

Genesis 17:1-27

**The Covenant
of
Circumcision**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old,
the LORD appeared to him . Genesis 17:1

**Nicely
settled ?**



The LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. Then I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

Genesis 17:2

I am God Almighty
(able to do it)

The call to trust and obey
(your response)

**The promise of a covenant
and blessing**
(God's gifts)



Abram fell facedown. Genesis 17: 3



Worship, reverence, faith

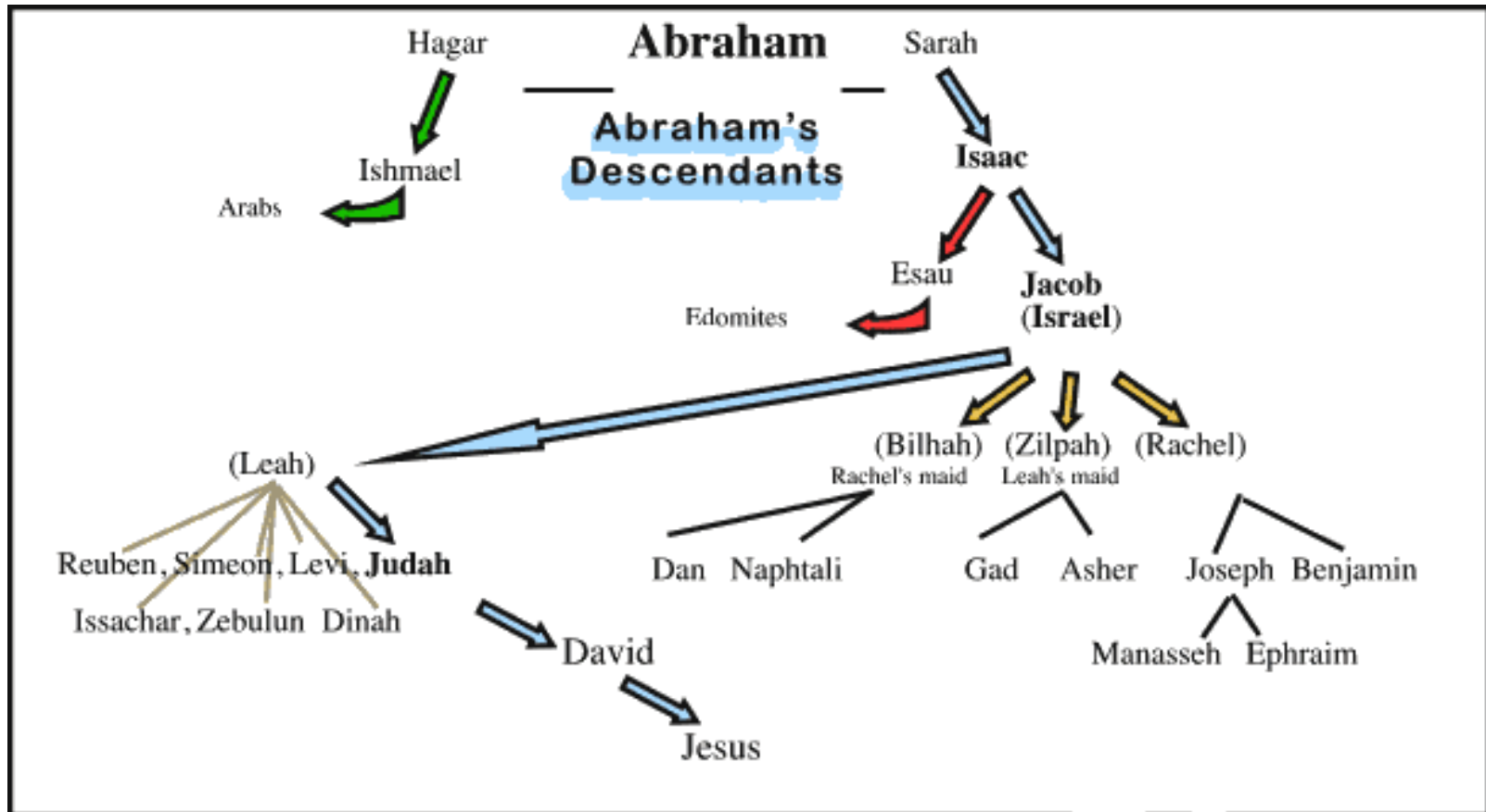
and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. Genesis 17: 4

ME and MY Covenant with you.

