

## Timeline of God's dealings with Abram (Abraham) Genesis 12-22

Genesis 12:1-4 The LORD had said to Abram, **"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. (2) "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."** (4) So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.

Genesis 12:6-7 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. (7) The LORD appeared to Abram and said, **"To your offspring I will give this land."** So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 12:8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. **There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.**

Genesis 13:3-4 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier (4) and where he had first built an altar. **There Abram called on the name of the LORD.**

Genesis 13:12-18 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. (13) Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD. (14) The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, **"Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. (15) All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. (16) I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. (17) Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."** (18) So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

Genesis 15:1-21 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: **"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."** (2) But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" (3) And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." (4) Then the word of the LORD came to him: **"This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."** (5) He took him outside and said, **"Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them."** Then he said to him, **"So shall your offspring be."** (6) Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. (7) He also said to him, **"I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."** (8) But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" (9) So the LORD said to him, **"Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."** (10) Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. (11) Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. (12) As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. (13) Then the LORD said to him, **"Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. (14) But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come**

out with great possessions. (15) You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. (16) In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." (17) When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. (18) On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, **"To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates-- (19) the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, (20) Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, (21) Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."**

Genesis 17:1-22 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, **"I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. (2) I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."** (3) Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, (4) **"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. (5) No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. (6) I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. (7) 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. (8) The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."** (9) Then God said to Abraham, **"As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. (10) This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. (11) You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. (12) For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner--those who are not your offspring. (13) Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. (14) Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."** (15) God also said to Abraham, **"As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. (16) I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."** (17) Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, **"Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"** (18) And Abraham said to God, **"If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"** (19) Then God said, **"Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. (20) And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. (21) But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."** (22) When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

Genesis 18:10 Then the LORD said, **"I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."** Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Genesis 18:11-14 Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. (12) So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?" (13) Then the LORD said to Abraham, **"Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' (14) Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son."**

Genesis 18:17-33 Then the LORD said, **"Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? (18) Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. (19) For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."** (20) Then the LORD said, **"The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous (21) that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."** (22) The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. (23) Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? (24) What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? (25) Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (26) The LORD said, **"If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."** (27) Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, (28) what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city because of five people?" **"If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."** (29) Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, **"For the sake of forty, I will not do it."** (30) Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?" He answered, **"I will not do it if I find thirty there."** (31) Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?" He said, **"For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."** (32) Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, **"For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."** (33) When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

Genesis 21:1-7 **Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised.** (2) Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. (3) Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. (4) When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. (5) Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. (6) Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." (7) And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Genesis 21:12-13 But God said to him, **"Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. (13) I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring."**

Genesis 21:33 **Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called upon the name of the LORD, the Eternal God.**

Genesis 22:1-18 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "**Abraham!**" "Here I am," he replied. (2) Then God said, "**Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.**" (3) Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. (4) **On the third day** Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. (5) He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. **We will worship and then we will come back to you.**" (6) Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, (7) Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" (8) Abraham answered, "**God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.**" And the two of them went on together. (9) When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. (10) Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. (11) But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "**Abraham! Abraham!**" "Here I am," he replied. (12) "**Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.**" (13) Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering **instead** of his son. (14) So Abraham called that place **The LORD Will Provide**. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." (15) The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time (16) and said, "**I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, (17) I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, (18) and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.**"

#### **The Author of Hebrews elaborates on this account:**

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:8-12 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. (9) By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. (10) For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (11) By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. (12) And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, (18) even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." (19) **Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.**