



LECH LECHA - GET YOURSELF OUT

Genesis 12:1 to 17:27

Isaiah 40:27 to 41:16

Romans 3:19 to 5:6

Abraham's Life: Part One

The Generations From Shem To Abram

Genesis 11:10-32

Following Noah's lifespan, the Scriptures now trace his son Shem's lineage for ten generations leading to the life of Abraham (*Abram*). God/*Elohim* choose Abraham and Sarah causing them to separate from their family and from the paganized lifestyle of the nations around them (*the realm of the olam hazeh*), to become a redeemed people for Himself (*the realm of the olam haba*).

Terah, Abraham's father, had four children: three sons named Abraham, Nahor, and Haran, and a daughter by a second wife named Sarah (*Sarai*) (Genesis 20:12).

- Haran was the father of a son Lot and two daughters Milcah and Iscah. Milcah married her uncle Nahor (Genesis 11:29).
- Abraham married his half-sister Sarah (Genesis 20:12).

Terah traveled with Abraham, his grandson Lot, and his daughter-in-law Sarah from Ur to Canaan. Along the way, they stopped and settled in Haran. In Haran, Terah died leaving Abraham, Sarah, and Lot to continue the journey.

With Abraham, there began a new history of mankind - the history of a monotheistic faith, the worship of the One True God/*Elohim*. This awareness in an omniscient (infinite knowledge), omnipotent (unlimited power) and omnipresent (present everywhere) Creator brought about an observance of His Word. Through Abraham, God's/*Elohim* Torah (the Gospel) comes to light. This is where our study begins.

📖 **Galatians 3:8** "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God/*Elohim* would justify the Gentiles [*Nations*] by faith, preached the Gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.' "

The Setting-Apart Of A Righteous People

“God’s/Elohim Presence rests upon man to the extent that man permits. If he observes God’s/Elohim command only so long as they do not conflict with a particular passion – be it a desire for food, lust, intellectual stimulation – then to whatever extent that weakness conflicts with his dedication to the will of God/Elohim, the Spirit of God/Elohim cannot rest upon him” (Bereshit/Genesis by ArtScroll).

📖 **Genesis 12:1** “Now the LORD/Yahweh said to Abram, ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.’”

God/Elohim calls Abraham to take his wife Sarah and leave his whole family and all that he had known to follow Him. Abraham obeyed part of the directives. He left his country but allowed his nephew Lot to stay with them. That decision was not part of the original plan.

📖 **Genesis 12:4** “So Abram departed as the LORD/Yahweh had spoken to him, *and Lot went with him.*”

God/Elohim blessed Abraham saying,

“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; Galatians 3:7-9, 29).

The blessing that came upon Abraham was in preparation for being set apart from the world of commonality, immorality, and destruction (*olam hazeh*), to the world that God/Elohim has created for His people. There He will show Abraham His Kingdom, how to walk in it and fully receive the abundant blessings and promises held within it, not only for him and his family but also to his extended family - those who choose to walk after the same God/Elohim as Abraham (*olam haba*). This prophetic promise imparted to Abraham has been realized, as Abraham saw Yeshua’s day and was glad (John 8:56).

📖 **John 8:56** (Yeshua said to the Jews,) “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.”

📖 **Galatians 3:29** “And if you [*believers*] are Christ’s/Messiah’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the [*same*] promise [*through Yeshua*].”

In Acts 3:25 we see Peter sharing with the men of Israel saying,

“You [*believers in Yeshua, men of Israel/Jacob*] are sons of the prophets, and of the Covenant that God/Elohim made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘*and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed*’” (Acts 3:25).

Believers have the same choice about their future that Abraham saw in his day. As it has been for generations, this blessing rests on all who call themselves *believers in the Messiah* – the promised seed of Abraham.

Abraham's Faith: Part One

Abraham obeyed God's/*Elohim* Word and walked trusting in it by faith.

📖 **Hebrews 11:1, 8** “Now faith is the *substance* [*physical*] of things hoped for, *the evidence* of things not seen [*called the olam haba*]. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”

Faith is like having a camera that takes pictures of the future with you in the photo. In Hebrew, this future is called the *olam haba*. We are told Abraham *trusted* and had *faith*; therefore *saw* his future – the end from the beginning. What did Abraham *see* that gained all of his trust?

📖 **Galatians 3:8-9** tells us that “*the Scripture, foreseeing that God/Elohim would justify the Gentiles/Nations 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.*”

How could the Scripture preach the Gospel to Abraham and Whom did Abraham trust?

📖 **1John 5:6-8** “*This is He who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one*” (KJV/NKJ only).

Therefore, *the Scripture* that preached to Abraham was *Yeshua HaMashiach*. How can this be? Remember, Revelation 13:8 says that Yeshua was *slain from the foundation of the world* and in Hebrews 4 *all of His works were finished from the foundation*. Yeshua alone fulfills the witness of *heaven on earth* in 1John 5:6-8. The Spirit/*Ruach* is witness to this truth that Yeshua is *the Word* manifest in the *flesh* on earth, whose heart poured out *water and blood* at His crucifixion, as a testimony of this truth. When Abraham *saw* the Truth, he could trust. Thus he put all of his faith in the Gospel and followed Him.

