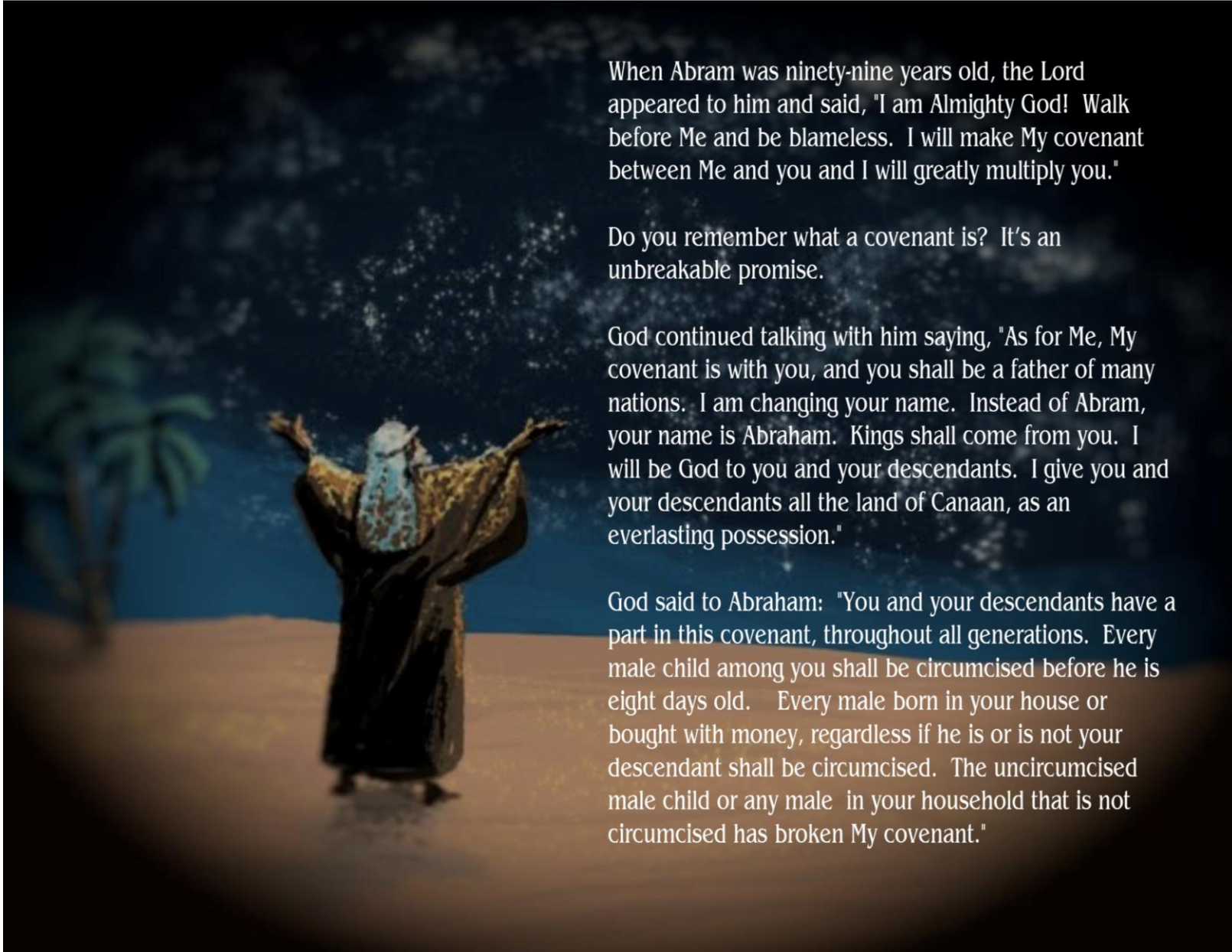


The Sign of the Covenant



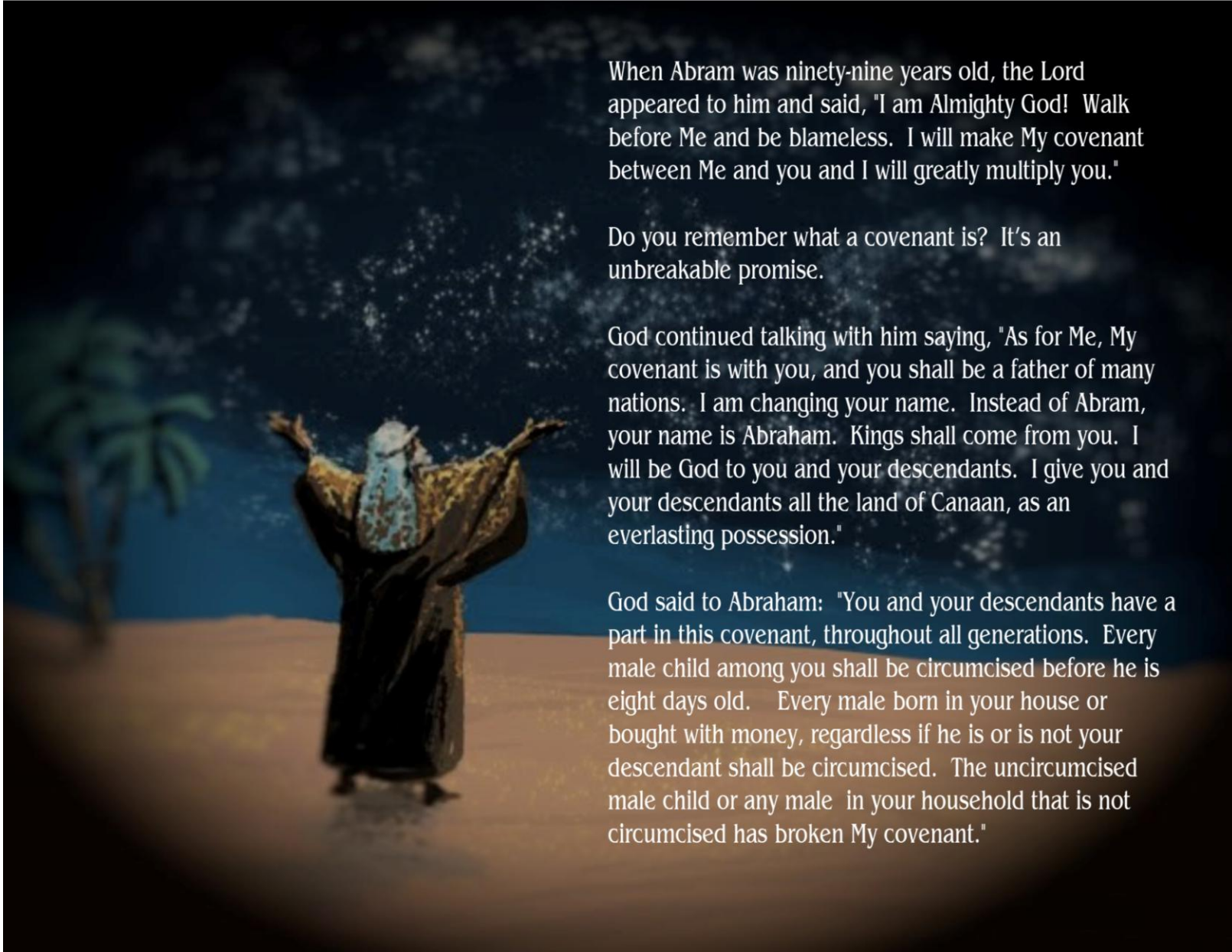


When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am Almighty God! Walk before Me and be blameless. I will make My covenant between Me and you and I will greatly multiply you."

Do you remember what a covenant is? It's an unbreakable promise.

