

Sunday May 7, 2023

SAMSON: Strong Man, Weak Character
A Story of Great Potential & Great Failure



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/>

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.

Today's story of is the story of the Samson, the "Unlucky 13th Judge in The Old Testament Times between the Death of Joshua and the Beginning of the Reign of the 1st King Saul. Samson's story is recorded beginning in the "unlucky" chapter of Judges 13:2-16:3. Now, just to be sure, I don't believe in being 'lucky' or 'unlucky' but it is ironic that Samson is the 13th Judge found in the 13th chapter! Don't ya' think?

He judged and had an impact on Israel for 20 years and his arch enemies were the dreaded Philistines.

He is the son of Manoah and his name means "Little Sun" or "like the Sun" I guess he was the originator of the nickname 'Sonny'!

The Epic Story of 'Sonny' Samson ... starts out with the sad tale of the Cycle of Sin in Judges. Listen to ***Judges 13:1...Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.***

In the midst of this evil was a man and his wife from the town of Zorah from the Tribe of Dan named Manaoh (place of rest in Hebrew) and his unnamed wife who was barren. A supernatural appearance of the frequent "Angel of the Lord" appeared to the wife and said ***Judges 13:3-5... Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son. ⁴ Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. ⁵ For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines."***

She went and told her husband about the appearance and then he prayed that the Angel would come back and give them more complete instructions on how to teach their promised son and what it takes to be a Nazarite. The Angel came back to the woman again, and she ran to get her husband, who asked the Angel for details. Then the Angel told Manoah and his wife to follow the instructions given to her earlier and also that she herself, had some guidelines to follow. Those guidelines were not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. Then we see Manoah follow through on the Scarlet Thread of Redemption theme by offering a blood sacrifice as worship to the Lord as well as a grain offering. Then an amazing thing happened as Manoah made offering and the flames went upward, the Angel ascended in the flames and disappeared into heaven along with the sacrifice. Soon thereafter Manoah's wife gave birth to a son that they named "Sonny" or in reality Samson.

Now if you remember the Angel had a set of guidelines for the boy to follow in order that he follow the Nazarite vow lifestyle. If you take the information from the Book of Numbers along with this Judges passage you will find that *"The Nazirite/Nazarite vow is taken by individuals who have voluntarily dedicated themselves to God. The vow is a decision, action, and desire on the part of people whose desire is to yield themselves to God completely. By definition, the Hebrew word nazir, simply means 'to be separated or consecrated.'* <https://www.gotquestions.org/Nazirite-vow.html>

In Numbers 6:1-21 we discover 5 features of this vow.

- (1) It is to be a vow of separation unto the Lord
- (2) Either a man or a woman could take the vow
- (3) Usually it is for a specific period of time, except here in the case of Samson, which appears to have been a calling from birth for life.
- (4) They were to abstain from wine or any fermented drink, nor even eat grapes, raisins, grape juice unfermented, not even the seeds or skins. They were not to cut their hair, and not to go near or touch a dead body.
- (5) If it was not for a lifelong vow, there was a time set to close out the vow where they would cut their hair and lay it on the altar as a sacrifice.

It appears that maybe Samson was the first Nazarite and then soon thereafter Samuel a later Judge would also be appear to be a Nazarite. These two seem set apart from other Nazarites as they were set apart for life, not a specific time period.

We have no other record of Samson's life growing up other than the verse stated ***'the child grew and the Lord blessed him:*** (13:24).

Then in 13:25 after some period of time as he grew older the scripture states ***"the Spirit of the Lord began to stir in him"***.

However, it appears that Samson did not respond properly to the Spirit's call, or else he responded very inconsistently and partially. This tendency to not be

fully committed but only partially obedient will be seen time and time again in his life and cause him and his family great grief and eventually his death.

Early Take Away No. 1: It is vital to not only respond to God's call in your life, but to do so consistently and obediently. The question should be asked is partial, inconsistent obedience really obedience at all?

Back to the story, Samson, who if you remember was to be consecrated unto the Lord, which meant he should not intermingle or intermarry with pagans (or as the bible states (uncircumcised Philistines – a very strong insult by the way).

