



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 life span, the Scriptures now trace his son Shem's lineage for ten generations leading to the life of Abraham (*Abram*). We see Yahweh chose Abraham and Sarah and how He caused them to separate from their family, and from the paganized lifestyle of the nations around them (*realm of the olam hazeh*), to become a redeemed people for Himself (*realm of the olam haba*).

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

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

Terah took Abraham, his grandson Lot and his daughter-in-law Sarah from Ur with the intent of going to Canaan. Along the way they stopped in Haran and settled there. While in Haran, Terah died leaving Abraham, Sarah and Lot to continue the journey.

With Abraham, there began a new history in mankind - the history of a monotheistic faith, the worship of the One true God *Yahweh*. This awareness in an omniscience (infinite knowledge), omnipotence (unlimited power) and omnipresence (present everywhere) Creator brought about an observance of His Word.

Through Abraham, Yahweh's Torah (the Gospel) comes to light. This is where our study begins.

- ✠ **Galatians 3:8** "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God 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

“Yahweh’s Presence rests upon man to the extent that man permits. If he observes Yahweh’s 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 Yahweh, the Spirit of Yahweh cannot rest upon him” (Bershit/Genesis by ArtScroll).

🌿 **Genesis 12:1** “Now 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.’”

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

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

Yahweh 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).

This blessing upon Abraham was in preparation for being set apart from a world of commonality, immorality and destruction (*olam hazeh*), to be brought into a world that Yahweh has created for His people. There He would show Abraham His Kingdom, how to walk in it and fully receive the abundant blessings and promises held within it, not only for he and his family, but also to his extended family - those who wished 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).

🌿 **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 Yahweh 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 the 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 Yahweh's Word and walked in it by faith.

“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” (Hebrews 11:1, 8).

Faith is similar to having a camera that takes pictures of the future with you in the picture. In Hebrew this future is called the *olam haba*. We are told Abraham had *faith*; therefore saw his future – the end from the beginning. What did Abraham *see* that he put all of his faith into?

✠ **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 what or *Whom* did Abraham put his faith into?

“*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” (1John 5:6-8 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 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. Thus, when Abraham *saw* the Truth he could put all of his faith in the Gospel and follow 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).

Faith is believing 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 belief was accorded to him as *a man having faith*. By this 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.

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

The fruit of the Spirit is only found in those who are in the Tree of Life. Those who produce this fruit are a people who walk by faith. This fruit also appears in those who have turned away from any one associated with the dark counterfeit lifestyle of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As they know that counterfeit tree is aimed at destroying Yeshua’s spiritual and physical life, enslaving a people to poverty, emotional decay and their eventual death.

✎ **Colossians 3:8-17** “But now you yourselves 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, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ/*Messiah* forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things 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 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 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 *and* 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 Yahweh’s people, otherwise the journey will become more arduous than originally 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 a poor 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. This is where Yahweh *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 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 may not be able to physically see the remains of Abraham’s altar today, it still stands as a spiritual signpost. This altar is the boundary marker representing all of the promises imparted to Abraham and to his future generations - this present generation included. This is why the region around Samaria is hotly debated over today. As Abraham walked the land, his actions literally confirmed the promises to his future generations. In doing this, he claimed the land, the people and the Covenant and no man could refute it from that time forward, as Yahweh’s promises stand firm and are just firm today (Galatians 3:29).

The *Gospel* Given to Abraham

🔥 **Galatians 3:8-9** “And the Scripture [*Yeshua*], foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles [*Yahweh’s 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.***”

Looking at Galatians 3:8-9 again we not only notice that the word/Scripture/*Yeshua* personally spoke to Abraham, but that Abraham was preached the *Gospel*. This reveals that Abraham was a *believer*.

If this is true, and Abraham was taught the Gospel in his day, then this Scripture flies in the face of traditional Christianity. Traditional Christianity teaches a *theory* that the Gospel was first introduced by Jesus Christ in what is called ‘the Gospels’ - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This

theory 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 Himself. Do we think Abraham was given only part of the Gospel or was he given the full understanding of the Gospel? If Yeshua imparted His whole complete Word in Covenant form to Abraham (called the Gospel), then it would have been the complete unabridged version. Not only was the Gospel established in Abraham but also grounded and rooted in all of his descendants after him. If this was true, and the Gospel of Yeshua was given to Abraham, then those established in Abraham would also have been filled with His Truth called the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*. We also see this testimony established in Moses and those (over 600,000) with him at Mount Sinai. 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?’”