📖 **John 8:56** Yeshua said, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”

Therefore, those who are one in this same truth are Abraham's children and heirs according to the same promises (Galatians 3:29).

Belief is trust that produces faith that the Father's word will manifest in the flesh on the earth, as Yeshua HaMashiach. Abraham saw Messiah's day and looked forward to it, therefore, that trust

was accorded to him *as a man having faith*. By that same understanding, we who choose to walk in Yeshua's promises and believe in His return, regardless of what we may see around us on an earthly level, are accorded with the same faith that Abraham had, thus are called a people of faith.

🌿 **Ecclesiastes 3:15** “That which is has already been, and what is to be has already been.”

The Fruit of the Spirit is found in those who are in the Tree of Life. They produce this fruit by walking and trusting in Yeshua's word by faith *from beginning (Genesis) to end (Revelation)*. His Fruit also appears in those who have turned from bad associations and the counterfeit lifestyle of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They understand that tree's aim is to destroy and enslave Yeshua's people in poverty and emotional decay with the intent of their physical death.

🌿 **Colossians 3:8-17** “But now you yourselves [*believers*] are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds [*the sinful nature/tree of knowledge of good and evil – the olam hazeh*], and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him [*fruit of the Spirit/Tree of Life – the olam haba*], where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ/*Messiah* is all and in all. Therefore, as the elect of God/*Elohim*, holy and beloved [*believer*], put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone [*believer*] has a complaint against another [*believer*]; even as Christ/*Messiah* forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things [*believer*] put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God/*Elohim* rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ/*Messiah* dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do [*believer*] in word or deed, do all in the name of the LORD Jesus Christ/*Yeshua, Ha Mashiach*, giving thanks to God/*Elohim* the Father through Him.”

To A Land That I Will Show You

🌿 “So Abram departed as the LORD/*Yahweh* had spoken to him, and *Lot went with him*. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan” (Genesis 12:4-5).

Was Lot to go with Abraham? The Scripture in Genesis 12:1 did not say that Abraham was to leave his whole family *but* allowed to keep one family member with him. Obedience is the key here. Scripture is very clear; there is not to be a mixing of unwise association among God's/*Elohim* people. If there is, the journey will become more arduous than initially proposed. His people are to leave that which is contrary to His instructions (Torah). Disobedience has the

potential to lead His people astray from the destiny He has planned for their lives. We will see later that Lot will prove to be an unfortunate association for Abraham, and for Abraham's future generations (Genesis 12:1; 2:24).

Our Father Abraham

When Abraham entered the land (called Israel, through his future son Isaac and future grandchild Jacob), he traveled as far as the Oaks of Moreh/*Elon Moreh* in Shechem the region of Samaria. That is where God/*Elohim* appeared to Abraham and blessed him again, saying,

🌿 “To your offspring I will give this land” (Genesis 12:7).



Shechem in the region of Samaria
Standing on Mount Gerizim (Blessing). Upper left corner is Mount Ebal (Curse).
Shechem is in the middle with *Elon Moreh* in the background.

The *Word* that spoke the blessings to Abraham earlier now manifested in physical form before him, confirming again that Abraham and Sarah would have descendants and be given the land as a gift. Abraham humbly built an altar for worship to the Holy One who appeared to him at *Elon Moreh* (Genesis 12:7; John 1:14).

Even though we cannot see the remains of Abraham's altar, it still stands as a signpost today. This boundary marker represents all of God's/*Elohim* promises imparted to Abraham and his future generations - present generation included. That is why the region around Samaria is so hotly contested today. As Abraham walked the land, his action confirmed the promises claiming the land, the people, and the Covenant to his future generations. From that time forward no man could challenge this promised Covenant. It stands firm today just as it did in Abraham's day (Galatians 3:29).

The Gospel Given To Abraham

🌿 **Galatians 3:8-9** “And the Scripture [*Yeshua*], foreseeing that God/*Elohim* would justify the Gentiles [*His people who were scattered throughout the Nations returning to His ways*] by faith, ***preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham***, saying, ‘All the nations shall be blessed in you. So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, ***the believer.***”

Reflecting on Galatians 3:8-9, we notice that *Yeshua* (The Word/Scripture) not only *spoke personally* to Abraham but also *preached the Gospel*. If Abraham took hold of the Gospel, then he became a *believer*. If this is true, and Abraham was taught the Gospel in his day, then this

Scripture challenges traditional Christianity that teaches a *theory* that the Gospel was first introduced in the Gospels called *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*. This theory also gives the impression that the Jews rejected the Giver of the Gospel, thus became a rejected people.