God continued talking with him saying, "As for Me, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. I am changing your name. Instead of Abram, your name is Abraham. Kings shall come from you. I will be God to you and your descendants. I give you and your descendants all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession."

God said to Abraham: "You and your descendants have a part in this covenant, throughout all generations. Every male child among you shall be circumcised before he is eight days old. Every male born in your house or bought with money, regardless if he is or is not your descendant shall be circumcised. The uncircumcised male child or any male in your household that is not circumcised has broken My covenant."



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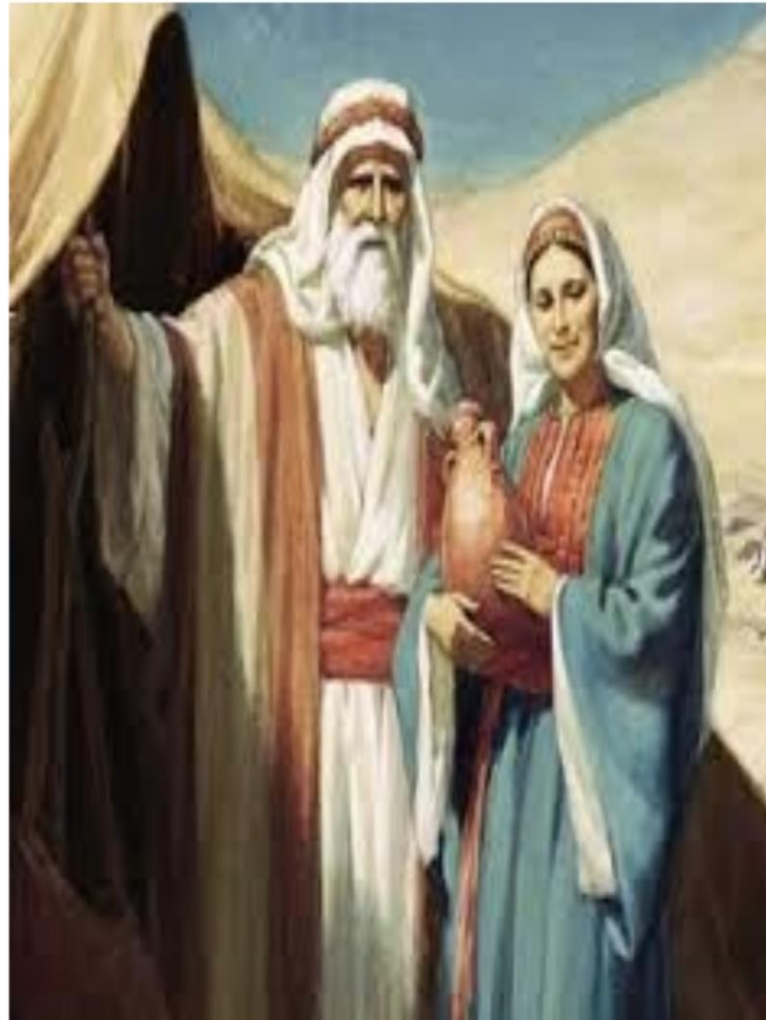
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The
Sign of the Covenant

God told Abraham, "I am also changing your wife's name. Instead of Sarai, her name is now Sarah. I will bless her and give you a son by her. You will name him Isaac. She shall be a mother of nations and kings."

Abraham laughed to himself, thinking, "We are going to have a baby when I am one hundred years old and Sarah is ninety years old?" Abraham asked God, "Can Ishmael share Isaac's promise?"



The
Sign of the Covenant



God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall have the son with whom I will establish My covenant. As for Ishmael, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will give him many descendants. Among his descendants will be twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, who will be born this time next year."

When God finished talking with Abraham, he took Ishmael and all the males who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised them that same day. Abraham was ninety-nine years old and Ishmael was thirteen years old.

"Pop, what is circumcise?"

"Circumcision is cutting off of a little bit of skin. The only unnecessary skin males have. It is the only skin you can cut off without leaving a hole."