He made his way into a nearby Philistine city of Timnah where he quickly laid eyes on a beautiful and desirable woman. He quickly went back home to momma and daddy and said “I want her”, What, they said, No it can not be, why seek a wife among the “uncircumcised Philistines” the enemy as well! Well, even though it was God's general rule that they Hebrews not intermarry with pagans, the bible states that the parents, nor Samson, it appears, realized that God was using this event to set up a situation where Samson could be used by God to bring punishment and destruction and judgement upon the Philistines.

Early Take Away No. 2: Sometimes God has a plan that we do not understand and seems to make no sense, do it anyway, if God says do it! In His providential guidance He will bring about the proper and right result.

Back to the story... Samson left his mom & dad and went back to ‘get his girl’ when on the way a strange thing happened, strangely enough the bible says “the Spirit of the Lord” came upon him as he encountered a young lion on the way to Timnah, and with the supernatural strength of God he tore the lion in half as you would tear apart a rag doll. Well, feeling rather frisky, I would think, he went down to see his dream girl, and just as a funny side thought the bible actually says these words, “Samson went down to the woman and she looked good to him”. Now I guess the bible author wanted to keep the story “G” rated so it cuts away from whatever happened and picks back up with another strange event. Do you remember the lion, torn like a rag doll? Where on his way back he finds the carcass of that lion and strangely enough a hive of bees had already set up shop in the lion carcass and had begun to make honey. He nonchalantly reached down and took a big helping to eat and then brought some home to mom and dad for morning biscuits, or something like that. No more is said of this strange event, but nothing is ever lost with God, He will bring this back the next part of the story.

The wedding planning party made all he plans for a great feast and the wedding day. Just like modern times the Rehearsal or Bachelor Party took place. It was not just a one evening deal, it was a really big blowout... Seven, that's right 7 days of feasting and celebration. While everyone was ‘high in spirits, or on spirits’, Samson gives what appears to be the first riddle in the Bible. Judges 14:12-14...

Judges 14:12-14...¹² *Then Samson said to them, “Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.”* ¹³ *But if you are unable to tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.” And they said to him, “Propound your riddle, that we may hear it.”* ¹⁴ *So he said to them,*

*“Out of the eater came something to eat,
And out of the strong came something sweet.”*

But they could not tell the riddle in three days.

Samson, thought it was just all fun and games, but the Philistines took it personally, some people just have no sense of humor, right, lol. Well, strangely enough it was all part of God’s ingenious plan to bring additional judgment and punishment upon the evil pagan Philistines. By the 4th day of the feast, everyone’s nerves seem to be on edge and their pride was killing them. They went privately to Samson’s fiancée and threatened to kill her and her family if she didn’t pull the answer out of Samson for the riddle. Well, she in fear went to Samson and for 7 long days she nagged and cried and begged him. Finally, she broke him down and Samson told her the answer...**Judges 14:18a**... *“What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?”*

Well, she made a bee-line to the town boys and told them the answer, and they slyly and pridefully went to Samson and said,

Judges 14:18b... *And he said to them, “If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle.”*

Then God used this strange setting to bring punishment and judgement upon the Philistines, because part of the riddle included a bet, if the Philistines could not guess the riddle they had to give Samson 30 sets of clothing, and vice-a-versa if they could. So, Samson, fulfilled the bet as the Bible states

Judges 14:19... *“The Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them and took their spoil and gave the changes of clothes to those who told the riddle. And his anger burned, and he went up to his father’s house.”* ²⁰ *But Samson’s wife was given to his companion who had been his friend.*

Early Take-Away No. 3 – Don’t take bets with riddles, no, that’s not it, lol, though that is wise, betting and gambling brings trouble. (people can lose their shirts over it, literally).

A point to note is there needs to be honesty and not deception in marriage relationships. Just think what might have happened if she just was honest and trusted Samson and told him the truth.