When we read Galatians 3:8 we find the flawed theology in that long before there were Jews on the earth, Abraham (the father of the *Jews* and the father of the *Christians*) had the Gospel preached to him by Yeshua. Do we think Abraham received only part of the Gospel or did he receive the full Gospel, with complete understanding? If Yeshua imparted His whole Word in Covenant form to Abraham (called the Gospel), then it was the entire unabridged version. Not only was the Gospel established in Abraham but it would also have been grounded and rooted in all of his descendants after him. If this is true, and Yeshua did impart the Gospel to Abraham and his descendants, then we will find this truth written in Scripture. Isaiah brings confirmation of this fact, as we witness the Spirit of Truth not only filling Moses but also 600,000 - *the multitudes of Israelites with him at Mount Sinai*. Scripture says *they were all filled from within with the Holy Spirit/Ruach HaKodesh*. That number of people was considerably more than what we read in Acts 2 at Pentecost/*Shavuot* in the New Testament/*Brit Chadasha*! Proof text:

🌿 **Isaiah 63:10-13** “But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: ‘Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit within them, who led them by the right hand of Moses, with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, who led them through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, that they might not stumble?’” (Numbers 1:46; John 10:11-16).

Abraham, in Covenant with Yeshua, was the carrier of the Gospel, as was his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (called *Israel*) after him. The *Tanakh* is full of whole people groups living by the Gospel and who risked their lives for the sake of the Gospel. *All of Israel* is to carry and proclaim this truth to the Nations. Believers, who have come to believe in the Gospel of Yeshua *after* His physical appearance, have also been grafted into sonship with Him *through Abraham*. After many centuries, it is believers, those who came to faith through the New Testament/*Brit Chadasha*, who are the new people on the block, not the other way around. Learning to walk in the Gospel was given in the beginning - *Genesis*. Who then received the Gospel? Was it not to the Jew first and then the Greek-minded coming in from the Nations? (Hebrews 11; Romans 11; Galatians 3).

🌿 **Romans 1:16** “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ/*Messiah*, for it is the power of God/*Elohim* to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

New Testament believers have digested a mixed theology and will have some repenting to do. Firstly the Jews, for not imparting the Truth of the Gospel and secondly the Christians, for thinking they were better than their brothers and for the atrocities Christianity has done against the Jews over the years because of arrogant piousness. We all need to heal from abusive, critical, and judgmental behavior, and stop the persecution – *then all Israel will be saved* (Romans 11).

🌿 **Hebrews 11:1** “Now faith [*walking out the Gospel*] is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Abraham Continues ...

Abraham journeyed on from Elon Moreh, the area around Shechem, toward the hill east of Bethel and pitched his tent. There he built another altar and called on the name of God/*Elohim*. This altar was also in a very strategic location and remains so even today. These two altars, as the Scripture says, were built in the future territory of the House of Joseph in the Northern Kingdom, and belong to Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 12:8).

From Egypt, I Will Call My Son

A famine in the land had become so severe that Abraham took his wife *and Lot* to Egypt in search of sustenance. However, Sarah, being a beautiful woman, was at risk of being taken by the Egyptians. If they found she was a married woman, her husband would be killed. Abraham, fearing for his own life, suggested Sarah protect him by telling the Egyptians that he was her brother. This idea might have shielded Abraham, but still left Sarah vulnerable and unguarded. As suspected, Sarah was indeed brought into Pharaoh's household, while Abraham, as her brother, was spared his life. In the course of time, Abraham's half-truth and lack of faith were exposed when great plagues fell upon Pharaoh and his household. Pharaoh released Sarah and admonished Abraham for not having told the whole truth. At sixty-five years old Sarah must have been an exceptionally beautiful woman (Genesis 12:9-20).

The Return

Pharaoh allowed Abraham to keep all of the possessions acquired while in Egypt, thus by the time Abraham returned he was a very wealthy man. Abraham's period in Egypt was a foreshadowing of the promise God/*Elohim* made to him, and to his future generations (the twelve sons of Jacob/Israel). After four hundred years, they would be released from captivity and leave as a very wealthy nation. Abraham's story also foreshadows the time of the Messiah when, as a Child, He too would come out of Egypt. These stories represent the re-establishment of God's/*Elohim* people coming from the Nations and returning to the land of their inheritance (Genesis 15:13; Exodus 12:40-41; Matthew 2:11; Acts 7:6).

In Hebraic understanding, the land represents not only the physical land of Israel but also His people Israel. Thus, the walk of Abraham was symbolic of His people returning to their covenantal inheritance as prophesied in Yeshua's Gospel (Genesis to Revelation). The Hebrew people also understand that this obedient step of trust, faith, and belief in His Word, the Land, the Torah (the Gospel), and the People of Israel are all synonymous – *one* (Genesis 12:14-20; Exodus 12:31-36; Galatians 3:17)

🌿 **Hosea 11:1** “When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”

🌿 **Matthew 2:13-15** “Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ‘Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt,

and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.’ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ‘Out of Egypt I called My Son’” (Hosea 11:1).

When Abraham and Sarah returned, they went by way of the Negev. They settled in Bethel (the place where he made his last offering) and there he called upon the name of God/*Elohim* (Genesis 13:4).