Father of many (peoples – gentiles too).



I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. Genesis 17: 6



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.

Genesis 17: 7



Eternal

Your God and theirs

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." Genesis 17: 8

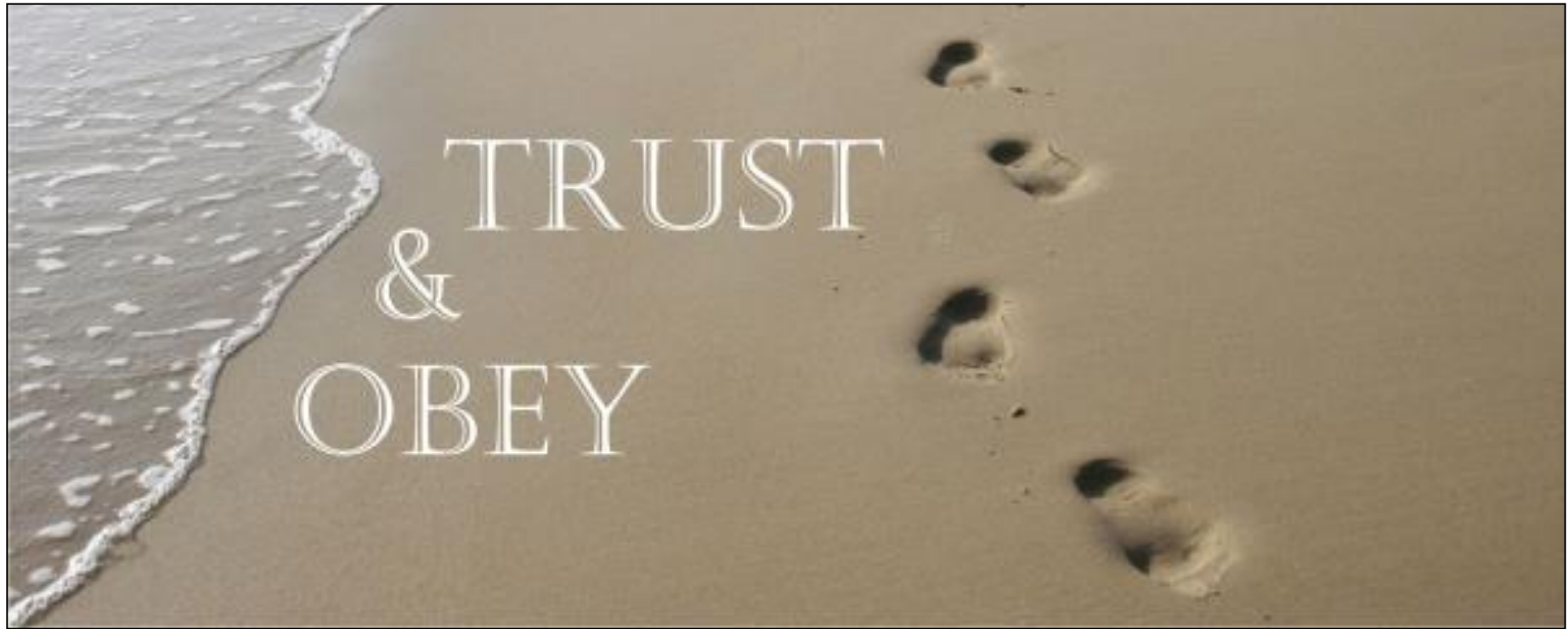
The Promised land
(not Abraham's yet)



God's self-revelation – the plan.



Then God said to Abraham,
"As for you, you must keep my covenant,
you and your descendants after you for the generations to come."
Genesis 17: 9



This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. Genesis 17: 10-11

The sign of the covenant



Why circumcision ?

Humbling,

The old life past, new beginning with a new people

Proverbs 3: 5-6

Women are included in the blessing (see Sarah later)

including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner--those who are not your offspring. Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. Genesis 17:12



All his household
Quite a challenge !

