

Sunday April 23, 2023

Judge Gideon & His Sheepskin



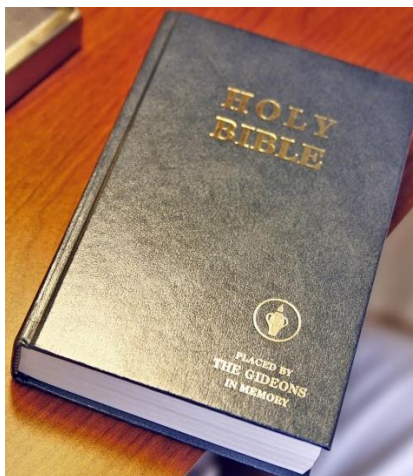
The Good News Story – Tracing the **Scarlet Thread of Covenant Redemption from Genesis to Revelation**

Some material adapted from:

1. H.L. Wilmington. 'Wilmington's Guide to the Bible'. Tyndale
2. Elmer Towns. History Makers of the Old Testament. Victor Books
3. Orality Bible Stories". Kevin Olson. 2014 Ambassador Institute.
4. Stringfellow, Allen. B. Through the Bible in One Year. Vol. 2. Bible Characters. Hensley Press
5. Jim Townsend. O.T. Highlights. David C. Cook Press.
6. Chris Tiegreen. Story Thru the Bible. NavPress.
7. <https://biblestuff.wordpress.com/2011/03/24/moses-vs-joshua/>

So what do you know about Gideon?

Maybe you think he published the best known bibles in the world?



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Well, today, we are learning about the Old Testament man named Gideon.

Let's put today's story into a possible timeframe reference. *(An exact timeline is very difficult to ascertain)*

- Abraham @2000BC
- Moses & the Exodus @ 1446BC – 1406BC
- Joshua's Rule @ 1406BC – 1381BC
- Time of the Judges @ 1376BC-1012(30)BC ^(300+yrs)

1 Kings 6:1 indicates that 480 years elapsed between when the Hebrews left Egypt and King Solomon began work on the Temple (@966BC). So in that 480 year period we have the Wilderness Wanderings, The Years of Conquest with Joshua, the period of the Judges and the 40 year reign of King Saul and King David, and 4 years of King Solomon.



JOSHUA DIES (CA. 1376 BC)	DEFEAT	DISOBEDIENCE				DISGRACE	SAMUEL BECOMES JUDGE (CA. 1075 BC)
	Judges 1-2	Judges 3-16				Judges 17-21	
	Defeat (ch. 1) Review (ch. 2)	Cycles of Misery Disobedience, Bondage, Misery, Liberation, Rest, Compromises				Micah (ch. 17) Tribe of Dan (ch. 18) Levite and concubine (ch. 19) Civil war (ch. 20) Downward spiral (ch. 21)	
	Causes of Failure	Courses of Failure				Curses from Failure	
	Incomplete obedience (1:1-2:5) Idolatry (2:6-3:4) Intermarriage (3:5-6)	ARAMEANS 8 years OTHNIEL (3:9-11) MOABITES 18 years EHUD (3:15-30) SHAMGAR (3:31)	CANAANITES 20 years DEBORAH (4:4-5:31) MIDIANITES 7 years GIDEON (6:11-8:28) TOLA JAIR (10:1-5)	MIDIANITES 7 years GIDEON (6:11-8:28) IBZAN (12:8-10) ELON (12:11-12)	ABDON (12:13-15) PHILISTINES 40 years SAMSON (13:2-16:31)		
THEME	Compromise brings failure.						
KEY VERSES	Judges 17:6; 21:25						
CHRIST IN JUDGES	Prefigured as the ultimate Judge and Deliverer						

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<https://www.insight.org/resources/bible/the-historical-books/judges>

So we pick up the story in the Book of Judges which starts with the news of Joshua's death and the beginning of the Military Campaign to Capture and resettle the entire Promised Land of Canaan. The sad fact is that from the beginning the Hebrews did not follow through on what God told them to do...wipe out the inhabitants and start fresh! This failure to drive out the pagan peoples became a constant pain in the lives of Israel. In Joshua Chapter 1 we keep reading this tribe did not drive out the inhabitants, that tribe etc, *ad nauseum*

In chapter 2 we see a Messenger or *Angel of the Lord* come and chastise them for their failure...