Well the story is not over, more strange events begin to unfold in Chapter 15 of Judges:

After the *riddle me this* disaster, and by the way, Samson in his anger left the wedding party and went back home to momma and pouted for awhile. But after awhile he got over his anger and remembered that beautiful girl and decided that he would maybe give her a 2nd chance. He took a make-up meal of a 5 -Star Goat Dinner, and went looking for her. He marched up to his future father-in-laws house and set I ready to see my Sweet Sally, or whatever her name was? I would love to have seen the look on his face, as this Paul Bunyon like man stood at his doorway. You see, what you may not know of the story, was that when Samson left, he was gone for good while. The dad assumed that Samson didn't want her anymore so he took the initiative to pawn off this 'jilted at the altar' girl to Samson's best man. WHAT! Now put yourself there and think of the emotions, the Dad, about to have a heart attack and Samson about to set the place on fire! But, you have to give it to the Dad, he was quick on his feet.. He said, I thought you hated her, but wait, you may have lost Sweet Sally (?) but look her younger sister is even more beautiful, you can have her. It's a much better deal! Well, he didn't choose door No. 2, he marched away in great anger and then "it all broke loose". Samson started the "Burning Man" tradition long Black Rock City Nevada. Samson went out and did another strange thing. WARNING: Animal Rights and PETA loving people a very shocking event is coming... Samson went Fox Hunting, WHAT? Yep he went fox hunting, but with a twist, a literal twist. He didn't kill the foxes (well not at first) he captured 300, that's right 300 foxes and twisted their tails together, set them on fire and ran them

through the Philistines crops and destroyed all of them. Now that is a perfectly natural response right? Hardly, but that's what happened. Then the Philistine crop owners came by the home of the man whose daughter was to have married Samson, and they burned the Dad and the fiancée to death. Wow. Shocking I know. Samson, just seemed to be in a state of shock and then he came unglued and killed all of them. Remember boys and girls this is not a bedtime story!!!

Then Samson, went into depression and literally went and lived in a rock in Etam. Well, he thought he could just 'get away from it all at the Sandals Resort in Etam' (well, you know what I mean), but the Philistines wouldn't let it go. They marched up to the l Land of Judah where the Hebrews were with threats of war. The poor oblivious Judahites didn't have a clue about the Bridal Wars of Samson. They sere schooled quickly and told you better give us Samson or we will kill you all. That literally them between a rock and a hard place with Samson. They took 3000 men, remember Samson is just 1 man, but they didn't want to take a chance, and they begged him to turn himself in. Well, Samson decided that he would as long as they would swear not to double cross him and kill him themselves. They pinkie swore, or something like that, and he let them bind him with strong new ropes and delivered him to the Philistines, and then high-tailed it out of there leaving Samson to face 1000 angry and embarrassed Philistines. Now it doesn't seem fair does it 1000 -1 odds, but Samson didn't seem phased at all. It appears that Samson might have been on one of his "I believe in God" moments,

and he did another strange thing... He broke the ropes like they were spider webs, and then he found a skeleton of a dead donkey on the ground. He picked up the jawbone of that donkey and commenced to whoopin' up on the Philistines. In actuality he did more than just whoop them, he killed ALL 1000. Then after that he was thirsty, obviously, but what we read in the Bible is a small reminder that God cares for our small needs as well as providing for our great victories. He cried out to God with his thirst and God split the rock and brought water forth, similar as he had done with Moses.

Early Take-Away No. 4:

God can be trusted to bring us victory in the large and hard events and battles of life, but He also cares for our small and simple needs as well. He will provide, we just need to call out to Him, trust Him and obey Him.

NEXT SCENE: One of the most well-known and also very sad portions of this story are found in Judges 16. Samson and his weakness for the wrong type of women bring him into another situation. This time it was a "Valley Girl", literally, it says in **Judges 16:4** "***He loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah***". The Philistines had become aware that the only way to get to Samson was through his desire for their women. The Philistine leaders came to Delilah and told her they would give her 1100 pieces of silver (a fortune in those days) to "***entice him, and see where his great strength lies and how we may overpower him***" (verse 5). So, Delilah, like the previous woman he had

loved, set about to tease out of him his secret for his strength. Samson begins a series of confessions as to what that power source was.