Separation From Lot

God/*Elohim* now leads Abraham into a new season. To close the door on the past, he must return to the place where he last disobeyed God’s/*Elohim* instruction and end his association with Lot. At their parting, Abraham allowed Lot to have first choice as to where he would like to live. We do not see Lot inquiring after God/*Elohim*, nor do we see him seeking Abraham’s council for direction. Rather, he relied on what seemed attractive to him. Lust of the eye has a very profound influence on the unredeemed nature (the *olam hazeh*) of man. Lot’s decision led him toward the plains, near the wicked city of Sodom. Consequently, he and his herdsmen left for what appeared to be richer pastures. Hence, Lot’s choice of settlement changed his life and those of his generations forever.

On the other hand, we do see Abraham inquire after God/*Elohim* for direction. Thus, he was told,

📖 **Genesis 13:14-17** “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, *I will give it to you and to your descendants forever*. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.”

Prophetically what Abraham saw would be the return of his future generations (*the olam haba*), all twelve tribes of Israel from the north, south, east, and west, back to the promised land of their inheritance (Genesis 13:15-16; Galatians 3:29).

Abraham Continued On His Journey...

Abraham traveled further in the land stopping at the Oaks of Mamre in Hebron. There he built his third altar to God/*Elohim*. This location would become the future territory of the House of Judah, the Southern Kingdom (Genesis 13:18).

Melchizedek - Priest Of God/*Elohim* Most High

During this time, Lot faced calamity. The territory he chose became engulfed in war. The invading army captured Lot and his family along with all their possessions. When Abraham heard the news, he and his men set out in pursuit of Lot. Lot, his family, and all his worldly possessions were rescued. When Abraham returned, the King of Sodom (*representing the olam hazeh – present world - a constant state of decay*) approached him. However, it was

Melchizedek, the High Priest of God/*Elohim*, the King of Salem (*representing the olam haba – future kingdom/restored/ resurrection life*) who came up to Abraham with bread and wine, and blessed him saying,

✠ “Blessed be Abram of God/*Elohim* Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God/*Elohim* Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all” (Genesis 14:19-20).

The presence of bread and wine symbolizes the *making of a covenant* or *the confirming of one*. These elements are used in several places in Scripture to establish or appoint His word.

- Bread and wine were used at the confirming of the Covenant during the *Feast of Shavuot* at Mount Sinai when God/*Elohim* asked Moses, Aaron, and the leaders to join Him. (Exodus 14:18; 24:11).
- Again at *the Passover* supper when Yeshua confirmed the re-newing of the Covenant before His death, it was through bread and wine (Luke 22:19-22; Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 8:8-10).

After receiving the bread and wine, Abraham gave Melchizedek the first (called a *tenth*) of all the captured booty (Genesis 14:20). In doing so, Abraham was expressing to Melchizedek that he understood the *firstfruits offering* and that it was a *seed* being sown by faith into his future promised generations. Abraham’s firstfruits offering then set in motion the receiving of the blessings spoken by Melchizedek. In Yeshua, His people are the *olam haba – the recipients and fulfillment of Abraham’s offering - the promised resurrected return of the future generations – Yeshua’s firstborn fruits*.

The tithe sets in motion the priesthood of Yeshua in the order of Melchizedek *forever*. Also, it initiates the maintenance of the Tabernacle/*Mishkan* within the hearts of men. Tithes are a prophetic act prospering Yeshua’s seed in future generations. Tithes are God’s/*Elohim* universal order of sowing, reaping, and multiplication. They are the essential building tools for those who uphold and honor His Covenant.

✠ **Galatians 3:29** “And if you *are* Christ’s/*Messiah*’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise [*Covenant*].”

On the spiritual level, tithing, along with the keeping of His Sabbath and Feast Days, were all designed and birthed *in eternity – before time began*. Acting on these elements connects the earthly realm with the heavenly realm *for generations to come*. When His people believe and act in obedience to the tithe, God/*Elohim* then builds His Tabernacle *within His people* (1 John 5:6-8 KJV/NKJ).

The objective of the tithe commandment is to *increase* God’s/*Elohim* people, not deplete them. If His people say they believe in Yeshua but have a hard time giving the tithe, then they lack trust in their future and their future generations. The tithe is for *future* generations, as it was for Abraham. We are the fruit of Abraham’s tithe. Within the seed of Abraham’s portion contained all the promises appointed for the priesthood. Thus, we see Abraham’s direct heart response to

Melchizedek. The *promised seed* is planted within all believers today through the Gospel. The one who chooses to walk in obedience to it will enter the order of Melchizedek just as Abraham. That is the Bride of Yeshua's natural response (Genesis 14:18-20; Revelation 1:6).

Some say the requirement for tithing stopped after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD. However, the principle and application of the *bread, wine, and tithe* all existed four hundred years *before* there was an exodus from Egypt, four hundred years *before* the law was written at Mount Sinai, and four hundred years *before* a Tabernacle was built in the wilderness.

History reveals that the *bread, wine, and tithe* are all *eternal* elements that symbolize God's/*Elohim eternal* Covenant. For that reason the tithe is *holy*. As Abraham acted before us, the next time we partake of the bread and wine, remember to add our tithe, as it represents the continuation of *the seed by faith in the order of Melchizedek/Yeshua*. Since Abraham is our model, as we walk in his footsteps and enter this next season of our lives may we also fully embrace our birthright with as much anticipation (Matthew 5:23-8:4; 1 Peter 2:9).

