

Genesis 12:1-17:27
Isaiah 40:27-41:16
Romans 4:1-25

Genesis 15:6
And he believed in the
Lord; and He counted it
to him for righteousness

Genesis 12:1-17:27 Introduction

This Parasha teaches us about believing and trusting in God. He loves us and His plans are always best for us. When we trust in Him, and follow His leading, we can know that He will be there with us, no matter what happens in our lives.

Genesis 12

When God instructs Abram to leave Haran, He does not tell Abram exactly where He is sending him. Abram trusts God and goes, taking with him his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the people and goods they had gotten in Haran. They go to the land of Canaan, but then are forced to go further south into Egypt because of a famine.



God did not reveal to Abram all His plans for him, He just said "Go". Abram simply had to trust God and start his journey. God does the same for us. He doesn't give us His whole plan for our lives, only a little bit at a time. We must step out in faith and follow where He leads us. This keeps us dependent on Him. We must always be praying, seeking God's will, spending time with Him, and trusting Him to guide and direct our lives.

Genesis 13

Abram returns to Beth-el with all his family, belongings, flocks and herds. God has greatly blessed Abram and has also blessed Lot because he was with Abram.

Because they both have so much, the land is not able to sustain all the people, flocks and herds, so Abram and Lot have to part.

Lot chooses to settle in the plain of Jordan and pitches his tent toward Sodom (a very wicked, evil city). Abram settles in Hebron and builds an altar to the Lord. God

promises to give to Abram and his seed (descendants) all the land of Canaan forever.

When Lot chose where he wanted to live, he did not seek guidance from God or from Abram. He wanted to settle in the land that looked the greenest and most fruitful, even though it was by Sodom and Gomorrah, two very sinful, evil cities. He thought he could live among faithless, ungodly people and not be affected. He soon found out he was wrong. We need to

be sure not to make the same mistake Lot did. Just because something might be physically good, does not mean it is spiritually good.



Genesis 14

Two great armies go to war. One of the armies includes the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah. Their army is defeated and the conquering army takes all the goods and food from those cities. Lot and his family are also taken captive by the conquering armies so Abram and his people, with God's help, go rescue him and all who are with him.

When we do as Lot did and allow ourselves to be surrounded by and have relationships with people who are ungodly and who do not walk according to God's truth, we are acting and thinking sinfully and we will face the consequences of our sin.

Genesis 15



Abram asks God how his descendants will inherit the land, since he has no children. God promises him he will have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. He also reminds Abram that He will give him the land of Canaan, and He gives him a sign to confirm what He is telling him. When Abram falls into a deep sleep, God reveals to him that

Abram's descendants will be strangers in a foreign land where they will serve the inhabitants and be afflicted for 400 years. However, God will judge that nation and afterward Abram's people will come out with great substance and return to the land.

God promises Abram that his many descendants would live in the land He had sworn to give them, but He also reveals that they will go through suffering along the way. When we trust in God and follow His commands and leading, we also will still face difficult times, but we can trust that God will see us through any trials and adversities that come our way.

Genesis 16

Since Sarai, Abram's wife, has not been able to have children she gives her handmaid, Hagar, to Abram to be a wife to him, so he can have a child by her. Instead of waiting on God, Abram agrees and takes Hagar as his wife. This was not part of God's plan for Abram and Sarai. When Hagar conceives, this causes conflict between her and Sarai who deals with her harshly, causing Hagar to run away. The angel of the Lord speaks to Hagar in the wilderness and tells her to return to Sarai and submit to her authority. He also reveals to Hagar that her son will have many descendants but that he will do what is best in his eyes and will be in conflict with others. Hagar gives birth to a son and calls him Ishmael.

When we do as Sarai and Abram did and we try to make things happen the way we think they should things will not go well for us and we will face unpleasant consequences that will affect us and possibly others as well. We should always be praying, studying God's word and seeking God's plan for our life and allowing Him to work in us in His time and in His way.