Abraham, in Covenant with Yeshua, was the carrier of the Gospel, as was his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob after him. The *Tanakh* is full of men and women who lived by the Gospel and 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 to the Greek minded coming in from the Nations? (Hebrews 11; Romans 11).

🌿 **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 an additional altar and called on the name of Yahweh. This altar again was 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 became so severe that Abraham took his wife *and Lot* into 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 protected Abraham, but still left Sarah vulnerable and unguarded. As suspected, Sarah was indeed procured 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. Yahweh protected Sarah from harm, and Pharaoh released her with an admonishment to Abraham for his not having told the truth in the first place. 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 he returned home Abraham was a very wealthy man. Abraham's period in Egypt was a foreshadowing of the promise Yahweh 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 Yahweh's 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 not only represents the physical land of Israel but also His people Israel. Thus the portrayal Abraham walked is symbolic of His people reclaiming their covenantal inheritance declared in Yeshua's Gospel (Genesis to Revelation) - a walk of obedience - *faith and belief*. For, as the Hebrew people understand, the Land, the Torah (the Gospel) and the People of Israel are all synonymous in Scripture (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** "And when they were departed, behold, the angel of Yahweh appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee 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 into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of Yahweh by the prophet, saying, ‘Out of Egypt have I called my son’” (Hosea 11:1).

When Abraham and Sarah returned, they went by way of the Negev, back to the place where he last offering to Yahweh. There they settled in Bethel and there he called upon the name of Yahweh (Genesis 13:4).

Separation From Lot

Yahweh now leads Abraham into a new season in his life, but first he needed to return to the place where he last disobeyed Yahweh’s instruction and sever 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 Yahweh, nor do we see him seeking Abraham’s council for direction. Rather, he relied on what he was attracted to. Lust of the eye has a very strong pull under the influence of an unredeemed nature (the *olam hazeh*). This led Lot toward the plains, near the wicked city of Sodom. Consequently, Lot 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 Yahweh 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 into the land stopping at the Oaks of Mamre in Hebron. There he built his third altar to Yahweh. It was located in what 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, as the territory he chose to settle in was engulfed in war. The invading army carried off 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 home, the King of Sodom (representing the *olam hazeh* – *common present world - a constant state of decay*) approached him but it was the King of Salem named Melchizedek (*representing the olam haba* – *future*

kingdom/restored/resurrection life) who brought out *bread and wine*. He was the High Priest of Yahweh, who blessed Abraham saying,

- ✠ “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 14:19-20).

The presence of bread and wine symbolizes the *making* of a covenant or the *confirming* of one. It is used several places in Scripture to confirm or appoint His word.

- One example was when Yahweh confirmed His word to the people at Mount Sinai during the *Feast of Shavuot*. The leaders went up the mountain with Moses and Aaron and saw God/*Elohim*. They confirmed the covenant with bread and wine (Exodus 14:18; 24:11).
- Again at the *Passover* supper when Yeshua confirmed the renewing 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 the bounty (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 also sets in motion the priesthood of Yeshua in the order of Melchizedek forever. In addition, the tithe 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 Yahweh’s universal order of sowing, reaping, and multiplication. All of these tithe attributes are building tools essential to 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 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* this, Yahweh then builds His Tabernacle *within His people*, in accordance to their obedience (1 John 5:6-8 KJV/NKJ).

The objective of the tithe commandment is to *increase* Yahweh’s people, not deplete them. If His people say that they believe in Yeshua but have a hard time giving the tithe, then they lack faith 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. Therefore, by not giving the tithe, what we are really saying is *we see the promises unfold in Abraham’s life but we find it hard to trust that Yahweh has made provision for my life*. All through Scripture the tithe was to be given as a *sacred/holy portion*. Tithing is the action of the heart of one who is called to be a priest. This is

the promised seed planted within all believers through Abraham's accountability to Melchizedek. This principle applies to all believers today. The one who chooses to walk in obedience will enter the order of Melchizedek as Abraham did. This is the walk of the Bride of Yeshua (Genesis 14:18-20; Revelation 1:6).

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

History reveals that the *bread, wine and tithe* are all *eternal* elements that symbolize Yahweh's *eternal* Covenant. This is why the tithe is Holy unto Yahweh. As Abraham did before us, the next time we partake in 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*. As Abraham is our Father and our model, may we not despise our birthright but fully embrace and uphold it with great anticipation of entering the next season of our lives, as Abraham did (Matthew 5:23-8:4; 1 Peter 2:9).

