

**THE
TRUE STORY
OF THE
OLD
TESTAMENT**

Responding to God's Revelation and Redemption

Responses to God's Revelation and Redemption

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1. Value a study of the Old Testament. 8.
2. Respond to God as your creator. 9.
3. **Live in light of God's judgment and mercy.** 10.
4. 11.
5. 12.
6. 13.
- 7.

Reve



Covenants in the Old Testament

1. Noahic (Gen. 9:8–17)

- Unconditional.
- God promised never again to destroy the earth by water.

2. Abrahamic (Gen. 12:7; 13:14–17; 15:5, 16–18)

- Unconditional.
- God promised to . . .
 - Make Abraham a great nation.
 - Bless Abraham and make his name great.
 - Bless and curse those who do the same to Israel.
 - Bless all the families of the earth through Abraham.

I. God Deals with Abraham and Sarah

Last Week's Lesson 4a

A. God's call of Abraham (Gen. 11:27-31)

B. God's promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)

C. Abraham's faith in God (Gen. 15:1-6)

D. God's unconditional covenant with Abraham (15:7-21)

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With:

Today's Lesson 4b

New
addition

- A. Hagar: Birth of Ishmael & Problems (Gen. 16)
- B. Abraham: Changes (Gen. 17)
- C. Abraham: Judgements & Blessings (Gen. 18-20)
- D. Sarah: Birth of Isaac & Problems (Gen. 21)
- E. Abraham: The Test (Gen. 22)



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III. God Deals with Abraham's Descendants

- A. With Isaac
- B. With Jacob
- C. With Joseph



**Upcoming
Lessons**

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

Lesson 4b

OPENING

God's Visitation

This lesson will provide an overview of Genesis 16 – 22.

These chapters show God's visitation with the righteous (Abraham, Sarah, Lot, & Abimelech), and the unrighteous (Hagar and the cities of Sodom & Gomorrah).

While the focus is on Abraham's and Sarah's life, the Lord's visitations brought either blessings or judgments.

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With

A. Hagar: Birth of Ishmael & Problems (Gen. 16:1-5)

“Abraham and Sarah take matters into their own hands.

They follow the flesh rather than the Spirit.

They follow their own thinking rather than God's Word.

They walk according to sight rather than faith.

The results were catastrophic.

Ishmael is one of the fathers of the Arabs and the Muslims, and they hate Israel to this day.”



Illustrations from “Free Bible Images”, by Jim Padget

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.103

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With

A. Hagar: Birth of Ishmael & Problems (Gen. 16:1-5)



“The pending birth of Ishmael occasioned considerable jealousy between Sarai and Hagar, and thus in the typical phrase of the time, Sarai appealed to Abraham for legal protection: *‘My wrong be upon thee,’*

Or more literally: *‘My wrong is your responsibility.’*

Illustrations from “Free Bible Images”, by Jim Padget

“The Pentateuch”, L. Thomas Holdcroft, Western Book Company, 1966, p.26

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With

A. Hagar: Birth of Ishmael & Problems (Gen. 16:6-16)

Genesis 16:7 And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

Hagar fled from Sarai into wilderness where the “angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water”.



Here the LORD visited Hagar and gave her a promise of a multitude of descendants. He gave her the name of her son to be *Ishmael* and He instructed her to return and submit to Sarai. (Gen.16:7-16)

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With B. Abraham: Changes (Gen. 17:1-2)

Genesis 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

“The lack of faith, and the natural impetuosity associated with the birth of Ishmael, resulted in a thirteen year lapse in divine dealings with Abram.

Abram was now 99 and Sarai was 89, so that in the natural all hope of their becoming parents was utterly gone.”

“The Pentateuch”, L. Thomas Holdcroft, Western Book Company, 1966, p.27



*Illustrations from “Free Bible Images”,
by Jan van ‘t Hoff – Gospelimages*

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II. God's Visitation With B. Abraham: Changes (Gen. 17:1-2)

“The divine appearance at this time was especially reassuring and encouraging. For the first time, God revealed Himself as the El-Shaddai (“Almighty God” – A.V.)..”