Listen to **Joshua 2:1-3**... *Now the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you, and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done?" Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.'*

The sad sagas of ongoing wars with a mixture of victories and losses continues. The key word here being MIXTURE. It appears that the Hebrews did just what God told them NOT TO DO. Mix with the pagan Canaanite people and incorporate their customs and religious practices. This leads to God removing His protection from them and the people suffering the consequences of their sin. NOTE: One of the key points of the Book of Judges is a firm and holy reminder that the consequences of sin are grave and terrible. In time various tribes and regions became enslaved again under the local pagan rulers.

Note: The Cycle of Misery & Sin

1. The People Sin – Disobedience
2. The People Are Enslaved – Bondage
3. The People Suffer Greatly – Misery
4. The People Cry Out to God – A Deliverer, Judge is Given
5. The People are Rescued – Rest & Peace, Salvation

RINSE & REPEAT

This time was an era marked by anarchy and disunity, as the Israelites had not yet dominated all the indigenous Canaanite tribes and authority was not centralized. The Bible clearly expresses a negative assessment several times of this period: ***“In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.”*** (Judges 17:6) Because there was no central authority, leadership sprung up episodically in the form of local chieftains known as judges.

<https://blog.israelbiblicalstudies.com/holy-land-studies/gideons-doglike-lappers/>

The 1st Judge was Othniel, son-in-law of Caleb. The 2nd was Ehud, a left handed expert knife wielder. 3rd Judge was a oxgoad killing machine who killed 6000 Philistines. Next we have a double team of Barak & Deborah. Deborah is actually the Judge and Barak is the military leader. Deborah is the only female judge and was also a Prophetess (Judges 4:4). She summoned Barak and told him to go fight the local enslaving people. But, Barak, turned weak and said, I want go unless you go. What bravery! HA!. She said I will go, but a woman will get the glory. And that’s what happened, not Deborah, but another woman, Jael, who pretended to protect the enemy King and then drove a tent peg into his temple when he fell asleep in exhaustion. I guess you could say she ‘took care of business’.

Then some time later another Cycle of Misery & Sin Started. Israel sinned and Midian warriors began to mistreat and rule over the Hebrews. Now we come to our star of the Day - Gideon

➤ Gideon time frame @1170BC

After a period of 4 previous Judges, we find a most unlikely candidate for a 5th Hero Judge in Gideon, son of Joash, from the Tribe of Manasseh. Gideon was not a very aggressive or powerful man. We meet him under an oak tree in the village of Ophrah, where he was basically trying to hide out in a deep wine press, where he thought he could escape the sight of the roving Midians. He was threshing wheat when The famous “Angel of the Lord” appeared to him, and said... **Judges 6:12-15...**

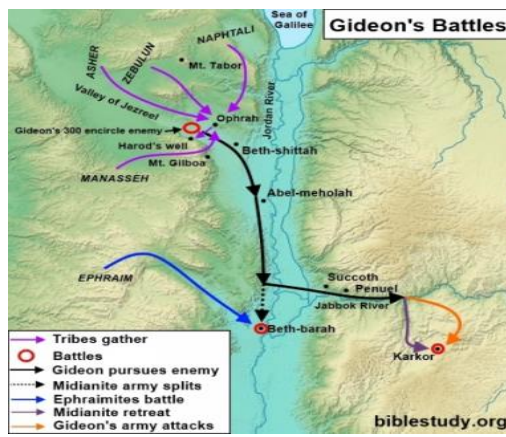
“The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior.” ¹³ ***Then Gideon said to him, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”*** ¹⁴ ***The LORD ^[g]looked at him and said, “Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?”*** ¹⁵ ***He said to Him, “O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s house.”***

Now this is a classic example of positive encouragement and rebranding, and a classic response of weakness, timidity, frustration & doubt. God called Gideon a **Valiant Warrior**...HA! Gideon basically said in a petulant and childish mocking tone. To be honest, Gideon was showing some serious passive aggression here. Gideon then begins to belly ache and complain and

say if “The Lord is REALLY with us’, why is life such a mess, where are the miracles, where are the victories.... WHERE’S THE BEEF?” Gideon *snarkily* asks ‘why has the Lord abandoned us?’ I personally think a Will Smith slap to the face would have been perfectly expected here...LOL. But the Angel of the Lord, understood Gideon’s pain and honesty and encouraged him Go in the his strength and deliver Israel. I suggest it was a nice way of saying, quit your pity party and your hiding and get up and fight the good fight!