Genesis 17

When Abram was 99 years old God again promises him that he will have many descendants. Abram was walking in a way that was pleasing to God: trusting in Him, depending on Him, and submitting to Him, which brings transformation in Abram's life. God changes Abram's name to Abraham which means "Father of many Nations". He establishes His covenant with Abraham and to his descendants that He will be their God and that He will give them the land of Canaan as an eternal possession. God tells Abraham that he and his descendants will keep His covenant and Abraham should have every male circumcised. The circumcision will be a sign and reminder of the covenant between God and His people. Abraham does as God instructed and has himself, Ishmael, and all other males in his household circumcised.

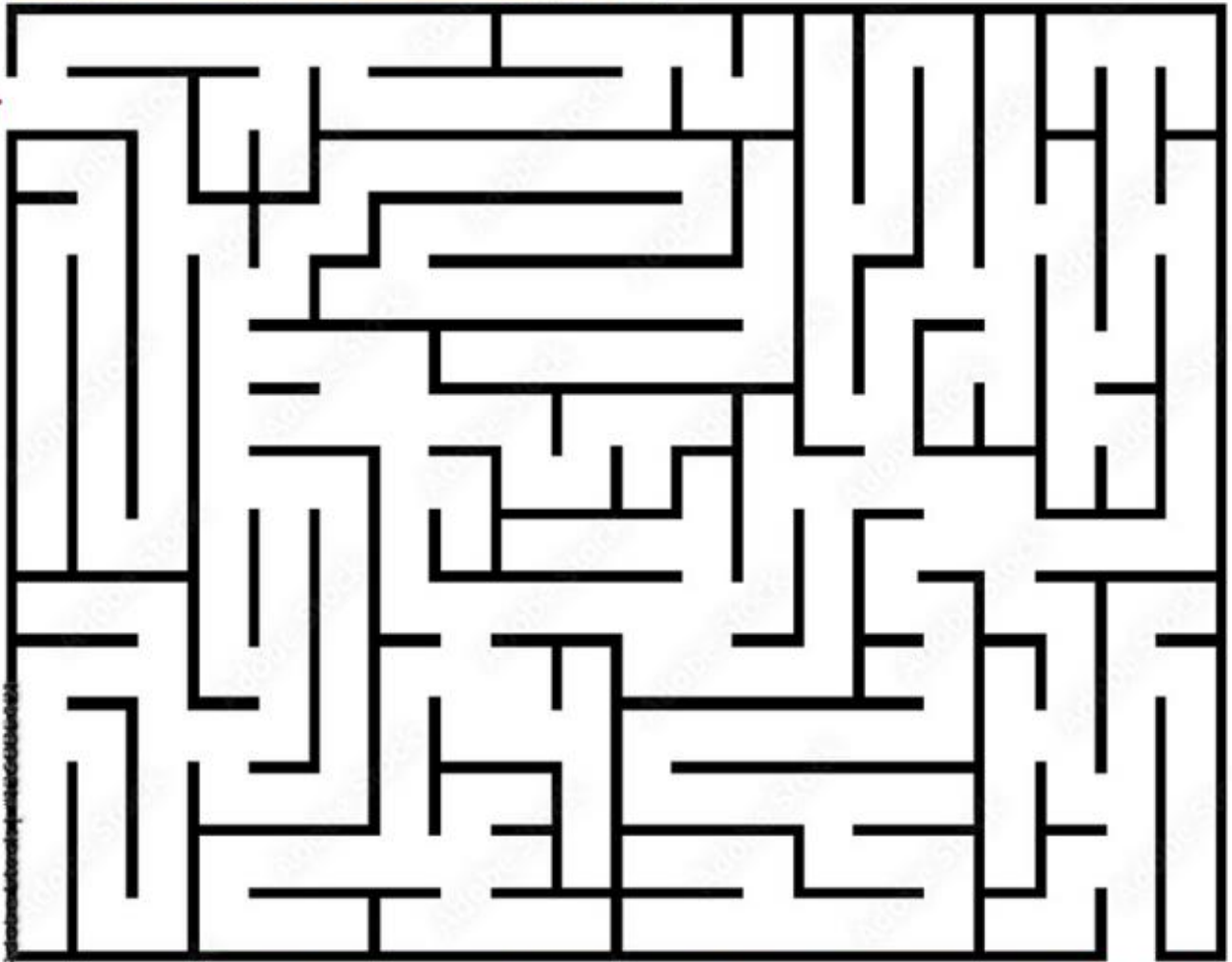
At this time God also changes Sarai's name to Sarah and tells Abraham that He will bless her and give her a son and she will become the mother of many nations. Since Abraham is 99 years old and Sarah is 90, he doesn't think they can have a child together, so he at first thinks God is talking about Ishmael. God tells him that Sarah will have a son and his name will be Issac.

