

Genesis 17 and 21

God's Promise to Abraham

17.1 Abram was ninety-nine years old when the LORD appeared to him again and said, "I am God All-Powerful. If you obey me and always do right,

2 I will keep my solemn promise to you and give you more descendants than can be counted."

3 Abram bowed with his face to the ground, and God said:

4-5 I promise that you will be the father of many nations. That's why I now change your name from Abram to Abraham.¹

6 I will give you a lot of descendants, and in the future they will become great nations. Some of them will even be kings.

7 I will always keep the promise I have made to you and your descendants, because I am your God and their God.

8 I will give you and them the land in which you are now a foreigner. I will give the whole land of Canaan to your family forever, and I will be their God. ...

10 As the sign that you are keeping this promise, you must circumcise every man and boy in your family. ...

16 I will bless her [your wife], and you will have a son by her. She will become the mother of nations, and some of her descendants will even be kings.

Hagar and Ishmael Are Sent Away

21.9-10 One day, Sarah noticed Hagar's son Ishmael² playing, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that Egyptian slave woman and her son! I don't want him to inherit anything. It should all go to my son."

11 Abraham was worried about Ishmael.

12 But God said, "Abraham, don't worry about your slave woman and the boy. Just do what Sarah tells you. Isaac will inherit your family name,

13 but the son of the slave woman is also your son, and I will make his descendants into a great nation."

¹ *Abraham*: In Hebrew "Abraham" sounds like "father of many nations."

² *Ishmael*: The son of Abraham and Hagar, who was Sarah's slave woman.