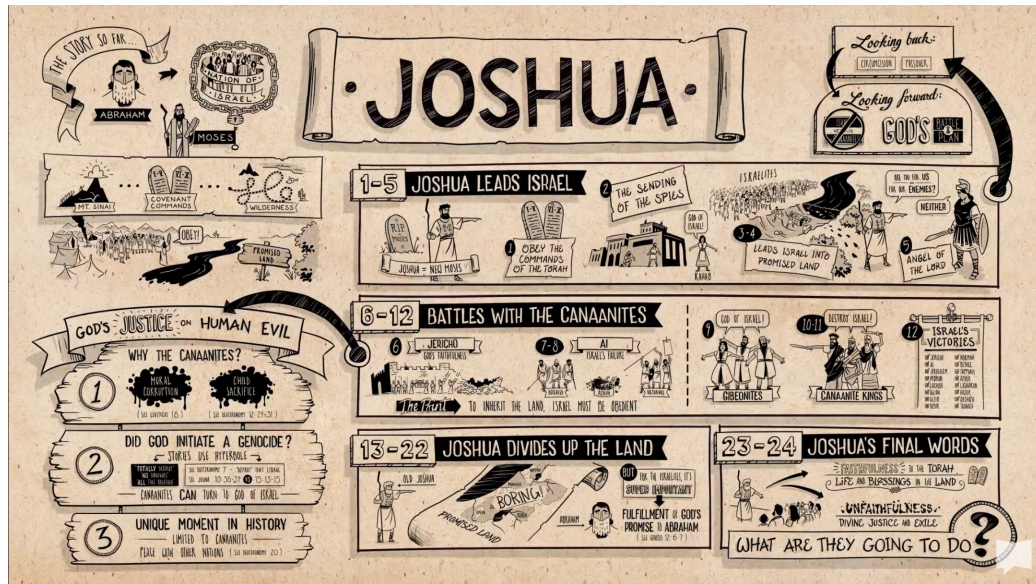


“Entering into New Beginnings” - Part 4

Joshua 3-5:12; Hosea 2-3; Genesis 18:1–22:24; 2 Kings 4:1–37; Hebrews 11:1–40



Abraham's Promise

Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7

The Call of Abram

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Moses Command (Obey the Commands): “Do not acquire the people's practices and gods”

Deuteronomy 12:1-32

The Lord's Chosen Place of Worship

¹ “These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. ² You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. ³ You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire. You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place. ⁴ You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way. ⁵ But you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. There you shall go, ⁶ and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. ⁷ And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

⁸ “You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes, ⁹ for you have not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹⁰ But when you go over the Jordan and live in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and when he gives you rest from all your enemies around, so that you live in safety, ¹¹ then to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name dwell there, there you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, and all your finest vow offerings that you vow to the Lord. ¹² And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male servants and your female servants, and the Levite that is within your towns, since he has no portion or inheritance with you. ¹³ Take care that you do not offer your burnt offerings at any place that you see, ¹⁴ but at the place that the Lord will choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I am commanding you . . .

Warning Against Idolatry

²⁹ “When the Lord your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, ³⁰ take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods?’—that I also may do the same.” ³¹ You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.

³² “Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

Joshua:

Chapters 1-5

1. *Joshua = A New Moses*
2. *Obey the Commands of the Torah*
3. *Sends Spies into the Land*
4. *Leads Israel into the Promise Land over the Jordan River*
5. *(Transitions) Looking Back as God’s Covenant People (New Generation - Circumcision (Heart) & Observe Passover)*

Looking Forward – Encounter with Mysterious Warrior – Angelic Commander of God’s Army:

- Are you for Us or For Our Enemies – Neither – the Fact of the Matter is are you for God or Against God?

Chapters 6-8

6. *Battles with Canaanites (Contrast)*

- Gods’ Faithfulness

God is the one who will deliver his people, God’s people just have to Trust & Wait

- Israeli’s Failure

Humble Repentance Gains the Victory

To Inherit the Land, Israel Must Be Obedient and Trust in God’s Commands. They do not get special treatment.

7. *Why does God declare War?*

Why the Canaanites?

Moral Corruption – Leviticus 18

Child Sacrifice – Deuteronomy 12:29-31

Did God Initiate A Genocide?