My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

Genesis 17:13 - 14

If they weren't circumcised they weren't saved
as part of the covenant people.

Babies

Adults

Slaves

Foreign slaves

Circumcision was an external sign for an inner reality

The LORD your God will
circumcise your hearts and the
hearts of your descendants, so
that you may love him with all
your heart and with all your
soul, and live.

Deuteronomy 30:6

This is what the New Testament call the “new birth”

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you,
no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

John 3:3

Circumcision is not equivalent to baptism because baptism follows the new birth.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Acts 2:38

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:15-16

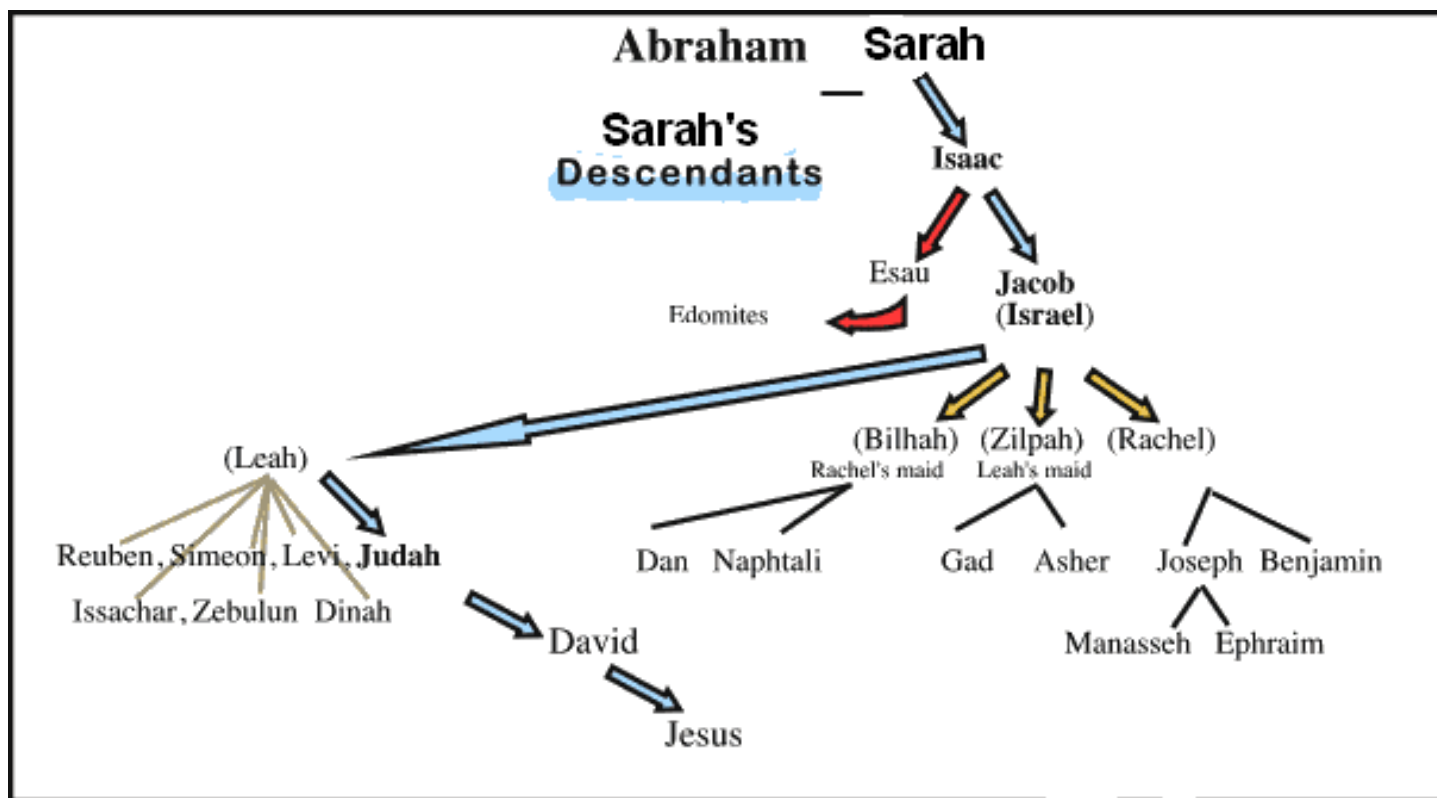
God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife,
you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah."
Genesis 17: 15

A new beginning !



