



Steädfast / Sumud

FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE & ISRAEL

Presented by the Just Love Ministry

Week 2: THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT: A COVENANT FOR ALL OF ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS

Meditate **GENESIS 17**

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.

²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."

³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

⁸And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God."

⁹God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Explore



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Reflect

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah. God promises to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to ALL who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith.

As God promised to bless Abraham, it did not depend on His merit. In the stories that followed, we indeed see God holding up his end of the bargain, but with the most improbable collection of flawed individuals. We too are flawed and in need of the the covenant and promises of God. Plenty has changed in the last three millennia but this hasn't: Old covenant or new, God keeps God's end of the bargain. We are the unreliable party—imperfect followers of Jesus, in need of repentance, in need of encouragement, in need of enlightenment, in need of grace. As we seek ways to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Gaza, may we see them as God sees them imperfect victims.

1. As we learned about God's covenant with Abraham and God's faithfulness to Abraham, how do we see God's faithfulness in our lives?
2. God invited Abraham and his descendants to "keep God's covenant" to most fully experience God's blessings. What does it look like to keep God's covenant and walk before God blamelessly?
3. Abraham is the father of the both Ishmael and Isaac. He is the father of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, how is God's covenant being realized with all of Abraham's descendants today?

Pray

God, in this lenten season, we claim the promises of God made to Abraham in the covenant. Give us the humility to acknowledge that ALL THINGS Are possible to God. May we always seek God's faithfulness amidst the brokenness in our lives and in the world, rather than our virtue and effort. Amen.

Sing

256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People
723 Canticle of the Turning "My soul cries out with a joyful sound"
We Rise. Batya Levine