Totally Destroy – No Survivors – All That Breathed – Stories Use **Hyperbole**

See Deuteronomy 7 – “Destroy Isn’t Literal

See Joshua 10:36-39 vs. 15:13-15

Unique Moment in History – Limited to Canaanites – Peace With Other Nations – See Deut 20

God’s Justice on Human History – Never to tell you the reader to go commit violence in His name.

Showing God bringing his Justice on Human Evil at a unique moment in history and how he delivered Israel from being annihilated by the Canaanites.

Chapters 13-22

8. *Dividing UP the Land for the 12 Tribes of Israel*

This was the Fulfillment of God’s Promises to Abraham – Genesis 12:6-7

Chapters 23-24

9. *Joshua’s Final Words*

Similar to the Final Speeches of Moses – Two Speeches

Joshua Reminds them of God’s Generosity how he brought them into the Land and Rescued them from the Canaanites, and so he calls them to turn away from the Canaanite gods and be faithful to the Covenant (to the Torah) they made. If they do, it will lead to Life and Blessing to the Land.

But if they are Unfaithful Israel will call down on itself the same Divine Judgment that the Canaanites experienced, they will be kicked off the Land into Exile.

And so, **Joshua leaves Israel with a Choice:** *What is (are they) Israel Going to Do?*

Opening Story:

Reverend Irvin Baxter, Jr. died Tuesday, November 3, 2020, after complications from Covid-19. He was 75.

Baxter was a United Pentecostal Church minister, radio and television host, evangelist, author, and biblical scholar who hosted the internationally syndicated biblical prophecy program, *End of the Age*. Baxter was also the founder and president of Endtime Ministries.

Baxter began ministering as a traveling evangelist at the age of 19 and began pastoring when he was just 26. He served as pastor of Oak Park Church in Richmond, Indiana for 33 years before devoting his full attention to Endtime Ministries.

The television and radio program *End of the Age*, which Baxter began, reaches over 100 million households in North America, in addition to satellite and internet distribution worldwide.

Beyond the broadcast ministry, Baxter also founded *The Israel Project* in 2013. The endeavor includes an online Jerusalem-based Bible school, *Jerusalem Prophecy College*.

Baxter is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Judith Ann Baxter; three adult children, Karla, Kara, and Jana Gayle Robbins (wife of David Robbins, Irvin Baxter’s son-in-law and co-laborer in the End Time ministry (David’s Mentor)); eight grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Transition: *Why tell you this story, other than a current event; it speaks to “The New Beginning” and “How to Enter Into the New Beginnings” that God has Promised Us:*

Entering into New Beginnings

Joshua 1:10-18

Joshua Assumes Command

¹⁰ And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, ¹¹ “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.’”

¹² And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said, ¹³ “Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, ‘The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.’” ¹⁴ Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall HELP THEM, ¹⁵ until the Lord gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.”

¹⁶ And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.” ¹⁷ Just as we **OBEYED** Moses in all things, so we will **OBEY** you. Only may the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses! ¹⁸ **Whoever REBELS AGAINST YOUR COMMANDMENT AND DISOBEYS YOUR WORDS, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.**”

*“I will lead her into the **desert** and **speak** tenderly to her there.” Hosea 2:14 – Read Hosea 2-3*

How are we Called to Enter into New Beginnings?

POINT #1 – Genesis 1:1-4 / Joshua 1:1-2

By Answering and Standing in the Testimony of our Abiding commitment to Follow and Fulfill the Calling of God to cross over from the promises of this world to the promises of God, to enter into a Land Flowing with Milk & Honey, regardless of its opposing Occupation, and begin Conquering what God has Given us in fulfillment of His Purposes, which still stands, by merely obeying the Commands of God, that God might be made evident through our pursuit of Holiness.

How are we Called to Enter into New Beginnings?

POINT #2 – Genesis 1:14-19 / Joshua 1:3-4

By Setting and Establishing God’s Appointed Times as the Divine Light in our daily journey to rehearse and teach the world, in darkness, of the Marvelous Light of God’s “*Redemption of Mankind*” and “*Rest & Refreshment*”, before He had even created man, and even before man had even fallen, and needed God’s Redemption; ultimately walking in the perfect plan and purpose God created from the beginning of time for the Redemption and Salvation of all things, being proclaimed through the Light of the World, God’s Chosen People.

How are we Called to Enter into New Beginnings?

POINT #3 – Genesis 1:26-28 / Joshua 1:5

By allowing God to **BREATH** His identity in a name change and destiny, from singular, separate from God, to now plural, united with God, changing us from “Disciples” to “Disciple Makers”, Fruitful, creating us one, and then split into two, thus, man and woman cleave to each other and become one; a photograph or making a photocopy as the image of God.