“My Princess” changed to “Princess”

I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." Genesis 17: 16



It is the same as the promise to Abraham

Abraham fell face down; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

Genesis 17: 17

What kind of laugh was it ?

Romans 4:18-21

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.



And Abraham said to God,
"If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!" Genesis 17:18



Concern for Ishmael too
God's blessings do not rob others

Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son,
and you will call him Isaac. Genesis 17:19



Yes, BUT...

The promised line is through Sarah's son Isaac
His name is already given.

I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. Genesis 17:19

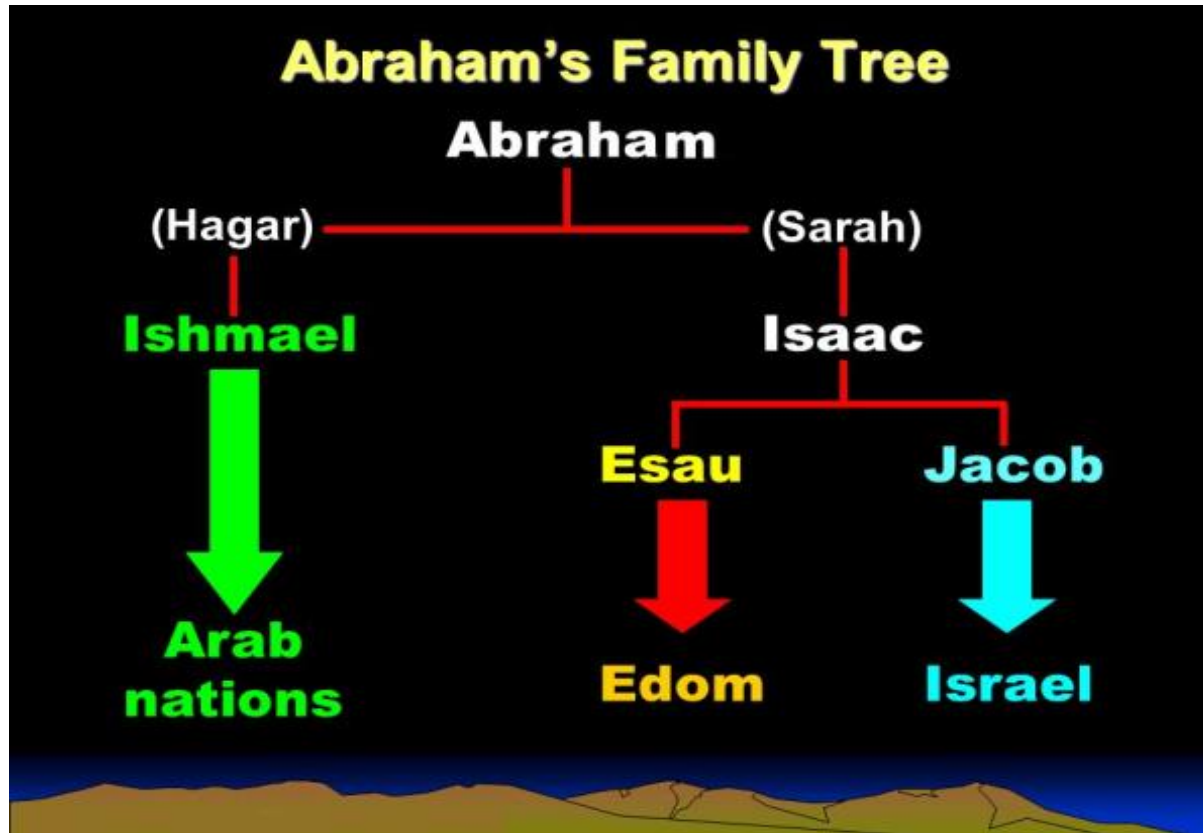
That will be the spiritual line



Jesus said,
“You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we
worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.”
John 4:22

And as for Ishmael, 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.