But the Key Point is, and it is repeated ...
God says... I WILL BE WITH YOU!

Take note: God wants us to win in the battles of this life. He will be with us and help us fight, but a key element is WE MUST FIGHT! We must join God in the battles of this life, whatever they may be. It takes our effort, but it is really God Who provides the final victory. Here is a map showing the general area of this encounter



Then we see the Gideon respond the RIGHT WAY.. in OBEDIENT WORSHIP

He immediately offers a blood sacrifice offering of meat and of bread in worship. The Angel of the Lord, touched the sacrifice with his staff an fire sprang up and consumed the offering, showing that God had accepted Gideon’s worship and that they were now in a covenant relationship. Gideon built an altar there and the Angel vanished into the heavens.

Then the Lord spoke to Gideon to do a very brave and dangerous act that would be seen as an act of rebellion and against the gods of the people. As I mentioned before the Hebrews compromised and polluted themselves with the local pagan gods, Asherah, being one of them. The god Baal and Asherah, who had undercurrents of sexual immorality in their worship, utilized a wooded pole as part of the pagan worship ritual. The local Hebrew people apparently were very proud of their ‘pole god’ where they would dance in immoral worship and revelry.

God told Gideon to take his fathers prize bull and slaughter it and burn it as an offering using the pagan wooden pole god as fuel. This was a double act of hostility. One, he killed his father’s prize bull without permission and then he cut down the pagan sacred worship pole that the whole city admired. It would be seen as an act of heresy, rebellion and disrespect.

Well, actually Gideon did it! This formerly weak and wimpy man stood and boldly did it... well, sort of anyway.. boldISH?

Actually in the middle of the night he coerced 10 of his fathers servants to help him and they secretly killed the bull, told down the pole and sacrificed the bull on thee pagan pol altar.

Well, it all broke loose the next morning, when the town people saw what happened. They were infuriated and wanted someone's head to roll for this act. That head, was none other than Gideon, they soon found out. They march in protest over to Joash's house (it appears that Joash, Gideon's father, was a pretty big deal in the town) but they demanded he throw out his son so they could kill him for his crime against Baal & Asherah. But, surprisingly, showed what Jewish people call 'Chutzpuh', brave courage and confidence and basically said, Let Baal fight for himself, let Baal come and punish my son, if Baal is real!

Then it appears that a little Daddy Support helped push Gideon out of the dark into the light and he rose up and basically got in their faces and told them, 'fall in line behind me, we are going to war boys', a or at least something similar!!

So as the Hebrews began to rally, Gideon seemed to have a little more need for some daddy support, or in this case Heavenly Father affirmation, where he "put out a fleece"

Listen to the passage from **Judges 6:36-40**...³⁶ *Then Gideon said to God, "If You will deliver Israel through me, as You have spoken,* ³⁷ *behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the*

fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that You will deliver Israel through me, as You have spoken." ³⁸ *And it was so. When he arose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece, he drained the dew from the fleece, a bowl full of water.* ³⁹ *Then Gideon said to God, "Do not let Your anger burn against me that I may speak once more; please let me make a test once more with the fleece, let it now be dry only on the fleece, and let there be dew on all the ground."* ⁴⁰ *God did so that night; for it was dry only on the fleece, and dew was on all the ground.*