How are we Called to Enter into New Beginnings?

POINT #4 – Genesis 2:1-3 / Joshua 1:6-7

The Seventh Day, God Rests

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

How are we Called to Enter into New Beginnings?

POINT #5 – Genesis 2:15-17 / Joshua 1:8

I will make a **Helper** fit for him.

How are we Called to Enter into New Beginnings?

POINT #6 – Genesis 4:2-7 / Joshua 1:9

If you **do well**, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouched at the door . . . **BUT YOU MUST RULE OVER IT.**

How are we Called to Enter into New Beginnings?

POINT #7 – Genesis 5:21-27 / Joshua 1:10-18

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered **Methuselah**. ²² Enoch walked with God after he fathered **Methuselah** 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

²⁵ When **Methuselah** had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. ²⁶ Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷ Thus all the days of **Methuselah** were 969 years, and he died.

How are we Called to Enter into New Beginnings?

POINT #8 – Genesis 6 / Joshua 2 (Rahab Hides the Spies)

By Building our Ark of Salvation and Redemption through our Walk and Faith with Jesus Christ, Ready for the Coming Judgment, Salvation, and Redemption of God.

The Blue Print of God’s Plan of Redemption of Mankind throughout Biblical History, and a foreshadowing of the Timeline during the 2nd Coming of the Messiah:

Noah Builds the Ark

1. Scripture tells us that Noah, a ninth-generation descendant of Adam and Eve, was a righteous and upright man. **G-d informed Noah of his plans** to eradicate mankind due to their evil ways, and instructed him to build an ark, in which he and his family were to take refuge.
2. **G-d always provides a Renewed Covenant to reunite (“Return”) into Right Relationship with G-d:** Joining them in the ark would be a select few creatures of every species (other than fish, that survived the Flood unscathed): two from every non-kosher animal, and seven (or fourteen⁴) of every kosher animal.
3. **G-d is Long Suffering, desiring that None Perish, providing an opportunity for all mankind to have an opportunity to “Return” to Him; and Providing a Rapture or Covering from the Wrath of God for Salvation:** The ark took Noah no less than 120 years to build, allowing plenty of time for onlookers to query his actions, be told of the impending calamity, and change their ways. Unfortunately, such repentance never came to pass.
4. **G-d has provided the Way for Salvation and Redemption before Man was even Created, and continues to Reveal and Uncover that Salvation and Redemption throughout the course and history of mankind, that None Should Perish:** The ark took Noah no less than 120 years to build, allowing plenty of time for onlookers to query his actions, be told of the

- **The message proclaimed is the gospel ... the “good news” of how to make peace with God. This takes us back to the story of Noah who released a dove (Jonah) three times (Genesis 8:8-12). The first time the dove returned to Noah, the second time the dove brought an olive branch back to Noah and the third time the dove did not return.** The olive branch that the dove carried in its mouth was the symbol of peace, the same message that the Holy Spirit is speaking through the mouths of Christians.
- **In the story of Jonah, God sent Jonah (dove or Holy Spirit) the first time and he experienced three days and nights in the belly of the fish.** This is indicative of the Lord Jesus Christ, who had the dove descend upon Him at His baptism, declared that the Kingdom of God was at hand and **spent three days and nights in the grave.**
- **God sent Jonah a second time and he preached to the gentile city of Nineveh “Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying ...” (Jonah 3:1) This is indicative of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Church at Pentecost. The message that has been preached for the last two thousand years has primarily been to the gentiles.**
- **God will send the Holy Spirit (dove or Jonah) the third time. We see this beginning to happen immediately prior to the sounding of the seventh (last) trumpet in the book of Revelation:**

Revelation 11:15-19

The Seventh Trumpet

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying,

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,

who is and who was,
for you have taken your great power
and begun to reign.

