they believe she is his wife).
10. He instructs Sarai to tell them she is, instead, his sister (which is also true).

11. The Egyptians do take beautiful Sarai to Pharaoh's house and Abram is treated quite well on her behalf! He is actually given many servants and animals.
12. Pharaoh is punished by Yahweh with a plague of some sort for having Abram's 'wife' in his house and he clearly gets a revelation of such. He rebukes Abram for not telling him, grateful at least that he did not take her as a wife for himself, and sends Abram on his way with Sarai, in addition to all he had gained in Egypt.
13. **Abram Inherits Canaan:** Abram was very rich when he left Egypt and heads back to Bethel where he had built an altar on his second stop out of Haran. Again Abram calls on the name of Yahweh!
14. At this point, Abram and Lot have so many livestock that the land cannot support both of them, and instead of strife developing, Abram selflessly allows Lot to choose the land he wants, and Abram will happily take what Lot does not choose.
15. Lot chooses the plains of the Jordan (the land of Sodom and Gomorrah prior to their destruction).
16. Abram stays in Canaan as Lot goes to the cities on the plain.
  - a) *"But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD."* Genesis 13:13

17. **Yahweh then further clarifies his promises to Abram:** (Genesis 13:14-17)

- a) Lift your eyes now and look in all directions.
- b) All the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.
- c) I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth. If a man could number the dust then your descendants could be numbered. (Notice here in Genesis 13:16 that the promise of descendants will be numbered as the dust of the earth, whereas coming in Genesis 15:5 they will be numbered as the stars of heaven). \*Later we see the promise of stars and sand together, after Abraham demonstrates so great a faith as to sacrifice his son Isaac at the command of Yahweh.

*\* "Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the **stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore**; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. **In your seed [Isaac]** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **because you have obeyed My voice.**"*" Genesis 22:15-18

\* *“By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive **seed**, and she bore a child [Isaac] when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the **stars of the sky in multitude—**  
**innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.**”*

Hebrews 11:11-12

d) Then Abram is told to walk the length and width of the land; it's all yours!

18. **Lot's Captivity and Rescue:** a massive battle between pagan nations takes place, four kings against five, and the side of Sodom and Gomorrah loses. The goods of these kingdoms are taken and Lot, his family, and all his belongings, are caught up in the loss, and are also taken captive! (See Genesis 14:1-12)
19. Abram hears of his nephew's misfortune via an escaped captive and mounts an army of 318 trained servants, who rescue Lot by night (along with all his and Sodom's people and goods). So, the king of Sodom rides out to meet Abram upon his return. (See Genesis 14:14-17)
20. **Abram and Melchizedek:** Melchizedek, priest of Yahweh, brings bread and wine and blesses Abram and Yahweh who delivered Abram.



21. Abram tithes to Melchizedek from his spoils of victory. (**Note:** This is prophetically significant and there is more written about this mysterious Melchizedek and His priesthood in the letter of Hebrews chapters 5-8 than anywhere else in the Bible.)
22. At this point the King of Sodom just wants his people back and tells Abram he can keep the goods.
23. **Abram's response to the king is magnanimous;** "In recognition that the victory was Yahweh's and not my own, I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.' I will, however, accept the food my 318 warriors have eaten and a portion that should go to them for their brave and sacrificial service." (see Genesis 14:22-24)
24. **Yahweh's Covenant with Abram:**
- a) **Yahweh to Abram:** *"I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."* Genesis 15:1
  - b) **Abram to Yahweh:** *"What will You give me, seeing I go childless?"* Genesis 15:2
  - c) **Yahweh to Abram:** *"A son who will come from your own body shall be your heir."* Genesis 15:4
    - 1. *"Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them. So shall your descendants be."* Genesis 15:5 (again see 18.c above.)

- d) **Famous Verse Alert:** *“And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”* Genesis 15:6
- e) **Abram to Yahweh:** *“Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?”* Genesis 15:8

25. **Answer:** Abraham is asked to make a sacrifice and given a vision while he sleeps. He cuts a ram in half and separates the two sides.