The Fourth Covenant: The Covenant With Abraham

Genesis 15:1 “After these things **the word** of the LORD/*Yahweh* came to Abram in a **vision** saying, ‘*Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.*’”

- The Word** is *davar* in Hebrew (Strong's H1697), a masculine noun meaning a *physical* word. John 1:1,14 “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God/Elohim, and the Word was God/Elohim. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*” *Yeshua*.
- Vision** is *mahazen* in Hebrew (Strong's H4236). This word only appears three times in the Old Testament/*Tanakh* and comes from the same Hebrew root word that means light, place of seeing and window (as in the Ark of Noah).
- Shield** is *magen* in Hebrew (Strong's H4043) from the root word describing an enclosure, a garden, a shield, a covering and to deliver up.

While Abraham did not have physical descendants and his next of kin was thought to be his *servant*, he questioned God/*Elohim* on being childless. The Presence of the Word/*Yeshua* came again to Abraham saying,

“And behold, the word of the LORD/*Yahweh* came to him, saying, ‘This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come *from your own body* shall be your heir’” (Genesis 15:4).

The Hebrew literal translation is *but one who will go out of your own bowels*.

Whenever, Scripture begins with *behold* it means to pay attention; you are about to hear a prophetic utterance. *Out of your own bowels* is derived from the Hebrew word *me'eh* (Strong's H4578) meaning: *inward parts, bowels, and reproductive organs*. The other word associated in this grouping is the Hebrew word *ma'a* meaning *grain of sand*.

From the promises given to Abraham in Genesis 15:4, we see that his descendants would be as numerous as the *grains of sand*. Even more importantly was that he would father his child *through Sarah*. Sarah was Abraham's *only* wife; therefore, she was one in flesh with him. Thus, the legally promised child would come through Sarah (Genesis 17:19).

📖 **Genesis 2:24** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

A maidservant is not accorded as *one in flesh*, therefore, would not be the carrier of Abraham's promised child. Only by Sarah would this blessing come, through her son Isaac, the son of promise. Only in Isaac would the Messiah, the seed of Abraham, be fulfilled (Genesis 22:17).

📖 **Genesis 15:5-9** “Then He brought him [*Abraham*] 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 the LORD/*Yahweh*, and He accounted it to him for righteousness” Then He said to him, ‘I am the LORD/*Yahweh*, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.’ And he said, ‘Lord GOD/*Adonia/Elohim*, how shall I know that I will inherit it?’ So He said to him, ‘Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.’” (Romans 4:3,18; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23).

One of the animals Abraham brought was a three-year-old heifer along with a ram, a goat, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. The Hebrew word for heifer in Genesis 15:9 is Strong's H5697 עֵגְלָה *'eglâ* meaning *heifer or young cow*. The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament (TWOT) says Strong's H6510 פָּרָה *pārâ* is a synonym for the word *'eglâ* and is the word for (red) heifer in Numbers 19:2. It also mentions that unlike the word for bull/*pār*, the cow / heifer/*pārâ* was never used in the Tanakh as an animal of sacrifice. The only exception is the red heifer, which was slaughtered and burned outside the camp. Thus, Abraham presented a red heifer in Genesis 15:9. He would have offered it to *God/Elohim* in a clean place outside the camp on the Mount of Olives. There he cut the animals in half and let the blood run down toward the Kidron Valley. As the sun was setting, Abraham fell into a deep sleep and saw the future of his descendants, who would become strangers in another country, enslaved, and mistreated four hundred years. *God/Elohim* would judge that nation, redeeming and delivering His people in the fourth generation by His great power, freeing them and returning them to His land, with great possessions.

📖 **Genesis 15:13-14** “Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.’”

📖 **Exodus 12:40-41** “Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt *was* four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years - on that very same day - it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD/*Yahweh* went out from the land of Egypt.”

🌿 **Galatians 3:16-18, 29** “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/*Messiah*. 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/*Elohim* in Christ/*Messiah*, 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/*Elohim* gave *it* to Abraham by promise.²⁹ And if you *are* Christ’s/*Messiah*’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Genesis 15:13-14).

Once the sun set and darkness came upon the land, God/*Elohim*, in the appearance of a smoking fire pot with a blazing torch, passed between the animal halves. On that day, He made a Covenant with Abraham saying,

“To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites” (Genesis 15:17-21).

It was on this same mountain years later that Abraham knew where he was to go when asked to offer his only son Isaac, as he had been to *that place* before (Genesis 15:9-16; Galatians 3:16-18).

A covenant is not like a contract. A contract can be broken. A covenant stands in eternity, held by God/*Elohim*, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. He alone walked between the pieces before Abraham. Even if Abraham or his descendants should falter, which God/*Elohim* knew would happen, He promised to be faithful *to keep His Covenant of promise with His people*. The Abrahamic Covenant is the Covenant of Salvation all believers are born into and is still an unconditional Covenant, a gift that cannot be earned or broken. This Covenant is not conditional upon Abraham or his descendant’s (believers) actions, behavior, performance or deeds, as this Covenant is *absolute, inalienable, and forever*.