- 1st he said tie me with 7 fresh new cords of rope that have never been dried and I will be weak. She did and then called in the Philistines, who found out the hard way that Samson had lied. He put a real beat down on them.
- 2nd, she begged some more and he said well if you tie me with ropes that have never been used I will be weak. She ties him in his sleep, calls the Philistines and of course, he had lied again, and he put an even worse whoopin' on the Philistines.
- 3rd times a charm??? Nope... He lies again to her as she continues to beg and nag. But, this time he 'weaves' in a little truth. Her is starting to waver. He says if you weave my hair into seven (7) locks and fasten it with a pin I will be weak. She does this in his sleep, calls in the Philistines and he rips his hair out of the pins and sends them running.
- 4th time. Delilah pulls out the big guns, she says "if you really love me you'd tell me". We've heard that old line before right. What, you have used it...shame on you ...lol. Well, after she continued on until he was just plum beat down he spills the beans... (just as a side note, don't you think by now Samson would be suspicious of the 'true love' Delilah is professing on about???)

Samson tells her about his Nazarite vow

And that if his hair was shaved off he would lose his strength. She realized this time he told the truth, so she called in a man to shave off his hair as he slept (he must

have been a real sound sleeper) and when he awoke he heard the sound of the Philistines breaking in to capture him, then we read one of the sadder verses in the Bible... **Judges 16: 20,21...***And Samson awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he **did not know that the LORD had departed from him.***²¹ *Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison.*

What a sad, sad ending. Well, actually it is not the end, there's more. He spends an uncertain time grinding grain like a donkey while chained up. But, the Philistines got sloppy and forgot that hair grows back! At some point the Philistines leaders wanted to brag to the people about how they subdued their great enemy and they had a giant party and they brought Samson out to make fun of him. As the party continued the people were lined up around the upper floors of the arena and they began to shout their praise to their pagan god Dagon. Over 3000 people were having a party and drinking when Samson came out and asked to be placed between the main columns that supported the entire arena. Then, well let's read what the Bible says in **Judges 16:28-31...**²⁸ *Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."*²⁹ *Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left.*³⁰ *And Samson said, "Let me die*

*with the Philistines!" And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life.*³¹ *Then his brothers and all his father's household came down, took him, brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. Thus he had judged Israel twenty years.*

Wow, what a sad ending, Such a promising life left unfulfilled.

There are many more things that could be said, but let's take a breath and see what we can glean positively from this story. Remember, God desires and will bring good out of any situation if we seek Him.

Let's Review the Previous Take Aways and then add the closing ones:

Take Away No. 1: It is vital to not only respond to God's call in your life, but to do so consistently and obediently. The question should be asked is partial, inconsistent obedience really obedience at all? God has a purpose for our lives, we need to seek to fulfill it to the maximum.

Take Away No. 2: Sometimes God has a plan that we do not understand and seems to make no sense, do it anyway, if God says do it! In His providential guidance God will bring about the proper and right result.

Take-Away No. 3 – Don't take bets with riddles, no, that's not it, lol, though that is wise, betting and gambling brings trouble. (people can lose their shirts over it, literally).

A point to note is there needs to be honesty and not deception in marriage relationships. Just think what might have happened if she just was honest and trusted Samson and told him the truth.

Take-Away No. 4 - God can be trusted to bring us victory in the large and hard events and battles of life, but He also cares for our small and simple needs as well. He will provide, we just need to call out to Him, trust Him and obey Him. Through the good and the bad God can still fulfill His purpose.

Take-Away No. 5 - Watch out for arrogance and lack of self-control. He let his pride and his lustful desires control him, rather than him controlling them.

Take-Away No. 6 – Choose your mate (as well as close friends or business partners) that share your faith in God and your Biblical values.

Take-Away No. 7 – God's will and plan is always accomplished. But, if we don't follow His will closely we may not receive all the blessings that God wants to give us. We rob ourselves and others when we fall short of God's plan.

Christ in the Old Testament

Judges = Prefigured as the Ultimate Judge & Deliverer

Ruth = Prefigured in the Kinsmen Redeemer

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.

Tracing The Scarlet Thread

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... ¹The 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