26. **A deep sleep fell upon Abram:** (Genesis 15:12-21)

- a) **Amazing Prophetic Moment:** It is revealed that his descendants will be strangers in a land that is not their own, and that they will serve their captors, and that they will be afflicted four hundred years.

- (1) This is prophetic of Israel being sent into foreign lands. But, of course, it is important to note that although they are, indeed, strangers for 400 years, they are not afflicted for 400 years.
- (2) **Timeline:** it is 64 years from the death of Joseph to the birth of Moses. So, during those 64 years the people are ‘guests’ in Egypt and not ‘slaves’ and are multiplying rapidly in numbers, and it is when the new Pharaoh, who does not know Joseph, takes over (Exodus 1:8) that the captivity (hard labor) begins. This is right before the birth of Moses when Pharaoh orders the death of all newborn

boys (that is why Moses is hidden). That would mean the hard labor (affliction) lasts for 80 years, the age Moses is when he is called back to Egypt to free the people. So, you can see that the affliction begins right before the birth of Moses and ends at the exodus when Moses is 80. There are 144 years between the death of Joseph and the Exodus.

(3) Click [here](#) to read more details about the math regarding the number of years of affliction.

b) **Additional Prophecy:** The nation whom they served in captivity (Egypt) will be judged and afterward Israel shall come out (in the Exodus) with great possessions.

(1) **Confirmed: We know this was fulfilled as Israel did ultimately leave Egypt with great spoils—***“Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians **articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing.** And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. **Thus they plundered the Egyptians.**”* Exodus 12:35-36 NKJV

c) Abram is promised to reach a good old age and that the fourth generation of his people will be the ones brought back from their land of promise into captivity because of their iniquity.

- (1) **Generations:** 0-Abraham; 1<sup>st</sup>—Isaac; 2<sup>nd</sup>—Jacob (renamed Israel); 3<sup>rd</sup>—Israel’s 12 sons (tribes); 4<sup>th</sup>—captivity in Egypt
- d) In the vision Abram has while sleeping, Yahweh appears as a smoking oven and a burning torch that passes between the two halves of the ram as a promise to keep His covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land.”
27. **Hagar and Ishmael:** At this point Sarai has gone ten years in the land of Canaan without a child, so she requests that Abram, now 85, take her Egyptian maidservant Hagar as a wife to bear him children. Hagar did conceive and Sarai then despises her!
28. Sarai becomes bitter toward both Abram and Hagar, and Abram permits her to treat Hagar as she wishes, which she does so harshly. Hagar chooses to flee the scene.
29. In her escape, Hagar encounters an Angel who tells her to return to Sarai, and to submit to her. The Angel tells her that Yahweh will multiply her descendants exceedingly and that she was with child, shall bear a son, and call his name Ishmael (a wild man who will be in conflict with God and man).
- a) *“Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.”* Genesis 16:16
30. **Thirteen Year Pass:** (Genesis 17:1-27) When Abram is ninety-nine, 24 years after Yahweh called him out of his home country

and made him the original promise to make him a great nation, Yahweh calls Abraham to walk before Him and be blameless and makes this covenant to multiply him exceedingly.

### 31. **The Everlasting Covenant:**

- a) You shall be a father of many nations.
- b) Your name shall be Abraham.
- c) Kings shall come from you.
- d) **The Sign of the Covenant:** Every male child (natural born or purchased from a foreigner) shall be circumcised on the eighth day of life.

### 32. **As for Sarai:**

- a) Sarah shall be her name.
- b) Yahweh will give Abraham a son by her.
- c) She shall be a mother of nations.
- d) Kings of peoples shall be from her.

33. This is the moment that Abraham falls on his face and laughs because he is almost one hundred years old at the time, and Sarah is ninety. **He asks Yahweh if Ishmael might be the one instead of believing for another.**

- a) *“Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!”* (Genesis 17:18) In other words...*“Why not let Ishmael inherit what you have promised me?”*

34. Yahweh affirms that Sarah shall bear him a son. They will call him Isaac which means laughter! **He is the one, NOT Ishmael**, through whom the everlasting covenant to Abraham will be fulfilled.
35. However, Ishmael will be blessed and will multiply exceedingly as well. He shall beget twelve princes and will be a great nation.
36. Abraham, that very same day, circumcised Ishmael, who was thirteen, every male in his household, and himself, at ninety-nine years old.