🌿 **Hebrews 6:13** “For when God/*Elohim* made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself (Genesis 15:17).”

The Abrahamic Covenant promised to Abraham and his descendants: a people, a land, and a great blessing. Today believers are learning to walk in the way of the Covenant through a redeemed lifestyle. They are being restored to the same Gospel Abraham walked first with their hearts and then physically. Today, the Nation of Israel (His people) live in approximately one-third of the land promised Abraham. One day, when the descendants of Abraham return to their Covenant, the land will be restored to its Covenantal size.

Hagar And Ishmael Genesis 16

Ten long years had passed since God/*Elohim* first spoke to Abraham about having a child. As Sarah had not yet conceived, *she* concluded that God/*Elohim* had kept her from having children.

It was at this time Sarah's faith would be tested. God/*Elohim* did not give the exact timing of this promised child, and Sarah may have based her expectation on the age of her body. A woman's productive age is on a timeline, and in Sarah's eyes, her childbearing years had passed. Therefore, Sarah began to control the situation, as she thought the only way God/*Elohim* could give them a child would be through another vessel. With that, Sarah made a consequential decision by taking matters into her own hands. Engineering God's/*Elohim* promise on His behalf was an error of judgment that would lead to the future generations of conflict between the children of Isaac and Hagar's descendants.

Lack of faith allows doubt to creep in and blind the heart before seeking God/*Elohim*. It reasons with emotions and fears and makes people initiate plans that take them outside His covenantal goal for their lives. A belief can also build in the mind to the point where it is seen as truth when in reality it is rebellion, intolerance, independence, and self-rule. When people take matters into their own hands, they live in unbelief. Thus, they overlook the fact that God's/*Elohim* timeframe is different than theirs. He is eternal and outside time. Waiting and resting on His plan is what matures His people. We need to ask ourselves: are we bowing to serve ourselves or are we serving God's/*Elohim* plans? The spirit is willing, but the soul may still be undisciplined and cause our thoughts to make preferential decisions in our lives instead of prevailing over our soul and waiting for God's/*Elohim* purpose and destiny in our lives. That is *trusting* faith.

If Sarah were feeling pressured about this promised child, the right position to take would be to receive comfort from her husband and together seek assurance in the prophecy. Abraham on the other hand, was to bring security and confidence to his wife. She needed reassurance in the fact that God/*Elohim* said a servant would never bring forth the promised seed and that she *personally* would bear this promised child. Unfortunately, Abraham wavered in his insecurity. Sarah's impetuosity convinced him to take her Egyptian maidservant Hagar to bear the said promised child. Without weighing her words against God's/*Elohim* promises, Abraham listened to his wife, and soon Hagar conceived a son. We are now shown another dimension that resulted from a hasty decision - the birthing of an entire people group and the forming of many nations bowing down to a counterfeit god (Genesis 15:2-5).

Are We Children Of A Freewoman Or Children Of A Bondwoman?

During Hagar's pregnancy, she and Sarah quarreled. This contentious nature resulted in Hagar being banished from the household. The Angel of God/*Elohim* (Yeshua) found Hagar weeping by a spring of water in the desert. He advised her to return and humble herself to Sarah.

Comment: A Biblical angel is not the traditional white-robed Greek version that flies around with wings. Angel in Hebrew is *malak* meaning messenger, one who is a leader, who communicates the king's wishes, and represents the king as His ambassador (2 Samuel 5:11). In this Scripture, the Angel of God/*Elohim* is Yeshua.

The messenger then spoke prophetically over Hagar and her unborn son saying, "*I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count.*" Then went on to say that the hostility would continue because Ishmael will be born into bondage whereas the promised seed, Isaac, born of freedom (Genesis 16:11-14; Galatians 4:21-31).

Abraham was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him a son. His name was Ishmael, and he became the father of the Arab nations.

✚ **Galatians 4:22** “For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman [*Hagar*], the other by a freewoman [*Sarah*].”

Many believers in the Abrahamic Covenant still live as slaves to their old natures and behave as Hagar and Ishmael. They have been set free by the Messiah’s atoning blood, but still live as indentured servants to their old character. Thus they continue to exhibit the fruit of the flesh such as bitterness, unforgiveness, judgments, resentments, criticisms, grudges, arguments, conflicts, discord, quarrels and keep wrong associations. Subsequently, these attitudes foolishly block the blessings and keep believers in a dormant state. Through *disobedience* of the flesh, believers bring about their own bondage thus they become the children of a bondwoman who struggle through a life of contention that will never end. Without repentance, they will never fully enter into the promises of Abraham because of *their* ungodly order.

On the other hand, Yeshua’s Bride, those who choose to overcome the life of bondage, are not the child of a servant but the children of the freewoman who actively pursue their future in full assurance of His Covenant Kingdom ways. They are the people who eagerly look forward to *That Day*, which is not yet present (Galatians 3:29; 4:21-5:1).