¹⁸ The nations raged,
but your wrath came,
and the time for the dead to be judged,
and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,
and those who fear your name,
both small and great,
and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

¹⁹ Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings,^[a] peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

- The three-day walk through Nineveh is prophetic in that it will take three days (3x1000-years – “But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day,” **2 Peter 3:8**) to reach all the gentiles.
- **On the first day** that Jonah preached, the gentiles repented then he went out of the city and built a shelter. **This is indicative of the initial preaching of the gospel by Christians when gentiles repented and were reconciled to God.**
- **On the second day** God caused a plant to grow up to shade Jonah from the heat of the day. **Christians no longer suffered extreme persecution.**
- **On the third day** Jonah’s plant withered. **It serves as a warning sign to Christians that they are losing compassion for the lost.**

God Gives Second Chances

Like the Israelites, some of us might go through periods of our lives where we descend into sin or fall away from the Lord, but **God promises the hope of restoration and renewal if we will agree to come back into His presence in repentance to find forgiveness.**

5. **G-d is continually giving opportunity to Set People apart from the Wrath of God, towards His Purification, that He might have Fellowship with Mankind for the Unification and Future Betrothal of a Holy Bride:**

Deluge of Purity

At first glance, the Flood appears to have been an act of cosmic wrath. But *the Rabbis* teaches that the foremost energy that guides the cosmos is that of goodness and compassion (*chesed*). Wrath is incompatible with this spiritual posture. There is clearly something much more sublime in the account of the Flood.

Rabbinic teaching describes the Flood as a cleansing process. The waters of the Flood are like the waters of a ritual bath – a *mikvah* – where the waters spiritually cleanse the one who enters it. The world similarly received a spiritual cleansing, setting the course of history on a course of hope and purpose. And just as a *mikvah* must contain 40 *seah* (or in English just over 66 gallons), so did the rains of the Flood last for forty days.

6. **G-d has given us a Mission, until our Full Redemption, to Feed Mankind, not with Bread Alone, but by Every Word that proceeds out of the Mouth of God:**

Life in the ark was no picnic. The Midrash relates that throughout their year-long sojourn in the ark, Noah and his sons barely slept, as they were completely preoccupied with feeding the animals and birds. Each animal needed to be given its specific nourishment at an exact time during the day.⁹

5. **G-d has provided through His teaching and instruction for Mankind to Enter into and Experience the Future Redemption of G-d:**

How did the ark manage to contain hundreds of thousands of species of animal life, not to mention the food necessary to feed them for a full year? The ark was miraculous in nature, allowing for a shipload far beyond the ark’s dimensions.

This also explains how carnivorous animals were able to coexist with their prey. Chassidic teachings explain that **Noah’s ark evoked the time of the future Redemption**, when “the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall crouch with the kid.”

6. **G-d is continually giving opportunity to Set People apart from the Wrath of God, towards His Purification, that He might have Fellowship with Mankind for the Unification and Future Betrothal of a Holy Bride:**

The Flood: A Timeline

The following is a chronology of the Flood, as indicated by the dates and time periods given in the Torah’s account:

Cheshvan 17 (mid-fall): Noah enters ark; rains begin. (i.e. November 4, 2020)

Kislev 27 (early winter): Forty days of rain end; beginning of 150 days of water’s swelling and churning.

Sivan 1 (early summer): Water calms and begins to subside at the rate of one cubit every four days.

Sivan 17: The bottom of the ark, submerged 11 cubits beneath the surface, touches down on the top of the mountains of Ararat.

Av 1 (summer): The mountain peaks break the water’s surface.

Elul 10 (late summer): Forty days after the mountain peaks become visible, Noah opens the ark’s window and dispatches a raven.

Elul 17: Noah sends the dove for the first time.

Elul 23: The dove is sent a second time, and returns with an olive leaf in its beak.

Tishri 1 (early fall): Dove’s third mission. Water completely drained. – **The Feast of Trumpets**

Cheshvan 27: Ground fully dried. Noah exits ark. (i.e. November 14, 2020)

The total time Noah spent in the ark was 365 days (one solar year; one year and 11 days on the lunar calendar).

7. **G-d has Given Us His Great Commission to “God . . . Make Disciples”:**

Genesis 9:7

And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”

8. **G-d has Given Us His Forever Covenant that He has Overcome the World, if we would only Rest in His Promises/Covenant:**

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Covenant

Two Elements

Contractual (You do this I will do this)

Unconditional (Commitment)

Actualize it in life: **“Remember”** (God is going to identify with the nature of humanity (not to destroy us again), and our obligations with God that have consequences.

Always bring to Action, trigger to redemption from God’s perspective, and a trigger to right action from a humans perspective.

The Righteous is not what saves the World, but rather the Righteous Reminds us what the World is all about.