The Fourth Covenant: The Covenant With Abraham

Genesis 15:17-21 “**The Word** of Yahweh came to Abram in a **vision**: ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your **shield**, your very 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, and the Word was God. 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 Yahweh 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 literal Hebrew translation is: *but one who will go out of your own bowels*.

Whenever, Scripture begins with *behold*. This means 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* that means *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 own child *through Sarah*. Sarah was Abraham's *only* wife; therefore, she was one in flesh with him. Thus, the legal 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 this promised child. Only by Sarah would this blessing come, through her son Isaac, the son of promise. And 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 before *Yahweh* 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 going down, Abraham fell into a deep sleep and saw the future of his descendants, who would be strangers in another country, enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. *Yahweh* 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.

Once the sun had set and darkness had come upon the land, *Yahweh*, 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 and said,

“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 the Yahweh, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. He alone walked between the pieces. Even if Abraham or his descendants should falter, which Yahweh knew would happen, Yahweh promised to be faithful *to keep His Covenant of promise with His people*. The Abrahamic Covenant is the covenant 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 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 drawn back to the Gospel of the God/*Elohim* of Abraham first in their hearts and then physically. Today, in the Nation of Israel, His people are living 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 passed since Yahweh spoke to Abraham about having a child. As Sarah still had not conceived, *she* concluded that Yahweh had kept her from having children.

This was the time for Sarah's faith to be tested. Yahweh 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 time had passed. Sarah began to control the situation, as she thought the only way Yahweh could possibly give them a child would be through another vessel. With that, Sarah made the grave decision of taking matters into her own hands. Engineering Yahweh's promise on His behalf was an error of judgment that would lead to future generations of conflict between the children of Isaac and Hagar's descendants.

Lack of faith allows doubt to creep in, which blinds the heart. Because of this, His people often do not seek His advice but jump into action led by their emotional response to their anxieties and fears. This action then initiates plans that may take them outside of His original goal for their lives. People can build their minds up to the point where fantasy can become a truth when in reality it is rebellion, intolerance, independence and self-rule. When people take matters into their own hands, they are living in unbelief. Thus they overlook the fact that Yahweh's timeframe is different than theirs. His time clock is eternal and outside of time itself. Waiting and resting on His plan is what matures His people. They need to ask themselves: are they bowing down to serve themselves or are they serving Yahweh's plans? The spirit is willing but the soul

may still be undisciplined and causing our thoughts to make preferential decisions in our lives instead of us prevailing over our soul and waiting upon Yahweh's purpose and destiny for our lives. This is faith.

If Sarah was feeling pressured about this promised child, the right position would be to ask her husband for comfort and reassurance, and to listen to the prophecy again. Abraham on the other hand, as her husband, was to bring security and confidence to his wife. Abraham needed to remind Sarah of the fact that Yahweh said a servant would never bring forth the promised seed and that she would indeed bear this promised child *personally*. Due to Abraham's soft leadership at that time, Sarah became impetuous and convinced him to take her Egyptian maidservant Hagar to bear the said promised child. Abraham, without weighing her words against Yahweh's promises, listened to his wife and soon Hagar conceived a son. We are now given another dimension that resulted from an ungodly hasty decision - that of the birthing of an entire people group forming many nations that bow 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 resulting in Hagar being banished from the household due to a contentious nature. The Angel of Yahweh (Yeshua) found her 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 Yahweh 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, is one born of freedom (Genesis 16:11-14; Galatians 4:21-31).

Through *disobedience* believers also bring about their own bondage. Many believers in the Abrahamic Covenant still live as slaves to their old natures and behave like Hagar. Believers, who have been set free by the Messiah's atoning blood, may still choose to live as indentured servants. They will if they continue to harbor bitterness, unforgiveness, judgments, resentments, criticisms and wrong associations. Those who walk in the immoral and unclean ways or who hold on to grudges, arguments, conflicts, discord or quarrels will never enter into the promises of Abraham, as those attitudes foolishly block the blessings and keep believers in a dormant state. The children of a bondwoman will struggle through a life of contention that will never leave them, as their lives are out of Yahweh's order.

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

✚ **Galatians 4:30-31** “But what does the Scripture say? ‘Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman.’ So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman [*Hagar*], but of the free woman [*Sarah*].”