“The Pentateuch”, L. Thomas Holdcroft, Western Book Company, 1966, p. 27

“The Hebrew here is *El Shaddai*. El means might or power, and Shaddai means a shedder forth of bounty. The name depicts God as the all-bountiful One and comes as His revelation of Himself to Abram just when the latter needed to learn that the strength of God is made perfect in human weakness. Abram sought to obtain by his own energy what God only could give him, and having learned his lesson and being ready to give himself to God, God is ready to give Himself to Abram and make him fruitful.”

“James Gray’s Concise Bible Commentary” , by James Gray , (1851-1935), from SwordSearcher 9 software



*Illustrations from “Free Bible Images”,
by Jan van ‘t Hoff – Gospelimages*

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II. God's Visitation With B. Abraham: Changes (Gen. 17:3-8, 15-16)

There were two key changes the Lord brought about when He visited Abram.

1. Name changes:

“God changed Abram’s name (Gen.17:5) from Abram (“exalted father”) to Abraham (“father of a multitude”).

God changed Sarai’s name (Gen. 17:15) from Sarai (“my princess”) to Sarah (“princess”)...Instead of being Abraham’s princess only, Sarah will be the princess of a multitude....She is a ‘mother of nations’ (Gen.17:16).”

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.105



*Illustrations from “Free Bible Images”,
by Jan van ‘t Hoff – Gospelimages*

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II. God's Visitation With B. Abraham: Changes (Gen. 17:9-14, 23-27)

2. Circumcision instituted



Illustrations from "Free Bible Images",
by Jan van 't Hoff - Gospelimages

“Circumcision was the ‘token of the covenant’ (17:11). This token makes the Abrahamic Covenant appear, at first glance, to carry a condition – the condition of circumcision. Actually, the Abrahamic Covenant is unconditional in its operation, but, for a person to enter its blessings, circumcision is required.

This may seem confusing, but salvation is a similar phenomenon. Christ died and rose again to provide salvation for all. The offer of salvation is fully operational. Nevertheless, to enter into the blessings of salvation, an individual person must believe that Christ died for him or her.

Therefore, the gift of salvation is unconditionally offered, but it is conditionally received by faith.”

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With

C. Abraham: Judgements & Blessings (Gen. 18-20)

Genesis 18:1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre:..

Genesis 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even;...

Genesis 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night,...

The Lord's visitations in these chapters spoke of:

- coming sure judgement
- potential judgement
- blessings



Illustrations from "Free Bible Images", by Amy & Carly – Fishnet Bible Stories

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With C. Abraham: Judgements & Blessings (Gen. 18:1-15)

Genesis 18:1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre:..

(Gen. 18 & 19) The Lord's visit with Abraham was about two events:

- The promise of Sarah to have her own child
- Coming judgement on two cities

Gen.18:1-15



*Illustrations from "Free Bible Images",
by John Paul Stanley; YO! Ministry*

Gen.18:16 -
19:38



*Illustrations from "Free Bible Images", by
Amy & Carly – Fishnet Bible Stories*

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With C. Abraham: Judgements & Blessings (Gen. 18:16 – 19:38)

Genesis 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even;...

Gen.18:16 - 19:38 - Though the Lord did not appear at Sodom, He sent two angels to remove Lot and his family prior to the judgment on the two cities.

“God devotes considerable space in the Scripture to the destruction of Sodom. There is an entire chapter on it. Sodom is mentioned 48 times in Scripture, nine times in the New Testament.

Out of His love and compassion, God is warning men about sin and judgment, and calling them to repentance.”



Illustrations from "Free Bible Images", by Amy & Carly – Fishnet Bible Stories

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With C. Abraham: Judgements (Gen. 20)

Genesis 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night,



Abraham & Sarah before Abimelech
(source unknown)

(Gen. 20:1-18) This visit by the Lord was with Abimelech because of Abraham's failure.

There was potential for judgment or blessings.



"Abimelech rebuking Abraham" by
Wenceslas Hollar (1607-1677).

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With

D. Sarah: Birth of Isaac & Problems (Gen. 21)

Genesis 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

Genesis 21:12 And God said unto Abraham,...

Genesis 21:17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven,...



Illustrations from "Free Bible Images", by Amy & Carly – Fishnet Bible Stories

“Sarah gave birth to Isaac ‘at the set time of which God had spoken’ (Gen.21:2)...We need to learn something about God’s timing. Faith and patience are the twin powers to propel us over the trials of life.”

