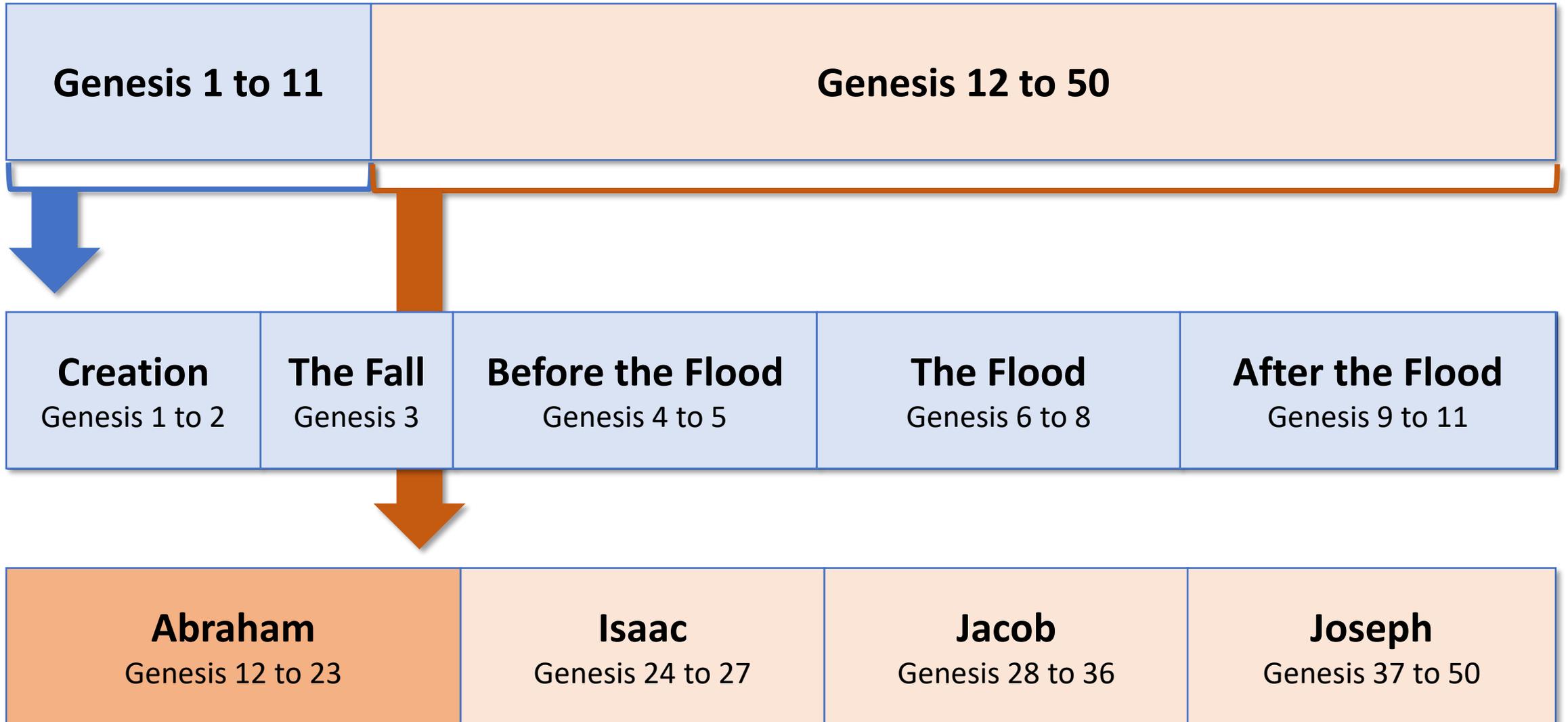


# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

**10. Abram, Sarai and Hagar**

# An outline of the Book of Genesis \*



\* Approximate chapter divisions only

# The promises of God – chapter 15

“O Lord GOD, what will You give me,  
for **I continue childless**,  
and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

(Genesis 15:2)

Abram's trusted  
personal attendant

And behold, the word of the LORD came to him:

***“This man shall not be your heir;  
your very own son shall be your heir.”***

(Genesis 15:4)

“he who comes  
from your own body”

## The promises of God – chapter 15

And He brought him outside and said,  
“Look toward heaven, and number the stars,  
if you are able to number them.”