Well, with his courage bolstered, he met with a large army of Hebrews of around 32,000 soldiers. Not bad a group to fight, but.... The enemy had around 135,000. I guess he did need a 'fleece shot of courage', lol. But, that is not where the story ends. God seems, bound and determined to test Gideons' courage and show Gideon that God is trustworthy and all -powerful. So, God says, tell every scaredy-cat to go home, that's right, and do you know that 22,000 turn tail and ran, leaving only 10,000, that's more than a 10-1 deficit. But God's not done... he tells Gideon to do a rather strange test (you think the Rorshach Tests are strange,



listen to this. God says tell the soldiers to go down and get a drink of water from the river. Then divide the men up according to the style of their ‘drinking method’. Yes, the test for military fitness was how you drink water from a moving river??? Well, anyway, 9,700 out of the 10,000 preferred to drink with their pinky out, and the others in...No, No, that’s British Tea Drinking Etiquette.. LOL, seriously though, 9,700 took their hands and scooped the water into their mouths, while, 300 country boys stuck their mouths in the water and lapped it up like their huntin’ dog would. Now, guess which ones God chose? Yep, the 300 dog lapping country boys. Now, God only knows for sure why He chose those, because that meant now ONLY 300 HEBREW SOLDEIRS would take on 135,000 seasoned desert ranger soldiers of the Midians. What is God thinking?

Well, he is thinking perfectly as He ALWAYS does. The point is not to ask why, but to simply TRUST GOD AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS... Isn’t it about time that we all just get that in our heads, no matter how unusual, strange or difficult it may seem, God is ALWAYS RIGHT, we can TRUST HIM>>>JUST OBEY, ALREADY!

(Now for you inquiring minds that just need to have some sense to this, there are two basic trains of reasoning by modern theology

1. God did not choose the ones who scooped water because they seemed to show more situational awareness and kept their heads up, to be on alert for the enemy. The reasoning is that God did not

want to use these trained soldiers because they may have depended on their own skill. So God used the ones who were not as alert to prove that HE is the one who brought the victory. Of course only using 300 to fight would also prove that point.

2. A 2nd option is that God simply wanted a smaller crowd to fight to show His power so he chose the lesser number.

The bottom line is Gideon followed God’s guidance and they won, pretty simple really.

So Gideon led these men to prepare to attack. But, God had one more encouraging word for Gideon, since Gideon was obedient to follow God’s humanly illogical plan to reduce troops. God told Gideon to take one of his attendants and sneak just outside the camp and do a little spy eavesdropping. They overhear one of the enemy soldiers tell of a strange and terrifying dream about a loaf of barley bread tumbling into the Midian’s camp and struck their tents and destroyed them. The other guy listening responded with a prophetic comment (*obviously God has supernaturally put these words into this pagan’s mouth, as He has done on several occasions*) and the man interpreted the dream with exact specificity... This is none other than the *sword of Gideon* and God has given him the victory over the Midians. Well, we see again some direct Father Encouragement for Gideon from God. Gideon bowed in worship and then made plans to follow God’s instructions to engage the enemy. So he divided the 300 into groups of 100 each and had then surround the enemy at night with clay pots in their hands

with torches probably concealed inside? On Gideons command they broke the jars and held the torches in one hand and in the other holding a trumpet that they blew as they surrounded the camp. They shouted “A Sword for the LORD and a sword for Gideon”. Fear engulfed the enemies and in their fear and confusion they began to kill one another and run wildly away.. Gideon then called for messengers from the others who had been set aside and by the end of the battle 120,000 out of the original 135,000 had been killed. God had brought a great victory and then the last stage of the Cycle in Judges came, 40 years of peace. Praise our Great God.

Sadly, the cycle would start after a period of time, disobedience, misery, bondage, a new judge, and victory, alas, only sadly to ‘rinse and repeat’ again and again.

Well, let’s try to glean some lessons we need to learn from this story and others like it”

Take Away Lessons:

1. God is always aware of what’s going on in your life.
2. There is never a problem in your life that God is not there with you and willing to help.
3. God knows our potential, even when we, or others do not. He sees the best in us. Listen to what God says about you (i.e. Valiant Warrior), not what the devil, your mind or others say.

4. To move forward with God, you may have to tear down some walls that are hindering you. Are there some ‘idols’ in your life that need to go.
5. **Remember we are still** ‘works in progress’ God is working on crafting us into His ‘works of art’ be faithful with what you have and where you are.
6. God is willing to give us a sign or direction in what He wants us to do. But, don’t get to caught up ‘tossing out the fleece’ for every single issue. Remember, God has given and Book of Directions and Guidelines (The Bible) that actually gives us most of what we need to do God’s will without any further instruction!
7. Be aware of the insidious ‘Cycle of Failure’ found in the time of the Judges. We can still get ‘caught up in it’! Compromise & Disobedience, still leads the misery and bondage, mercifully, there God still uses ‘hero of the faith’ to rise us and through God’s power bring victory and peace.
Please don’t get on the Merry-Go-Round of Sin!