✚ **Galatians 4:28-31** “Now we, brethren, as Isaac *was*, are children of promise. But, as he who was born according to the flesh [*Hagar/Ishmael*] then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit [*Sarah/Isaac*], even so *it is* now. Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? ‘Cast out the bondwoman and her son [*Hagar/Ishmael*], for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.’ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman [*Hagar*] but of the free [*Sarah*].”

✚ **2 Peter 3:10-18** “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth [*the flesh/sinful nature*] and the works that are in it [*the flesh/sinful nature*] will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things [*the flesh/sinful nature*] will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God/*Elohim*, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation - as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall [*sin*] from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

Yeshua's people must be very clear: those who believe in Yeshua are *not* descendants of Hagar, the bondswoman (although her descendants may believe in Yeshua). They are *not* sons and daughters descended from a concubine but are sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah - *the married covenantal chosen couple, who brought forth the promised seed, Isaac.*

Today, if believers listen to end times doom and gloom preachers who regularly teach fear and doubt against God's/Elohim Covenantal promises, they listen to false prophets. False prophets are propagating children of the slave woman *Hagar* who are under the law of sin and death and not raising up children of faith - *free children of Sarah.*

Thirteen Years Later The Sign of the Covenant of Abraham - *Circumcision*

📖 **Genesis 17:1-2** “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD/Yahweh appeared to Abraham saying, ‘I am Almighty God/Elohim; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.’”

Upon hearing this word, Abraham fell on his face. God/Elohim continued by saying...

God's Side Of The Covenant...

“As for Me, behold, My Covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

- No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham;
- For I have made you a father of many nations.
- I will make you exceedingly fruitful;
- And I will make nations of you,
- And kings shall come from you.
- And I will establish My Covenant between Me and you
- And your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting Covenant, to be God/Elohim to you and your descendants after you.
- Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession;
- And I will be their God/Elohim.” (Genesis 17:4-8)

Abraham's Side Of The Covenant...

“As for you Abraham,

- You shall keep My Covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations” (Genesis 17:9)

God/Elohim gave the Covenant to Abraham thirteen years *earlier*. Now God/Elohim was *confirming* that same Covenant with him. If we think the Covenant is asymmetrical, it is. God/Elohim has all of the weight of responsibility on His side. The Abrahamic Covenant is unconditional to Abraham *and* to his descendants. It is a gift of Salvation. Our part is to KEEP it!

The Covenant God/*Elohim* made with Abraham promised:

- A people – an identity
- A land – the Commonwealth of Israel
- A blessing - prosperity

This gift to Abraham is salvation for all who believe in Yeshua. They are the physical (DNA sharing, not merely spiritual) sons of Abraham (Galatians 3:7).

✠ **Galatians 3:7-9, 29** “Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God/*Elohim* would justify the Gentiles [*Nations*] 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.²⁹ And if you *are* Christ’s/*Messiah*’s, then you are Abraham’s seed (Seed: Strong’s G4690 σπέρμα *sperma* meaning physical), and heirs according to the promise.”

Thirteen years later, *to confirm the Covenant*, God/*Elohim* commanded Abraham to initiate circumcision, which was to be the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant. From that time forward every Hebrew male was to be circumcised. With newborn babies, it would be performed on the eighth day after the birth when the baby’s blood had developed sufficient clotting agents (Luke 2:21).

“My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant” (Genesis 17:13).

Paul And The Works Of The Law *The Ritual Application of the Law*

In Paul’s day, some newly converted Jewish believers were improperly teaching Torah. They incorrectly preached that the only way to salvation was through the *ritual application of the law*.

The works of the law are:

- The Sabbath
- Circumcision
- Biblical dietary/*kashrut* laws

These applications of the principles were never intended for the purpose of *salvation* but were designed *to produce a blessing*. Believers *choose* (by free will) to walk in these principles in the Spirit of Yeshua to receive the benefits they hold.

The new believers in Paul’s day were unlearned teaching other unlearned that salvation came through applications of the law. They missed the fact that salvation comes from the Creator, not through works. By insisting people earn their salvation (likened to a contract) the people could not see their Savior *Yeshua* or His Covenant freely promised them through Abraham.

✠ **Galatians 3:7-9, 29** “Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God/*Elohim* would justify the

Gentiles/*Nations* 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. And if you *are* Christ’s/*Messiah*’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Torah contains God’s/*Elohim* 613 principles (teachings and instructions) that govern the earth. Only 217 are applicable when living outside the land. A principle can only become *a law against the people if His people trespass against it*. Otherwise, the principle stays a principle. To miss the mark (principle) by walking outside of His teaching and instruction (that is designed to bless His people) would initiate a curse against them. Therefore, *the activation or deactivation of the law* is in the hands of the people (Deuteronomy 28; Deuteronomy 31:19, 26).

Redemption is about *Covenant* relationship with the Creator of the universe. It is not a *contract* that can be broken, earned, renegotiated or purchased. Redemption is not by works but is a gift. Obedience brings the blessings. Disobedience brings the curse.