Then He said to him,  
*“So shall your offspring be.”*

**And he believed the LORD,  
and He counted it to him as righteousness.**

(Genesis 15:5-6)

# The promises of God – then and now

Abram **believed** the LORD,  
and He counted it to him  
as **righteousness**.

How am I to know...?

On that day the LORD  
made a **covenant**...

(See Genesis 15)

By **grace**  
you have been saved  
through **faith**.

(Ephesians 2:8)



# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

It's hard to  
wait for God...

**Genesis 16** Abram, Sarai, Hagar and Ishmael

**Genesis 17** The covenant and circumcision

Faith without  
works is dead

# What will You give me...? Genesis 16

Sarai is now 75,  
Abram is 85

Now **Sarai**, Abram's wife, had borne him no children.  
She had a female Egyptian servant  
whose name was **Hagar**.

A household slave

And Sarai said to Abram,

“Behold now, **the LORD has prevented me**  
from bearing children. Go in to my servant;  
it may be that **I shall obtain children** by her.”

A type of surrogacy  
in that culture

And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

(Genesis 16:1-2)

*“...**your very own son**  
shall be your heir.”*

(Genesis 15:4)

## What will You give me...?

And when Hagar saw that she had conceived, she looked with **contempt** on her mistress.

And Sarai said to Abram,  
“May the wrong done to me be on you! ...  
May the LORD judge between you and me!”

But Abram said to Sarai,  
“Behold, your servant is in your power;  
do to her as you please.”

Then **Sarai dealt harshly** with her,  
and **she fled** from her.

(Genesis16:4-6)

Abram again has no heir

# What will You give me...?

The Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.

The road to Egypt

And He said,

*“Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?”*

She said,

*“I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.”*

The Angel of the LORD said to her,

*“Return to your mistress and submit to her.”*

(Genesis 16:7-9)

# What will You give me...?

The Angel of the LORD also said to her,  
“*I will surely multiply your offspring  
so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.*”

“Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son.

**You shall call his name Ishmael,**

= God hears

because the LORD has listened to your affliction.

Roaming free

He shall be a wild donkey of a man,

his hand against everyone

and everyone's hand against him,

Ongoing friction

and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.”

(Genesis 16:10-12)

Or “opposite”, “across from” – on the edge of society.  
Or perhaps “be at odds with” or “live in hostility toward”.

# What will You give me...?

So **she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her,**

“You are a God of seeing,”

*El Roi* - or “God who sees me”

for she said,

“Truly here I have seen Him who looks after me.”

Therefore the well was called *Beer-lahai-roi*...

= Well of the One  
Who Lives  
and Sees Me

And Hagar bore Abram a son,

and **Abram called the name of his son... Ishmael.**

(Genesis 16:13-15)

He is now 86 years old

# RECAP...

**The Problem:** They have been in the land 10 years but still have no child 😞

**The Solution:** Have a child by Hagar, Sarai's bondservant 😊 !

**The Result:**

- Loss of relationships with each other - and God
- Sarai loses her personal servant
- Hagar loses her livelihood and endangers her life
- Abram loses his child and apparent heir

**The Remedy:** Hagar meets **the Angel of the Lord** who “sees and hears.”  
**Hagar believes God**, returns, and bears her promised son.

# RECAP for TODAY...

**The Problem:** Our promises are fulfilled in the Spirit and the age to come ☹️

**The Solution:** Pursue a worldly substitute that seems to meet our needs 😊 !

**The Result:**

- Poverty in relationships with each other – and with God
- An ineffective and untrue witness to the world
- Much wasted energy and time
- Spiritual hunger is unsatisfied, and disillusionment sets in

**The Remedy:** Fellowship with **the Lord** who knows us and our deepest needs.  
**Faith** in God, **obedience**, and **perseverance** to the end.

# The covenant

# Genesis 17

Then, 13 years later...

When Abram was 99 years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,

*El Shaddai*

**“I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless.**

Complete, full, perfect, sound, undefiled, whole

Or “that I may...”