What about you, will you be a ‘Valiant Warrior’ and follow God’s will and avoid sin, misery and bondage and experience Victory & Peace?

It’s your choice

Valiant Warrior or Vacillating Victim

Tracing The Scarlet Thread

Revelation 13:8... “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship Him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**”

1 Peter 1:19-21... “^[19] But with the **precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb** without blemish and without spot: ^[20] For He was chosen or foreknown **before the foundation of the world**, but has appeared in these last times for your sake, ^[21] and through Him you believe [confidently] in God [the heavenly Father], who raised Him [Christ] from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are [centered and rest] in God.

{Genesis 2:15 & 3:6,7 set the stage for the need of a
‘Scarlet Thread of Redemption’}

Genesis 2:15...¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you **shall surely die.**”

Genesis 3:6,7...⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that **they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings...¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Protoevangelium (First Gospel)

Genesis 3:15... “And I will put enmity (open hostility) Between you and the woman, And between your seed (offspring) and **her Seed**; He shall **[fatally] bruise your head**, And you shall [only] **bruise His heel.**” (AMP)

Genesis 3:21... The LORD God made **clothing from skins** for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.

From the very beginning of human history, it is revealed. When Adam and Eve sinned, God shed innocent blood in order to make them clothes from animal skins (Genesis 3:21). This is a picture of the covering of righteousness that we receive when the Lord Jesus Christ died for us.

Genesis 4:8... Then Cain spoke to Abel his brother; and it happened when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his **brother and killed him.**

Genesis 4:10-15...¹⁰ And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your **brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.** ¹¹ So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.” ¹³ And Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴ Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.”¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” **And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.**

Genesis 4:25-26...²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, “For God has **appointed another seed** for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.”²⁶ And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD. [It is through the lineage of Enosh that our Lord Jesus Christ is descended. He is the 6th Great Grandfather of Noah)

Genesis 6:5-8, 14-18, 22...⁵ When the Lord saw that man’s wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, ⁶ the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ Then the Lord said, “I will wipe off

from the face of the earth mankind, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them.”⁸ **Noah**, however, **found favor in the sight of the Lord**...¹⁴ “Make yourself an **ark** of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and **cover it with pitch** inside and outside.”¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.¹⁶ You are to make a roof finishing the sides of the ark to within 18 inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks.¹⁷ “Understand that I am bringing a flood—floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. **Everything on earth will die.**”¹⁸ But **I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark** with your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives...²² And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

Genesis 8:15-22...¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, ¹⁶ “Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons’ wives with you.”¹⁷ Bring out all the living creatures that are with you—birds, livestock, those that crawl on the ground—and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”¹⁸ So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, came out.¹⁹ All wildlife, all livestock, every bird, and every creature that crawls on the earth came out of the ark by their groups.²⁰ Then Noah **built an altar to the LORD**. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and **offered burnt offerings** on the altar.²¹ When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, He said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, even though man’s inclination is evil from his youth. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done.”²² As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease.”

Noahic Covenant

Genesis 9:1-9, 12-17...¹ God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”² The fear and terror of you will be in every living creature on the earth, every bird of the sky, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. They are placed under your authority.³ Every living creature will be food for you; as I gave the green plants, I have given

you everything.”⁴ However, you must not eat meat with its lifeblood in it.⁵ I will require the life of every animal and every man for your life and your blood. I will require the life of each man’s brother for a man’s life.⁶ **Whoever sheds man’s blood, his blood will be shed by man, for God made man in His image.**⁷ But you, be fruitful and multiply; spread out over the earth and multiply on it.”⁸ Then God said to Noah and his sons with him,⁹ “Understand that I am **confirming My covenant with you and your descendants after you**...¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future generations: ¹³ I have placed **My rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.**”¹⁴ Whenever I form clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds,¹⁵ I will remember My covenant between Me and you and all the living creatures: water will **never again become a flood to destroy every creature.**”¹⁶ The bow will be in the clouds, and I will look at it and remember the **everlasting covenant** between God and all the living creatures on earth.”¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have confirmed between Me and every creature on earth.”