God sets a rainbow in the sky as a sign of the covenant (**ot brit** / **אות ברית**) with all people of the earth: “*I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.*” **Genesis 9:13**

2 Peter 3

The Day of the Lord Will Come

¹ This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Final Words

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

This is not the only covenant that God has made. Other covenants were to follow, and each one comes with its own particular sign (**ot**). The sign of the Abrahamic covenant is circumcision of all male infants on the eighth day. The sign of the Mosaic covenant is the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath. – **A Renewal of Covenant, not a New Covenant!**

Jesus said that the great hallmark of faith in Him — of having the Torah written inside our hearts and minds in the Brit Chadashah (“A Renewed” (New) Covenant) — is love:

“By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” (*John 13:35*)

Jeremiah 31:31

The New Covenant

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a **NEW** covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

New (chadash (2319) – new): a new spirit (“²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God,” Ezekiel 36:26-28); fresh, new thing.

From chadash:

Fresh, new thing (chadash (2318) – to renew, repair): renew (5), renewed (1), repair (1), restore (3), restored; Make anew; to be new; causatively; to be rebuild; bring back (*bringest fresh (new) witnesses*). i.e. Psalm 103:5 *thy youth reneweth itself, like the eagle*.

While Noah saved himself and his family, Messiah Yeshua is the Saviour of the world.

The Coming Judgment

Just like the flood in the days of Noah, in the end times, judgment will come suddenly (*Matthew 24:36–41*).

But those who know the Lord need not fear, for He will provide a safe shelter, a teivah, from the raging storm of tribulation just as He provided the ark for Noah and his family.

The prophet Isaiah wrote,

“Come, My people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past.” (*Isaiah 26:20*)

May we emerge from the Ark of God’s shelter in the unity of faith to establish the new heavens and the new earth of peace and righteousness and justice under the rule of the Messiah, Yeshua.

9. **G-d has Forward us that a Future Delusion to Test the Hearts of Mankind to see if they are For Him or Against Him, through One Language, once again, the Mark of the Beast, allowing those who posses the Mark with the ability to Buy or Sale, ending in Eternal Damnation, while those who do not accept the Mark of the Beast, to Trust God for His Eternal Provision, in spite of the Greatest Persecution of G-d’s People, Unmatched to any time ever in History:**

Genesis 11:1-9

The Tower of Babel

11 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” ⁵ And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶ And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸ So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused^[a] the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Covenant/PROMISE Review:

The Covenant of God and the Promised Land

“Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.” (Genesis 12:6)

Abram and his wife, Sarai, become the first settlers of the Holy Land by packing up their belongings and homesteading in Elon Moreh, near Shechem (modern day Nablus).

God, the original Zionist, made an eternal promise to give the Land to Abram and his offspring: “To your offspring will I give this land.” (Genesis 12:7)

At that time, the Canaanites controlled the land; nevertheless, God reassured Abram that it would one day belong to his offspring — the Jewish People.

Only if God breaks His covenant.

“‘Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,’ says the LORD, who has compassion on you.” (Isaiah 54:10)

God made more than a promise to Abraham. He made a blood covenant. That covenant included giving this land to Abraham’s descendants through Isaac and Jacob as an eternal inheritance:

To Abraham:

“I will establish My covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.” (Genesis 17:7–8)

To Isaac:

“To you [Isaac] and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham.” (Genesis 26:3)

To Jacob:

“I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you [Jacob] and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and ... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.” (Genesis 28:13–14)

Abram had to do nothing to establish this covenant with God. In fact, in Chapter 15 of Genesis, God alone walked through the animals that Abraham offered, indicating that **the covenant he cut with Abraham was unconditional.**

God actually caused a deep sleep to fall on Abram when He made the covenant with him, probably to emphasize that God alone is making this unconditional promise and also to prevent Abram from walking through it (Genesis 15:8–20). **In ancient covenant practices, both parties would walk through the offering if it were conditional.**

With so many Scriptures declaring God’s everlasting promise, our claim to this land is not political, but by Divine right.

Hebrews 4:1-13

¹ Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened . . .

⁶ Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.”

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Of course, there is great opposition to God's Word. The Canaanites had their weapons and allies, and so do the enemies of Israel today; both gained some temporary victories in their efforts to claim the land as their own but, ultimately, **God owns the land and can give it to whomever He wishes.**

His everlasting covenant with Abraham will stand.

