

God's First Promise to Abram

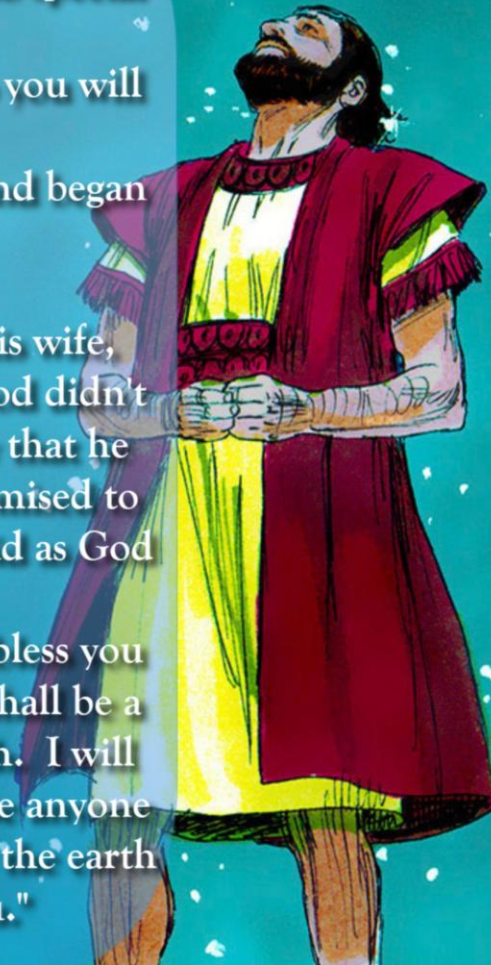
"Pop, we learned about Abram in Sunday School. I want to know what was so special about him?"

"Well, lets see if I can explain it so you will understand."

Pop got comfortable in his chair and began to explain.

The Lord asked Abram to take his wife, Sarai, and leave his hometown. God didn't tell him where he was going, only that he would show him a land. God promised to make Abram a great nation if he did as God asked

God told Abram, "If you go I will bless you and make your name great. You shall be a blessing to all the families on earth. I will bless those who bless you, and curse anyone that curses you. All the families of the earth shall be blessed through you."



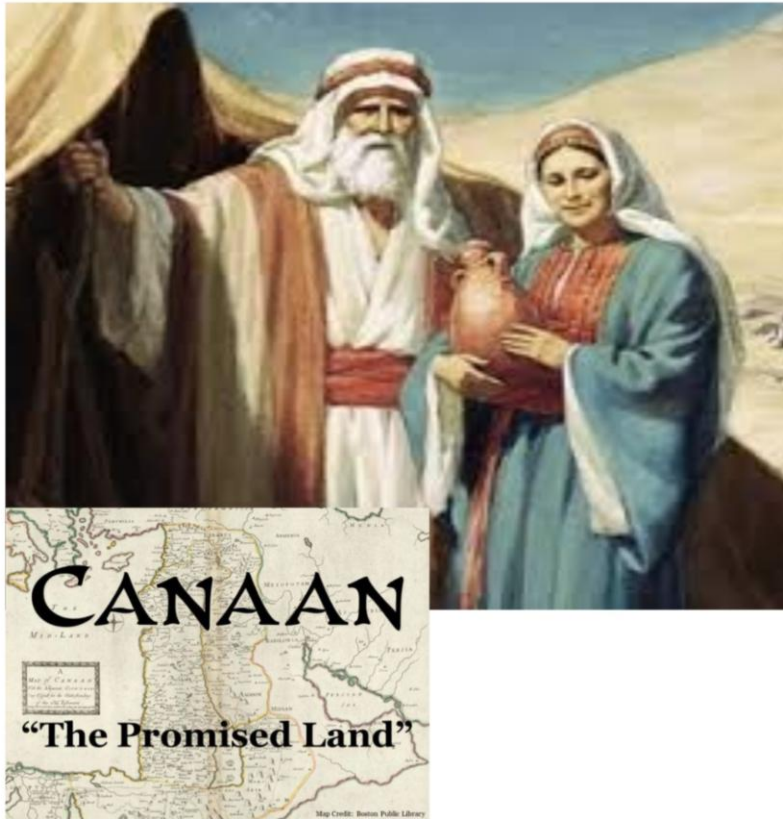


**Abram could have said no. He could have stayed under the protection of his family, with his brother, sisters, cousins, friends and neighbors. He could have stayed around people he knew. But, he didn't.**

**Abram gathered his wife, Sarai, and all their belongings, all the people who worked for him with all their belongings and started on his way, as the Lord had asked him. Lot, his nephew, went with him.**

**Hmmmm, to do all of that, to have all those people depending on him, Abram must have had plenty of money.**

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**Abram was seventy-five years old when he left his hometown. They departed and went to the land of Canaan. Abram didn't stop as soon as he got to Canaan. He passed through the land until he came to the city of Shechem. Then Abram went a little further south, to the mountain east of Bethel. Bethel was on his West and Ai was on his East. This is where he established his new home. People (Canaanites) were already living in the land, but not on the property where Abram stopped.**

**God told Abram that he was going to give this land to his descendants. One of the first things Abram did was to build an altar to God.**

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**In Bible times, an altar was a place of sacrifice. Usually outside. Today, it's a place of prayer and worship, usually in a church.**

**What are descendants? Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on and so on.**

**God was so happy with Abram and his wife that He changed their names...but that's another story.**