And I will make **My covenant** between Me and you, and will multiply you **exceedingly.**”

(Genesis 17:1-2)

I am God Almighty;  
**walk before Me,**  
and be blameless.



“By this My Father is glorified,  
that you bear much fruit and so prove to be **My disciples.**”  
(John 15:8)

“**Follow Me,** and I will make you fishers of men.”  
(Matthew 4:19)

Everyone who **hears** these words of Mine  
**and does them**  
will be like a wise man  
who built his house on **the rock.**  
(Matthew 7:24)

# The covenant

“Behold, **My covenant** is with you,  
and you shall be **the father of a multitude of nations**.

No longer shall your name be called **Abram**, = Exalted father

but your name shall be **Abraham**, = Father of a multitude  
for **I have made you**  
the father of a multitude of nations.

As if already  
accomplished!

(Genesis 17:3-5)

# The covenant

“**I will** make you **exceedingly fruitful**,  
and **I will** make you into **nations**,  
and **kings** shall come from you.

And **I will** establish **My covenant** between Me and you  
and your offspring after you throughout their generations  
for **an everlasting covenant**,  
to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

And **I will** give to you and to your offspring after you  
the land of your sojournings,  
**all the land of Canaan**, for an everlasting possession,  
and **I will** be their God.”

(Genesis 17:6-8)

# The sign of the covenant

**“As for you, you shall keep My covenant,**  
you and your offspring after you  
throughout their generations....

This is my covenant, which you shall keep...

**Every male among you shall be circumcised.**

...it shall be **a sign of the covenant** between Me and you.”

(Genesis 17:9-11)

He [Abraham] received **the sign of circumcision** as  
a seal of the **righteousness** that he had by **faith**...

(Romans 4:11)

“Any uncircumcised male...  
shall be cut off from his people;  
**he has broken My covenant.**”

(Genesis 17:14)

# The covenant

= Princess

“As for **Sarai** your wife,  
you shall not call her name **Sarai**,  
but **Sarah** shall be her name.

= My princess

I will bless her, and moreover,  
**I will give you a son by her.**

Genesis 2:24

I will bless her, and she shall become nations;  
**kings** of peoples shall come from her.”

(Genesis 17:15-16)

# The covenant

Unbelief or joyful faith?

Then Abraham fell on his face and **laughed** and said **to himself**,

“Shall a child be born to a man who is **100** years old?  
Shall Sarah, who is **90** years old, bear a child?”

And Abraham said **to God**,

“Oh that **Ishmael** might live before You!”

(Genesis 17:17-18)

“...and be my heir...”

# The covenant

*“Oh that **Ishmael** might live before You!”*

**“No,**

but **Sarah your wife shall bear you a son,**  
and you shall call his name **Isaac**....

= He laughs

As for **Ishmael**, I have heard you;  
behold, **I have blessed him** and will make him fruitful  
and multiply him greatly. He shall father 12 princes,  
and I will make him into a great nation.

But **I will establish my covenant with Isaac,**  
whom **Sarah shall bear to you** at this time next year.”

(Genesis 17:19-21)

Isaac will  
inherit the  
promises

# The sign of the covenant

The obedience  
of faith

**That very day** Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised.  
And all the men of his house, those born in the house  
and those bought with money from a foreigner,  
were circumcised with him.

(Genesis 17:26-27)

But this raises a question...

## Does **infant baptism** replace circumcision under the new covenant?

No one is a Jew  
who is one **outwardly**...  
But a Jew is one **inwardly**,  
and circumcision is  
a matter of **the heart**,  
by **the Spirit**, not by the letter.  
(Romans 2:28-29)

He [Abraham] received  
**the sign of circumcision**  
**as a seal**  
of the **righteousness**  
that he had by **faith**...  
(Romans 4:11)

Go therefore and make **disciples**  
of all nations, **baptising them**...  
(Matthew 28:19)

To all who did **receive** Him,  
who **believed** in His name,  
He gave the right to become  
**children of God**...  
(John 1:12)

In Him you also, when you heard...  
and believed in Him,  
**were sealed with**  
**the promised Holy Spirit**...  
(Ephesians 1:13)

# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

*I am God Almighty;  
walk before Me,  
and be blameless.*

*(Genesis 17:1)*