“JUST AS I PROMISED TO MOSES”

Joshua 1:1-3

God Commissions Joshua

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ² **“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, JUST AS I PROMISED TO MOSES (i.e. prophecy given to Mike/Father: this message will go around the World – Philadelphia given to accomplish this PROPHECY given to my Father/Mike).**

Joshua 3:1-6

Israel Crosses the Jordan

¹ Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. ² At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³ and commanded the people, “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. ⁴ Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits (3,000 feet – nearly ½ mile) in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before.” ⁵ Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate (set your selves apart for God's purposes) yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” ⁶ And Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

Joshua 3:1 (rose early . . . Abraham rose early – parallel)

3:2 (it came to pass after three days . . . Mt Saini consecrated 3 days . . . the most transformation experience that ever happened to the Jewish people . . . **get ready for the next one . . . new Era of Revelation . . . A New Relationship . . .**

We are going places where no man has gone before)

The Ark of the Covenant (replaced the Clouds of Glory in the Wilderness . . . representing the affection and closeness that God had with His people . . . The Ark is very Visible whereas the Cloud was very spiritual)

2000 cubic distance (to prevent idolatry . . . keep your distance from them (there are two Arks . . . the first Ark is the Ark of the Covenant . . . **the second was the Ark that carried the bones of Joseph . . . Joseph bent his will for God's will . . .** therefore the who are referenced as one).

You are going to places you have never gone before . . . follow the Ark (who is related to Joseph the Righteous) . . . next Chapter a New Era . . . the Exodus from the Wilderness into the Land of Israel/Paralleled by Israel's Exodus from Egypt into the Wilderness . . . Joshua asked to take his shoes off to Moses before the Burning Bush . . . no circumcision in the Wilderness . . . no Passover . . .

Genesis 50:18-26

¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

The Death of Joseph

²² So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years. ²³ And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own. ²⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” ²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and **you shall carry up my bones from here.**” ²⁶ So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Joseph’s directive is an interesting one. It is not surprising that Joseph would want to be buried in the Land of Israel, not in Egypt. He could, however, have asked to be taken to be buried there immediately after his death, as Jacob did. Joseph certainly had the political clout to make that request. **He chose, however, to do something different. Rather than looking at the past, he looked ahead.** The promise that he secured from the Israelites was a combination of promise and prophecy. This promise included an assumption that the time would come that they would leave Egypt. Proper burial was incredibly important in the Bible. Joseph was willing to base his future resting place on his belief that his people would leave Egypt. Therefore, carrying his bones was not only the fulfillment of a promise, it was a statement that this action was a part of a longer process: the fulfillment of God’s promise.

Taking actions as a statement about the future is a running theme throughout the Bible. While they are about to be exiled to Babylonia, Jeremiah is told to buy land in Israel, a statement of hope in the future [Jeremiah 32:6]. Isaiah is told to make certain prophecies not to effect change in the present, but rather to show later that the prophecies were accurate [Isaiah 6:9]. The Bible is concerned with **continuity** (endurance, continuousness, permanency, stability) in history. History is the arena where God acts, so showing **continuity** (endurance, continuousness, permanency, stability) **in history is a way of showing faith in God.**

Thus, while God makes sure that the Exodus happens, and that the Israelites leave Egypt, Moses takes the most significant step he could, redeeming Joseph’s bones. **Carrying those bones was a way of saying that while leaving Egypt may be overwhelming and scary, the Israelites had absolute confidence that they will end up, as God promised, in the Land of Israel. . . . a metaphor for a willingness to see beyond the present reality and have faith in the future.**

Although the discussion is about Joseph’s bones, Joseph was embalmed. Moses should be speaking about carrying his body, but the emphasis is on bones. Embalming is particularly Egyptian. Ignoring the embalming is part of leaving Egypt behind as the people set out to their particularly Israelite future.

. . . Joseph’s request, and Moses’ fulfillment of that request, are all the metaphor we need for a combination of confidence, hope and action. **May we strive to have Joseph’s faith and confidence and Moses’ understanding of the long arc of history, in our lives and in our work, as individuals and as a people.**

<https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/the-bones-of-joseph/>

Joshua 3:7-13

⁷ The Lord said to Joshua, **“Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.”** ⁸ And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, **“When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.”** ⁹ And Joshua said to the people of Israel, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God.” ¹⁰ And Joshua said, **“Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites.”** ¹¹ **Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan.** ¹² Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. ¹³ **And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap.”**

Joshua 3:14-17

¹⁴ So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵ and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), ¹⁶ the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. **And the people passed over opposite Jericho.** ¹⁷ **Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan,** and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