## FROM ABRAM TO ABRAHAM

### 1. A Twenty-Four Year Journey of Promises

#### A. 75 Years Old plus...

- (1) I will make you a great nation...
- (a) "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."" Genesis 12:2-3
- (2) Leave your country and head to Canaan...

(a) When he arrives in Canaan, Yahweh appears to him and tells him, *“To your descendants I will give this land.”*

Genesis 12:7

(3) As Abram approaches Egypt, he thinks, “Sarai is too beautiful to admit she is my wife, but I have a loophole...”

(a) **Abram instructs Sarai to tell them she is, instead, his sister (which is also true).**— “And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, “Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance. Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. **Please say you are my sister**, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you.”” Genesis 12:11-13 NKJV

1. **She is indeed his half-sister:** *“But indeed she [Sarah] is truly my [Abraham’s] sister. She is the daughter of my father [Terah], but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.”* Genesis 20:12

(b) Pharaoh is punished by Yahweh with a plague of some sort for having Abram’s ‘wife’ in his house and he clearly gets a revelation of such. He rebukes Abram for not telling him, grateful at least that he did not take her

as a wife for himself, and sends Abram on his way with all he had gained in Egypt.

(c) Abram leaves Egypt very prosperous:

1. He must split off from Lot because they both have so much livestock that they need separate lands.
2. Abram lets Lot choose first and he picks the plains of the Jordan (the land of Sodom and Gomorrah prior to their destruction).

(4) Yahweh then further clarifies his promise to Abram

(a) “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.”

Genesis 13:16 NKJV

1. ...in Genesis 15:5 they will be numbered as the stars of heaven.
2. Later in Genesis 22:15-18 we see the promise of stars and sand together, after Abraham demonstrates so great a faith as to sacrifice his son at the command of Yahweh.

(5) Lot's Captivity and Rescue

(a) Lot is caught up in a major battle comprising nine kingdoms and he is captured with all his people and belongings.



- (b) Abraham rescues him and is met by Melchizedek on his return (**See Section 2 below for A Long Look at Melchizedek, priest of Yahweh**)
  - (c) The King of Sodom is grateful that Abram recovered his people and goods as well, and he offers to pay Abram.
  - (d) Abram refuses any compensation, so no one would ever be able to say he became rich by the hand the king.
- (6) Yahweh's Covenant with Abram (**It is vital to recognize that at this point he still has no son!**)
- (a) **Yahweh to Abram:** "I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." Genesis 15:1
  - (b) **Abram to Yahweh:** "What will You give me, seeing I go childless?" Genesis 15:2
  - (c) This, in many ways, shows the spirit that is in Abram, as this is exactly what Yahweh wants us to do! Ask!!! But be sure you are not asking for anything beyond His will!
1. ""So I say to you, **ask, and it will be given to you;** seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **For everyone who asks receives,** and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. **If a son asks for bread from any father** among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks

for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!**” Luke 11:9-13 NKJV

2. ““And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, **whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.** Until now you have asked nothing in My name. **Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.**” John 16:23-24 NKJV

3. “You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. **Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss,** that you may spend it on your pleasures.” James 4:2-3 NKJV

(d) **Yahweh to Abram:** “A son who will come from your own body shall be your heir.” Genesis 15:5 *“Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them. So shall your descendants be.”* Genesis 15:5

(e) **Famous Verse Alert:** *“And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”* Genesis 15:6

- (f) **Abram to Yahweh:** "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"" Genesis 15:8
- (g) **Answer:** Abraham is asked to make a sacrifice and given a vision while he sleeps. He cuts a ram in half and separates the two sides. Genesis 15:12-21
- (h) **A deep sleep fell upon Abram—Amazing Prophetic Moment:** It is revealed that his descendants will be strangers in a land that is not their own, and that they will serve their captors, and that they will afflicted four hundred years.