Genesis 17: 20



Because of my love for you, all of yours get blessed
Earthly blessings

But my covenant I will establish with Isaac,
whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."
Genesis 17: 21



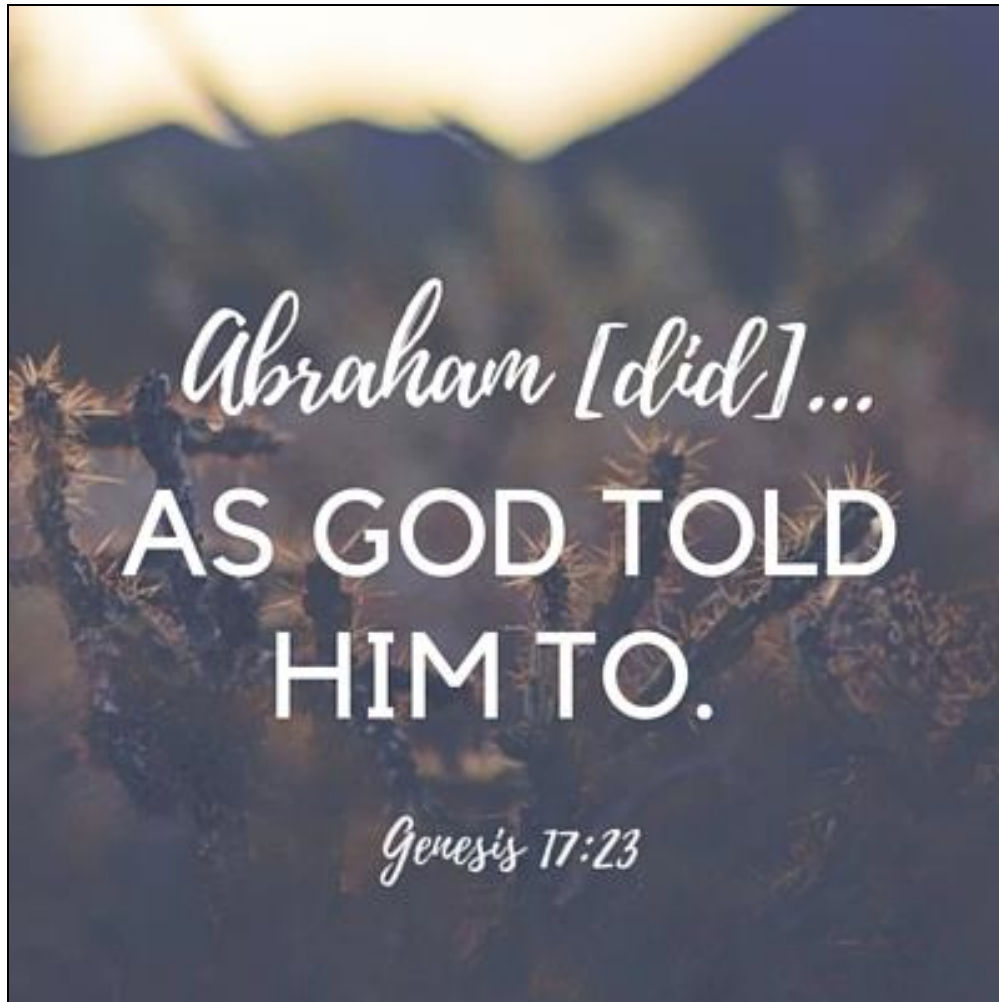
A repeat of the spiritual promise
No more waiting

When he had finished speaking with Abraham,
God went up from him. Genesis 17: 22

He knew God had spoken



On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him. Genesis 17: 23



**Instant
obedience was
proof of his real
faith**

Note the
compliance of
his household

Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, and his son Ishmael was thirteen; Abraham and his son Ishmael were both circumcised on that very day. And every male in Abraham's household, including those born in his household or bought from a foreigner, was circumcised with him.

Genesis 17: 24 - 27

Everyone belonging to Abraham's household was included.

under Isaac's blessing

**Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!
Amen.**