“History Makers of the Old Testament”, Elmer Towns, Victor Books, 1989, pg.132

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II. God's Visitation With

D. Sarah: Birth of Isaac & Problems (Gen. 21:1-11)



Illustrations from "Free Bible Images", by Amy & Carly – Fishnet Bible Stories

“One of the most difficult lessons of faith to learn is that of the times of God.

Abraham waited twenty-five years for the promised seed, but Isaac arrived right on time according to God’s calendar and clock.”

“History Makers of the Old Testament”, Elmer Towns, Victor Books, 1989, pg.132

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With

D. Sarah: Birth of Isaac & Problems (Gen. 21:1-11)

“At the feast celebrating the weaning of Isaac, Sarah saw Ishmael *‘mocking’* her son (Gen.21:9)...

Ishmael's actions on this occasion offended Sarah not only because they were directed at her son, but because they were reminiscent of her own treatment of Hagar.”



Illustrations from "Free Bible Images", by Amy & Carly – Fishnet Bible Stories

“History Makers of the Old Testament”, Elmer Towns, Victor Books, 1989, pg.134

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With

D. Sarah: Birth of Isaac & Problems (Gen. 21:12-21)

“Ishmael had to be sent away to be disinherited from the Abrahamic Covenant. God's covenant was with Isaac, not with Ishmael (Gen.21:22).

‘Once the promised child was received, Abraham and Sarah, rejoicing in God's miraculous provision, had to avoid any possible threat to Isaac's inheritance.

Because God chose one son, His choice had to be protected. Abraham and Sarah had to expel Ishmael’ (Bible Knowledge Commentary).

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.114



Illustrations from “Free Bible Images”, by Amy & Carly – Fishnet Bible Stories

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With E. Abraham: The Test (Gen. 22)

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am..



*Illustrations from "Free Bible Images", by
Jim Padget*

The Lord's visitation with Abraham involved one of the greatest test a person could experience.

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With E. Abraham: The Test (Gen. 22)

“Four times in his pilgrimage of faith, God came to Abraham to make a request that must have severely tried his faith.

- **First**, he called this son of a moon god worshipper to **leave his country and family** to see a land God wanted to show him (Gen.12:1).
- **Later**, it was necessary for Abraham to **separate from his nephew** Lot who was probably more like a son to him than a nephew (Gen. 13:1-18).
- **The third** great trial involved the **casting out of Ishmael** who for thirteen years was thought to be the promised seed of Abraham (21:14).
- **The fourth** and greatest crisis of his faith is the **offering of Isaac** as a whole burnt offering on Moriah...”



Illustrations from “Free Bible Images”, by Jim Padget

“History Makers of the Old Testament”, Elmer Towns, Victor Books, 1989, pg.138

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

II. God's Visitation With E. Abraham: The Test (Gen. 22)



“Abraham was victorious in this trial because he trusted in God. See Heb. 11:17-19.

Abraham knew that God had promised that by Isaac, Abraham would be the father of a multitude that cannot be numbered, and believing this, he reasoned that God would raise Isaac from the dead!

No one had ever risen from the dead, but this is how strong Abraham's faith was in the promises of God.”

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.116

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

CONCLUSION

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God's Visitation

In these chapters (16-21), we see the Lord's impact of His visits on Abraham and Sarah and those around them – whether righteous or unrighteous.

These visits from the Lord focused on Abraham's and Sarah's faith in His promises. Though they failed with their involvement of Hagar, resulting in the birth of Ishmael, they did experience the Lord's promise of their own son – Isaac.

They saw the judgement on the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah on the one hand. While on the other hand, they experienced God's visit with Abimelech which resulted in a blessing for Abimelech.

After the greatest test of Abraham's faith with his willingness to give up his son, Isaac, the Lord again promised a blessing on Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 22:16-18).

Revelation and Redemption in the Days of the Patriarchs

Lesson 4b



Responses to God's Revelation and Redemption

1. Value a study of the Old Testament. **8.**

2. Respond to God as your creator. **9.**

3. Live in light of God's judgment and mercy. **10.**

4. Trust God for He is faithful. **11.**

5. **12.**

6. **13.**

7.