✚ “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God/*Elohim*, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

During Paul’s time, many believers had not walked after their circumcision/sanctification. In other words, they had received salvation (*olam haba*/heavenly nature) but were still mixing their *new* walking with their *old* nature (*olam hazeh*). They had access to the *Tree of Life* but were still eating from the *tree of knowledge of good and evil*. Now, with Paul accurately interpreting scripture and educating them in the correct word, they were coming under conviction. That caused many to repent and return to obedience to Yeshua and His Torah principles for their life.

✚ **Romans 4:9-12** “Does this blessedness then *come* upon the circumcised *only*, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had while still* uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, and the father of circumcision to those who not only *are* of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham *had while still* uncircumcised.”

Notice: Paul does not use the Greek word *Gentile/aperitome* to describe Abraham or a believer in any of his dialogue. He reminds his audience that Abraham was uncircumcised when he received the Covenant/Gospel from God/*Elohim*. It was not until thirteen years later that Abraham, the Father of our Faith, became circumcised and bore the sign/seal of his faith as a testimony. Paul noted that he was not talking about one who was still walking outside the Covenant (in corruption rooted in the flesh) nor of one who did not return to the Covenant. Paul was only describing one who was in Covenant or one who had returned to *honor* the Covenant.

Physical circumcision was not an issue for Paul, and it should not be with Yeshua’s people either. Paul helps explain this through his two students: Timothy and Titus. These two men are great examples of the *works of the law* in action:

- *Timothy was circumcised* as an adult to complete his Jewish heritage (Acts 16:1-3).
- *Titus was not circumcised* after he came to faith. He was an Israelite (House of Ephraim) representing the nations returning (Galatians 2:3).

Both Timothy and Titus were legal, “Torah” correct, and amongst Paul’s top advisors. Both men were elders in the *ekklesia*/assembly of believers. Both men traveled extensively teaching other believers in home fellowships, churches, and synagogues correct redemption procedure according to the Torah/*Gospel*. More importantly, both men (*one circumcised and one not circumcised*), were present at all of God’s/*Elohim* Feast days, *including the Passover* (Acts 16:1-3; Galatians 2:3).

“To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God/*Elohim* night and day, hope to attain” (Act 26:7).

The hope of ALL Israel, all twelve tribes, the two Houses of Israel is that of reuniting and become one in the Father’s hand (Romans 9:24; Acts 26:7; Ezekiel 37:15-27).

The Sign Of The Covenant To Abram And Sarai Genesis 17:15-22

The time had come for the promise to be realized in Abram/אַבְרָם and Sarai/שָׂרָי. With that they were given new names: *Abraham* and *Sarah*. The Hebrew letter ה *hei* was inserted into both *AbraHam*/אַבְרָהָם and *SaraH*’s/שָׂרָה names. The letter ה *hei* refers to the Breath of Life/*Yahweh* or the Spirit of God/*Elohim* - that which brings life to dry bones. In Hebrew understanding, this is called *nefesh chaya*. Before walking in honor of God’s/*Elohim* ways (Torah), their lives were dry, lifeless, barren, and unable to reproduce. When they honored His ways, their bodies were then able to produce life and multiply. Once they were infused with the Spirit of Truth and the indwelling characteristics of *the Fruit of the Spirit* - they bore fruit. For all who walk in the redeeming Covenant of Abraham, their generations will also inherit resurrection life just as Abraham and Sarah (1 Peter 1:9-11).

✚ **Galatians 3:29** “If you belong to, Messiah, then you are Abraham’s seed – [*sperma in Greek meaning physical, not spiritual*] - and heirs according to the promise.”

God/*Elohim* then proclaimed that by this same time next year (Passover) Sarah would indeed birth the long awaited promised child. Abraham fell on his face and laughed. He reminded God/*Elohim* that his flesh would be 100 years old and Sarah’s body 90! God/*Elohim* continued saying that Sarah would indeed bear Abraham a son and his name would be called Isaac, meaning “*He Laughs*”! Still, in disbelief, Abraham mentioned Ishmael. God/*Elohim* reminded Abraham that no, the promised son was not Ishmael. He specifically said that Abraham’s *only wife Sarah would unmistakably birth this promised child and that Isaac would be the unquestionable son of the promise and carrier of the Covenant* (Genesis 17:17,17:24).

✚ **Romans 9:6-9** “But it is not that the word of God/*Elohim* has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel, nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of

Abraham; but, *'In Isaac your seed shall be called.'* That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these are *not* the children of God/*Elohim*; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. *For this is the word of promise: 'At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.'*”

God/*Elohim* remembered Ishmael, the son of Sarah’s maidservant, in that he would receive an inheritance and become a great nation of people, the father of twelve rulers. But God/*Elohim* made it very clear that day, that *Isaac* was the *only* promised son of the Covenant who would receive the full inheritance and blessings contained within the Covenant, not Ishmael.

✿ **Genesis 17:23-27** “That very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with money, every male in his household, and circumcised them. Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised and his son Ishmael was thirteen.”

To be continued...

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

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