Joshua 4

Twelve Memorial Stones from the Jordan

¹ When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, ² “Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, ³ and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests’ feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.’” ⁴ Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. ⁵ And Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, ⁶ that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ ⁷ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”

⁸ And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the Lord told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there. ⁹ And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the covenant had stood; and they are there to this day. ¹⁰ For the priests bearing the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the Lord commanded Joshua to tell the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua. **The people passed over in haste.** ¹¹ And when all the people had finished passing over, the ark of the Lord and the priests passed over before the people. ¹² The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh passed over armed before the people of Israel, as Moses had told them. ¹³ About **40,000 ready for war passed over before the Lord for battle**, to the plains of Jericho. ¹⁴ **On that day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel**, and they stood in awe of him just as they had stood in awe of Moses, all the days of his life. ¹⁵ And the Lord said to Joshua, ¹⁶ “Command the priests bearing the ark of the testimony to come up out of the Jordan.” ¹⁷ So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.” ¹⁸ And when the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord came up from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up on dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before. ¹⁹ The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they encamped at Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. ²⁰ And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. ²¹ And he said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ²² then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’ ²³ For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, ²⁴ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.”

**Week 3 (in Review) - LECH LECHA (GO FORTH!)
Genesis 12:1–17:27; Isaiah 40:27–41:16; Matthew 1:1–17**

“Adonai said to Abram, **‘Go forth** [lech lecha] **from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you ... and I will bless you.**” (Genesis 12:1–2)

Follow Me and I will show you How God’s World Works, and you will be Blessed!

Our last *Scripture* reading, Noach (Noah), concluded with a genealogy of Shem, Noah’s son. That genealogy ended with Terah, father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. Terah took his son Abram and Abram’s wife Sarai, as well as Lot, son of Haran, who had died, out of Ur of the Chaldeans and headed toward the Land of Canaan.

Instead of reaching their destination, however, they settled at Haran where Terah lived out the rest of his days

In this week’s *Reading*, at God’s command, **ABRAM CARRIES ON WITH HIS FATHER’S UNFINISHED MISSION – to reach the Land of Canaan**, the name given to the Promised Land at this time.

**Week 4 - VAYERA (And He Appeared)
Genesis 18:1–22:24; 2 Kings 4:1–37; Hebrews 11:1–40**

“The LORD **APPEARED** [vayera] to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.” (Genesis 18:1)

In last week’s *Reading*, GO FORTH! (Lech Lecha), God sealed His Covenant with Abram, which promised the Land to his descendants as an eternal heritage.

This week’s Reading contains more angelic activity than any of the other Parashot. Angels appear to Abraham as men, bringing messages to him and Sarah of future events to come. They also save Lot from a hostile mob, lead Hagar to water for her son, and comfort her with the promise of Ishmael becoming a great nation.

Later in the *Reading*, the angels also prevent Abraham from sacrificing his son, Isaac.

This week’s Parasha is entitled **vayera** (וַיֵּרָא), which means **appeared**. **It is called that because Abraham receives in the plains of Mamre in Hebron three mysterious guests.**

It seems that God is visiting Abraham while he is convalescing from his Brit Milah or circumcision (at age 100 years old), which had occurred three days prior. Despite his discomfort, Abraham graciously attends to his guests.

We can be assured that God sees when we are ill, and He is present to comfort and minister to us. Furthermore, **angels are still active today to protect, save, help, warn, and encourage us.**

“The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.” (Psalm 34:7)

The Covenant of Circumcision

Joshua 5

The New Generation Circumcised

¹ As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.

² At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time.” ³ So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. ⁴ And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt. ⁵ Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. ⁶ For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord; the Lord swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷ So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised. For they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

⁸ When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. ⁹ And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

First Passover in Canaan

¹⁰ While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

The **Covenant of Circumcision** (Brit Milah) is Judaism’s oldest ritual. It is the only mitzvah (**commandment**) that was carried out communally by the Israelites before entering the Promised Land. In fact, **God commanded Joshua to take flint knives in order to circumcise their sons because this covenant had not been exercised during the desert wanderings.**

“Then Joshua circumcised their sons whom He raised up in their place; **for they were uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way.** So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that **they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed.** **Then the LORD said to Joshua, ‘This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.’”** (*Joshua 5:7–9*)

The Talmud (Jewish Oral Law) considers the milah (from the verb la’mul meaning to circumcise) to be equal to all the other 612 commands.