## **B. 85 Years Old**

- (1) Hagar and Ishmael
  - (a) Sarai has gone ten years in the land of Canaan without a child, so she requests that Abram, now 85, take her Egyptian maidservant Hagar as a wife to bear him children. Hagar did conceive and Sarai then despises her!
  - (b) Sarai becomes bitter toward both Abram and Hagar, and Abram permits her to treat Hagar as she wishes, which she does so harshly. Hagar chose to flee the scene.
  - (c) In her escape, Hagar encounters an Angel who tells her to return to Sarai, and to submit to her. The Angel tells her that Yahweh will multiply her descendants

exceedingly and that she was already pregnant, shall bear a son, and she shall call his name Ishmael (a wild man who will be in conflict with God and man).

1. *“Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.”*

Genesis 16:16

### **C. 99 Years Old**

#### (1) Thirteen Year Pass

- (a) (Genesis 17:1-27) When Abraham is ninety-nine, 24 years after Yahweh called him out of his home country and made the original promise to make him a great nation, Yahweh calls Abraham to walk before Him and be blameless and makes this covenant to multiply him exceedingly.

#### (2) The Everlasting Covenant

- (a) You shall be a father of many nations.
- (b) Your name shall be Abraham.
- (c) Kings shall come from you.
- (d) **The Sign of the Covenant:** Every male child (natural born or purchased from a foreigner) shall be circumcised on the eighth day of life.

#### (3) As for Sarai

- (a) Sarah shall be her name.
- (b) Yahweh will give Abraham a son by her.
- (c) She shall be a mother of nations.
- (d) Kings of peoples shall be from her.

## A LONG LOOK AT MELCHIZEDEK

### 2. Melchizedek, priest of Yahweh

A. Melchizedek (\*for later study— Disclaimer: this is filled with complicated passages of scripture and would take five times the spaces to provide adequate detail. Consider this a basic introduction.

(1) Melchizedek blesses Abram and Yahweh

(a) “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: “**Blessed be Abram** of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And **blessed be God Most High**, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all.” Genesis 14:18-20 NKJV

(b) Abram tithes to Melchizedek from his spoils of victory. There is more written about this mysterious order of Melchizedek priesthood, who “He is”, why it was so important that Abram tithed to him, even though He is

not of the line of earthly priests, and the connection to Y'shua, in the letter of Hebrews chapters 5-8, than anywhere else in the Bible.

(2) Hebrews 5

(a) Qualifications for the High Priest

1. "For every **high priest taken from among men** is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, **since he himself is also subject to weakness**. Because of this **he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins**. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was." Hebrews 5:1-4 NKJV

a) Priests from the earthly line (Levitical) are subjected to the same sin nature as the people they serve. They require the same sacrifices for forgiveness as do the people. And this position is assigned by God, not man!

(b) A Priest Forever

1. "**So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest**, but it was He who said to Him: "**You are**

**My Son, Today I have begotten You.”** As He also says in another place: **“You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”**; who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet **He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.** And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, **called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”** of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.” Hebrews 5:5-11 NKJV

- a) As the earthly line of Levi had to be called by God, so too does the heavenly line.
- b) Y’shua was called as a son to be priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.
- c) This heavenly High Priest, even through His vehement cries and tears to a Father, who could have saved him, learned obedience through His suffering.

(3) Hebrews 6

(a) God's Infallible Purpose in Christ

1. "For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, **"Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."** And so, **after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.** For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by **two immutable things**, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. **This hope we have as an anchor of the soul**, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, **having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**" Hebrews 6:13-20  
NKJV

- a) God's promise to Abraham, blessings and multiplication, two immutable things that witness



to us, a hope that anchors our souls in the promises of God.