Yeshua’s people must be very clear: those who believe in Yeshua are *not* descendants of Hagar, the bondwoman (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, who were the married covenantal chosen couple, who brought forth the *promised seed*, Isaac.

Today, if believers listen to end times doom and gloom preachers who constantly teach fear and doubt against Yahweh’s 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*.

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.

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

✚ **Genesis 17: 1-2** “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, Yahweh appeared to Abraham saying, ‘I am Almighty God; 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. Yahweh 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 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.” (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)

Yahweh gave the Covenant to Abraham thirteen years *earlier*. Now Yahweh was *confirming* that same Covenant to him. If we think the Covenant is asymmetrical, it is. Yahweh 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. Our part is to KEEP it!

The Covenant Yahweh made with Abraham promised:

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

This gift to Abraham is also a gift for believers in Yeshua, as they are the physical (DNA sharing, not merely spiritual) sons of Abraham (Galatians 3:7).

Thirteen years later, *to confirm the Covenant*, Yahweh 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 there were some newly converted Jewish believers who were improperly teaching Torah. They were teaching 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 principles of Yahweh were never intended for the purpose of *salvation* but were given for the purpose of *receiving a blessing*. Believers *choose* (by free will) to walk in these principles in the Spirit of Yeshua to receive the blessings they hold.

These new believers in Paul’s day were coming in from the nations and trying to teach other new believers the application of the ritual applications of law, as the way to salvation. By doing this they were making people earn their own salvation through *the works of the law* (like a contract) instead of receiving the salvation of *Yeshua*, as Covenant, a free gift 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 Yahweh’s 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 His principle; otherwise the principle stays a principle. To miss the mark (principle) by walking outside of His teachings and instructions (that are designed to bless them) would initiate a curse against them. Therefore, the activation 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.

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

During Paul’s time there were many believers who 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 off the *tree of knowledge of good and evil*. Now, with Paul accurately interpreting scripture and educating them in the true word, they were coming under conviction. This caused many to repent and return in obedience back 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 here. He reminded his audience that Abraham was uncircumcised when he received the Covenant/Gospel from Yahweh. It was not until thirteen years later that Abraham, the Father of the 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 is in Covenant or one who had returned to *honor* the Covenant.

Physical circumcision was not an issue with 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 were 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 as an Israelite (House of Ephraim/the nations) (Galatians 2:3).

Both men were correct according to the great Rabbi Saul/Paul. Both men were elders in the *ekklesia*/assembly of believers. Both men were among Paul's top advisors and taught other believers in all of the church/synagogues they travelled to. More importantly, these men, *one circumcised* and *one not circumcised*, were both present at all Yahweh's Feast days, including *the Passover* (Acts 16:1-3; Galatians 2:3).

“To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God 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/סָרַי. With that they were given new names: *Abraham* and *Sarah*. The Hebrew letter ה *hei* was inserted into both *Abraham*/אַבְרָהָם and *Sarah*/סָרָה names. The letter ה *hei* refers to the Breath of Life/Yahweh or the Spirit of Yahweh, that which brings life into dry bones. In Hebrew understanding this is called *nefesh chaya*. Before walking in honor to Yahweh's ways (Torah), Abraham and Sarah's bodies were dry and lifeless, barren and not able to reproduce. Once they walked in honor to Yahweh their bodies were then able to produce life and multiply. Then both were infused with the Spirit of Truth and His indwelling characteristics – *the Fruit of the Spirit*. For all who partake and walk on the redemption of the Covenant of Abraham, their generations will also inherit resurrection life, 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.”

Yahweh then announced that by this same time next year (Passover) Sarah would indeed birth the long awaited promised child. At this announcement Abraham fell on his face and laughed. He reminded Yahweh that his flesh would be 100 years old and Sarah's body 90! Yahweh 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. Yahweh reminded Abraham that no, the promised son was not Ishmael and specifically mentioned that this promised child would unmistakably be passed on through *his only wife Sarah, 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.’*”

Yahweh remembered Ishmael, the son of a maidservant, in that he would receive an inheritance and become a great nation of people, the father of twelve rulers. But Yahweh 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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Sheepfold Gleanings written by Julie Parker

Mail: 6655 Royal Avenue; P.O. Box 94014; West Vancouver, BC; V7W 2B0 CANADA

Website: www.sheepfoldgleanings.com **Email:** sheephear@yahoo.ca



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