While anyone can be circumcised simply for health reasons, when a Jewish person fulfills this commandment in order to be in covenant with God, it elevates the circumcision as an **act of holiness**. **The Covenant of Circumcision represents our bond with Adonai.**

Although the commandment to the Jewish People to circumcise their sons on the 8th day still holds true, the Torah tells us that God will circumcise our hearts and those of our descendants — to love and obey Him — when we come back into the Land:

“The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love Him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.” (*Deuteronomy 30:6*)

The ancient Hebrew prophet, Jeremiah, also called the Jewish People to circumcise their hearts:

“Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest My wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds.” (*Jeremiah 4:4*)

The issue of circumcision extends far beyond the physical and becomes a crucial matter of the heart.

The circumcision of the heart is not done with human hands but is only accomplished by the faithful working of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) in the lives of those who follow Yeshua (Jesus).

“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Messiah.” (*Colossians 2:11*)

This is not the only covenant that God has made. Other covenants were to follow, and each one comes with its own particular sign (**ot**). The sign of the Abrahamic covenant is circumcision of all male infants on the eighth day. The sign of the Mosaic covenant is the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath. – **A Renewal of Covenant, not a New Covenant!**

Jesus said that the great hallmark of faith in Him — of having the Torah written inside our hearts and minds in the Brit Chadashah (“A Renewed” (New) Covenant) — is love:

“By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” (*John 13:35*)

Jeremiah 31:31

The New Covenant

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a **NEW** covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

New (chadash (2319) – new): a new spirit (“²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God,” Ezekiel 36:26-28); fresh, new thing.

From *chadash*:

Fresh, new thing (chadash (2318) – to renew, repair): renew (5), renewed (1), repair (1), restore (3), restored; Make anew; to be new; causatively; to be rebuild; bring back (*bringest fresh (new) witnesses*). i.e. *Psalm 103:5 thy youth reneweth itself, like the eagle.*

Children of Promise

While entertaining angels, Abraham learns that Sarah, who is 90, would give birth to a son, despite her old age.

In fact, **Abraham is 100 years old when Isaac was born.**

They call him Yitzchak (**Isaac**) from the Hebrew word for **laugh** — **tzchok**, because Sarah laughed when she overheard what the angel prophesied.

But when Yitzchak is born, that laughter turns from mockery to joy and delight. “Sarah said, ‘God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.’” (*Genesis 21:6*)

This contrasts the birth of Ishmael, which brought strife and sorrow, although Abraham obviously loved him deeply, and God had promised to make him into a nation.

Things birthed of the flesh most often bring strife and frustration, but when the Spirit of God gives birth to something in our lives, it BRINGS JOY and laughter, not only to us but to others as well.

God clearly tells Abraham and Sarah that although he will bless Ishmael (i.e. (personal message) Philadelphia Church) and make him into a great nation, **the covenant will pass THROUGH THE LINEAGE OF ISAAC (i.e. (personal message) Discipleship).** Isaac will inherit the Promised Land.

To protect Isaac and the covenant, Ishmael, son of the bondwoman, **Hagar (i.e. (personal message) Philadelphia Church), is sent away with his mother into the wilderness where he will learn to foster a relationship with God by calling out to Him on his own.**

“God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, ‘What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; **God has heard the boy crying** as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.’” (*Genesis 21:17–18*)

Still, Abraham’s faith is tested in a much deeper way. In Chapter 22, of this Parasha, God calls him to offer **Isaac as a sacrifice (i.e. (personal message) Discipleship – the Past 2 years).**

“Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, even Isaac, and go into the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell you of.” (*Genesis 22:3*)

From the beginning, Abraham trusted God, despite the enormity of God’s command. Perhaps, one of the ways he had been schooled in that trust was the sending away of his son Ishmael.

That trust is evident when Isaac asked, “Where is the lamb (seh)?” Abraham told him that God will provide the Lamb. Yet, for the sake of Isaac, God provided (God will Provide) not a lamb, but a ram (ayil). (Genesis 22:13)

Because of Abraham’s faith and trust in God, He provided a substitute sacrifice for Isaac. Likewise, **God Himself PROVIDE A SUBSTITUTE sacrifice for the sins of all who share in the faith of Abraham.**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His son, His only son (whom He loved) so that whoever would believe on Him would not perish but have eternal life.” (*John 3:16*)