- b) Melchizedek met Abraham and blessed him, and Jesus is the high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

(4) Hebrews 7

(a) The King of Righteousness

1. **“For this Melchizedek**, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who **met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him**, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. **Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.** And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham; **but he whose genealogy is not**

**derived from them received tithes from Abraham** and blessed him who had the promises. Now beyond all contradiction **the lesser is blessed by the better.** **Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them,** of whom it is witnessed that he lives. **Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,** for he was still in the loins of his father **when Melchizedek met him.”** Hebrews 7:1-10 NKJV

- a) Melchizedek who blesses Abraham (Abram at the time), has no earthly genealogy, no beginning and no end, just like the Son of God.
- b) Now let's flip this thing on its head. Abraham, the father of the faith, from whom all the tribes of Israel come (Abraham—Isaac—Jacob (Israel)—12 sons who are the 12 tribes), and one of those tribes, the tribe of Levi, who is assigned the priesthood, is paying tithes to one who is not in line to be a priest. In a sense, even Levi (via Abraham his father), who himself receives tithes, paid tithes to Melchizedek.

(b) The Need for a New Priesthood

1. “Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that **another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek**, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? **For the priesthood being changed**, of necessity there is also a change of the law. **For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come**, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: **“You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”** For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”

Hebrews 7:11-19 NKJV

- a) This question by the writer of Hebrews has a curious twist inherent in it: what further need was there that **another priest** should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, not Aaron?
- b) We already know that Melchizedek existed as a priest BEFORE the Levitical Priesthood was instituted with Aaron as the first High Priest, so why is he asking why “another” priest should arise according to the order of Melchizedek when really the Levitical priesthood is the other priesthood?
- c) We see then that the writer speaks of a necessary change in law, as the law of Moses provides for the priesthood to be of the Levitical line, whereas the order of Melchizedek is of the line of Judah, the line from which Y’shua descends.
- d) As this is clearly pointing to Y’shua as the High Priest, who arises from Melchizedek and is granted such status because of His power of and endless life, we then can connect back to Abraham who met this Priest on his way back from battle, a priest without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God (Hebrews 7:3).

e) The law was NEVER meant to make someone perfect but always intended to prove that man would not be able to be such without a High Priest who was perfect. It was always a shadow of the spiritual and even though the spiritual ACTUALLY CAME first, we see the plan as if the spiritual comes in later on, in the person of Y'shua, to bring perfection where the Law could not.

(I) “For the law, having **a shadow of the good things to come**, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.” Hebrews 10:1 NKJV

(II) “What purpose then does the law serve? **It was added because of transgressions**, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.” Galatians 3:19 NKJV

(c) Greatness of the New Priest

1. “And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: “**The**

**LORD has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek' ")**, by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, **because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. **For such a High Priest was fitting for us**, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. **For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever."** Hebrews 7:20-28 NKJV

- a) The natural line of priest inherited the position by bloodline; Y'shua, however, with an oath. Yahweh

has sworn, 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.

- b) The thing that Y'shua could do as a priest, according to the order of Melchizedek, is He could continue forever, as an unchangeable priesthood, because he would never die and was never subjected to sin.
- c) The Levitical priesthood was in constant flux because the priests would need to be replaced because of sin and death.
- d) The High Priest fitting for us needed to be perfect as we are called to be perfect. *"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."*  
Matthew 5:48 NKJV

(5) Hebrews 8

(a) The New Priestly Service

1. **"Now this is the main point of the things we are saying:** We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a **Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.** For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also

have something to offer. For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was **established** on better promises." Hebrews 8:1-6 NKJV

- a) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: if Y'shua were on earth, He would not be a priest, since the priests on earth offer the gifts according to the law, which serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things. Plus, He is from the line of Judah and earthly priests come from Levi.
- b) Therefore, since Y'shua is the real thing, from which the shadow is cast, it is necessary that He too had to offer a sacrifice, so that the shadow He cast would have a sacrificial system in it!



- c) The most important thing to remember is that the covenant the Y'shua mediates is established (Greek: nomotheteó) on better promises. But a little peak behind the Greek veil and we quickly see what the word "nomotheteó" means: *To make Law, ordain by Law, sanction by Law.*
- d) The better promises of the better covenant are sanctioned by Law. That is why the physical had to be a perfect replica of the spiritual. *"See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."*

(b) The Renewed Covenant

1. **"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them,** He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." In that He says, **"A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.**" Hebrews 8:7-13 NKJV

- a) The first covenant was not at fault, the PEOPLE were at fault. The New Covenant makes sure the people are NOT AT FAULT by providing for us a perfect permanent priest!