Genealogy of the Scarlet Thread Continues

Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah, Shem, Arphaxad, Salah, Eber (Hebrew), Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah, Abraham...

The Call of Abraham –

Reaffirmation of God’s Covenant Redemption

Genesis 12:1-3,7...¹ The LORD said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.² I will make you into a **great nation, I will bless you**, I will make your name great, and **you will be a blessing.**³ I will bless those who bless you, I will **curse those who treat you with contempt**, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you...⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your offspring.” So **he built an altar** there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

Genesis 14:17-20...¹⁷ After Abram returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek, king of Salem brought out **bread and wine**; He was a **priest to God Most High**. ¹⁹ He blessed Abram and said: **Abram is blessed by God Most High**, Creator of heaven and earth, ²⁰ and I give praise to God Most High who has handed over your enemies to you. And Abram gave Him a **tenth of everything**.

Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 15:1-6, 9-12, 17,18...After these events, the **Word of the LORD** came to Abram in a vision: Do not be afraid, Abram. **I Am your Shield**; your Reward will be very great. ² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what can You give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ Abram continued, "Look, You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house will be my heir." ⁴ Now the Word of the LORD came to him: "This one will not be your heir; instead, **one who comes from your own body will be your heir**." ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then He said to him, "Your offspring will be that numerous." ⁶ **Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.....** ⁹ He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old cow, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ So he brought all these to Him, **split them down the middle**, and laid the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut up the birds. ¹¹ Birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was setting, a deep sleep fell on Abram, and suddenly great terror and darkness descended on him..... ¹⁷ When the sun had set and it was dark, a **smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the divided animals**. ¹⁸ On that day the **LORD made a covenant with Abram**,

Genesis 17:1-14...When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him, saying, "I am God Almighty. Live in My presence and be blameless. ² **I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you greatly**." ³ Then Abram fell facedown and God spoke with him: ⁴ "As for Me, My covenant is with you: you will become the father of many nations" ⁵ Your name

will no longer be Abram, but **your name will be Abraham**, for I will make you the father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you extremely fruitful and will make nations and kings come from you. ⁷ **I will keep My covenant between Me and you, and your future offspring throughout their generations, as an everlasting covenant to be your God and the God of your offspring after you**. ⁸ And to you and your future offspring I will give the land where you are residing—all the land of Canaan—as an eternal possession, and I will be their God." ⁹ God also said to Abraham, "As for you, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations are to keep My covenant. ¹⁰ This is My covenant, which you are to keep, between Me and you and your offspring after you: **Every one of your males must be circumcised**. ¹¹ You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskin to serve as a sign of the covenant between Me and you. ¹² Throughout your generations, every male among you at eight days old is to be circumcised. This includes a slave born in your house and one purchased with money from any foreigner. The one who is not your offspring, ¹³ a slave born in your house, as well as one purchased with money, must be circumcised. **My covenant will be marked in your flesh as an everlasting covenant**. ¹⁴ If any male is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that man will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

The Covenant thread of Genealogy Continues with Birth of Isaac

Genesis 17:19-22...¹⁹ But God said, "No. Your wife Sarah will **bear you a son**, and you will name him Isaac. **I will confirm My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his future offspring**." ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you. I will certainly bless him; I will make him fruitful and will multiply him greatly. He will father 12 tribal leaders, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But I will confirm My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year." ²² When He finished talking with him, God withdrew from Abraham.

Genesis 21:1-5...The LORD came 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 appointed time God had told him. ³ Abraham named his son who was born to him—the one Sarah bore to him—Isaac. ⁴ **When his son Isaac was**

eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded him. ⁵ *Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.*

**Deferred Sacrifice Of Isaac – A Pre-type and Foreshadowing of the
Substitutionary Sacrifice of Christ, The Lamb of God**

Genesis 22:

The Life of Jacob

The Life of Joseph

Job

Moses