

Abraham and the Covenant Promises

Genesis 11 — Age 70

Abraham and his family leave Ur and begin the journey toward Canaan.

Genesis 12 — Age 75

God calls Abraham and gives him the promise.
God promises to make him into a great nation.

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Genesis 15 — Age 85

Covenant / Righteousness

God repeats His promise to Abraham.

Abraham believes God, and it is credited to him
as righteousness.

God initiates His covenant with Abraham.

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Genesis 16 — Age 86

Abraham and Sarah are still waiting for the
promised child.

Ishmael is born.

Genesis 17 — Age 99

Sign of the Covenant

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God repeats the promise.

- The promise is repeated
- A son is named
- A time is given
- Abram receives a new name: **Abraham**
- Sarai receives a new name: **Sarah**
- Abraham will be the **father of many nations**

Abraham and the Covenant Promises

- “For I have made you a father of many nations.” — Gen17:5
- Covenant initiated — Genesis 15
- Covenant established — Genesis 17:7, 21
- The covenant promise will continue through Isaac
- Notice how many times God refers to “**My covenant**”
in Genesis 17 — **nine times!**

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Genesis 21 — Age 100

Isaac is born.

The promised son finally comes, **25 years after**
Abraham received the promise at age 75.

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Genesis 22 — Approximately Age 115

Isaac is offered.

Abraham is asked to surrender the son through whom
God said the promise would be fulfilled.

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Genesis 23 — Age 137

Sarah dies.

Genesis 24 — Age 140

Isaac marries Rebekah.

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Genesis 25 — Age 160

Jacob and Esau are born.

Isaac is 60 when Jacob and Esau are born. Since
Abraham was 100 when Isaac was born,
Abraham is **160**.

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Genesis 25 — Age 175
Abraham dies.

Promise → Waiting → Repeated Promise →
Covenant → Fulfillment → Testing

Romans 4:10–11, 13, 16 through 5:1–2

Hope

- Future → something to look forward to
- Hope → expectation
- Boast/rejoice in the sure expectation of the glory of God
- God watches over His covenant promises
- God protects and watches over His promises
- Prayer for them

Romans 5:2

We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.







Abraham

Abraham continues to believe while the fulfillment is still in the future.

His confidence is not in what he can see, but in **the God who made the promise.**

Hope is confident expectation rooted in the promise and character of God.

Covenants and Circumcision

There are two basic types of covenants: conditional and unconditional.

A conditional or bilateral covenant is an agreement that is binding on both parties for its fulfillment. Both parties agree to fulfill certain conditions. If either party fails to meet their responsibilities, the covenant is broken and neither party has to fulfill the expectations of the covenant. An unconditional or unilateral covenant is an agreement between two parties, but only one of the two parties has to do something. Nothing is required of the other party.

Covenants and Circumcision

The Abrahamic Covenant is an unconditional covenant. The actual covenant is found in Genesis 12:1–3. The ceremony recorded in Genesis 15 indicates the unconditional nature of the covenant. When a covenant was dependent upon both parties keeping commitments, then both parties would pass between the pieces of animals. In Genesis 15, God alone moves between the halves of the animals. Abraham was in a deep sleep. God's solitary action indicates that the covenant is principally His promise. He binds Himself to the covenant.

Later, God gave Abraham the rite of circumcision as the specific sign of the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 17:9–14). All males in Abraham's line were to be circumcised and thus carry with them a lifelong mark in their flesh that they were part of God's blessing in the world.