ARE YOU THE ONE, OR DO WE LOOK FOR ANOTHER?

**3. You will have a son—I already have one; is he the one?**

**A. A quick review of promises and missteps**

(1) I will make you a great nation!

- (a) "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.**”” Genesis 12:2-3 NKJV

(2) You will have many descendants...

(a) “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.”  
Genesis 13:16 NKJV

(3) I will give you a son from your own body!

(a) “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.” 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!” 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.**” 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.” And he believed in the LORD, and He

accounted it to him for righteousness.” Genesis 15:1-6  
NKJV

(4) 10 years later and still no son—time to take things into my own hands (There is no other so this must be the one!)

(a) “Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, **had borne him no children.** And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, **go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.**” And **Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.** Then Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan.” Genesis 16:1-3  
NKJV

(b) “So he went in to Hagar, and **she conceived.** And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes...So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.” Genesis 16:4, 15-16 NKJV

1. Summary: quick review of promises and missteps
2. You will be a great nation.
3. You will have many descendants.

4. I will give you a son from your own body.
5. Time to take things into my own hands.

**B. Cruising along having fulfilled the promise yourself**

(1) It's time!

- (a) "Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. **And I will bless her and also give you a son by her;** then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child? "" Genesis 17:15-17 NKJV
- (b) This is the moment that Abraham falls on his face and laughs because he is almost one hundred years old at the time, and Sarah is ninety. He asks Yahweh if Ishmael might be the one instead of believing for another. **"Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"** (Genesis 17:18) In other words...*"Why not let Ishmael inherit what you have promised me?"*
- (c) Yahweh affirms that Sarah shall bear him a son. They will call him Isaac which means laughter! He is the one,

NOT Ishmael, through whom the everlasting covenant to Abraham will be fulfilled.

- (2) I don't need another, I have the one!
- (a) "And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"" Genesis 17:18 NKJV
  - (b) "And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"" Genesis 17:18 NIV
  - (c) "To God Abraham said, "If only you would accept Ishmael!"" Genesis 17:18 CEB
  - (d) "Then he asked God, "Why not let Ishmael inherit what you have promised me?"" Genesis 17:18 CEV
  - (e) "Avraham said to God, "If only Yishma'el could live in your presence!"" B'resheet (Genesis) 17:18 CJB
  - (f) "So Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael were acceptable to you!"" Genesis 17:18 CSB
  - (g) "So Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael could live in your favor!"" Genesis 17:18 NABRE
1. Summary: Cruising along having fulfilled the promise yourself.
  2. It's Time!
  3. Sarah will have a son— you will call him Isaac.
  4. Can't we just use Ishmael?

### **C. It's Isaac not Ishmael**

- (1) "Can't Ishmael inherit what you have promised me?"
- (a) "Then God said: **"No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac;** I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him." Genesis 17:19 NKJV
- (b) "And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and **will make him fruitful**, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation." Genesis 17:20 NKJV
- (c) **"But My covenant I will establish with Isaac**, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.""  
Genesis 17:21 NKJV
1. Summary: It's Isaac not Ishmael.
  2. Can't Ishmael inherit what you have promised me?
  3. No—Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac.
  4. My covenant will be with Isaac.

**D. John the Baptist, like Abraham, was not sure if he had found the one he was looking for.**

- (1) Are you the one?
- (a) "Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. And John, calling two of his disciples to

him, sent them to Jesus, saying, **“Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”**” Luke 7:18-19 NKJV

(b) “When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, **‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’** ” **And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.**” Luke 7:20-21 NKJV

(c) “Jesus answered and said to them, **“Go and tell John** the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. **And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.**”” Luke 7:22-23 NKJV

## **E. Untwisting Galatians**

(1) Only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham

(a) “Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— **just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.** And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith,



preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.”

Galatians 3:5-9 NKJV

(2) Not Seeds...SEED!

(a) “Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man’s covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. **Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.** And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.” Galatians 3:15-18 NKJV

1. *“Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the **stars of the heaven**”*

*and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. **In your seed [Isaac]** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **because you have obeyed My voice.**”*

Genesis 22:15-18

2. *“By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive **seed**, and she bore a child [Isaac] when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the **stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.**”* Hebrews 11:11-12

(3) If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise

(a) *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.**”* Galatians 3:26-29 NKJV

(4) Hagar vs. Sarah (Ishmael vs. Isaac)

(a) “Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, **do you not hear the law?** For it is written that **Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.** But he who was of the bondwoman was **born according to the flesh**, and he of the freewoman **through promise, which things are symbolic.** For these are the **two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai** which gives birth to **bondage**, which is **Hagar**— for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to **Jerusalem which now is [the physical promise]**, and is in bondage with her children— but the **Jerusalem above [which is coming-spiritual] is free**, which is the mother of us all. **For it is written:** “Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband.” **[Isaiah 54:1] Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.** But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what does **the Scripture say?** “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” **[Genesis 21:10] So then, brethren, we are**

**not children of the bondwoman but of the free.”**

Galatians 4:21-31 NKJV

1. Summary: John the Baptist and Abraham were both unsure of the one they were looking for.
2. **Abram:** Can't Ishmael inherit what you have promised me?
3. **John:** Are You the coming One, or do we look for another?
4. Go remind John of all the miracles and testimonies
5. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me—in other words, those who are not offended when he is told that Ishmael is not the one and it is time to move on from Ismael to Isaac!
  - a) Two sides of the same coin:
  - b) Abraham: I already have Ishmael (not the one) so I don't need Isaac (the One, the Seed).
  - c) John: I already have Y'shua (the One, the Seed), do I look for another (not the one)?
  - d) *“For the word of God [**Y'shua, the Seed, the One**] is living and powerful, and sharper than any **two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is **a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

*And there is **no creature hidden from His sight**, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV*

6. Only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.
7. Not “seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.
  - a) *In your seed [Isaac] (Genesis 22:18)*
  - b) *By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed (Hebrews 11:11)*
8. If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.
9. **NOW WE CAN FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT PAUL MEANS IN GALATIANS 4:21-31!**
10. Are you the one, or should I look for another? Are you Isaac or are we still waiting? In other words, do you want to stay with Ishmael (Bondage) or are you going with Isaac (Freedom)?
  - a) Abraham had two sons: one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.
  - b) One born according to the flesh, One through the promise.
  - c) **These things are symbolic of two covenants:**

- I. One from Mount Sinai—bondage—Hagar—  
Physical Jerusalem
- II. The Other from Jerusalem above [which is  
spiritual]— free—“*But you have come to Mount  
Zion and to the city of the living God, **the  
heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable  
company of angels, to the general assembly and  
church of **the firstborn who are registered in  
heaven**, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of  
just men made perfect,*” Hebrews 12:22-23  
NKJV

d) **Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of  
promise.**

e) **So then, brethren, we are not children of the  
bondwoman but of the free.”** Galatians 4:21-31  
NKJV

f) We are not Ishmael we are Isaac! Are you the one  
we are looking for, or should I look for another?

- I. “If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s  
seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

- II. Christ is Abraham’s seed of promise and is  
exactly who we are looking for. And no, you  
can’t keep Ismael!

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### **1. When was the first promise made to Abram?**

A. List the six promises made to Abram in Genesis 12:2-3.

### **2. What did Abram believe that was accounted to him as righteousness?**

A. What did he ask Yahweh for?

B. What did Yahweh promise him?

C. What did Yahweh do when Abram asked for confirmation?

D. What was so prophetic that happened while Yahweh confirmed His promise in Genesis 15:12-21?

### **3. After 10 years Abram was still waiting for the promise to be fulfilled:**

A. What did he do and what role did Sarai have in his decision.

B. How have you made similar moves on your own when God's promises seem delayed?

### **4. Thirteen years after Ishmael is born, Yahweh is ready to fulfill His promise, 24 years after He originally spoke to Abram:**

A. What is Abram's response in Genesis 17:18?

B. Have you had similar responses when Yahweh is ready to fulfill a long-awaited promise in your life?

C. How are you holding up while you wait for His promises?

D. Compare this to John the Baptist's question about Y'shua in Luke 7:18-21.