When God makes a promise to us, we know He always does what He says He will do. He will do it in His own way and in His time, which is always perfect. We must always trust and believe what He tells us and reveals to us in His word.



Help Abram and his people get to the Promised Land

Start



Finish



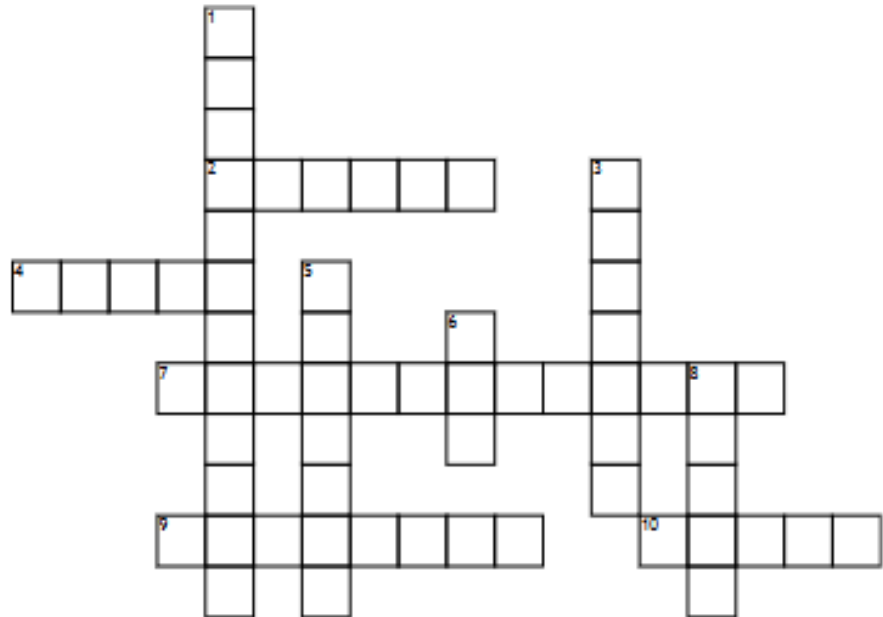
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Across

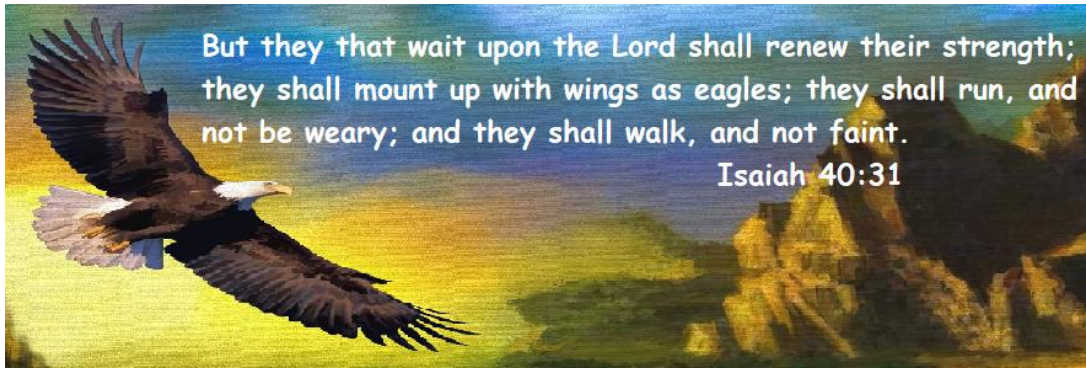
- 2. Land that God led Abram to
- 4. _____ believed God and was counted righteous
- 7. Being right in the eyes of God
- 9. An agreement between God and man
- 10. Sarai's handmaid



Down

- 1. Sign of covenant between God and Abraham
- 3. Everlasting, never ending
- 5. Hagar's son
- 6. Nephew of Abram
- 8. Wife of Abram





Isaiah 40:27-41:16

These verses remind us that God is ever present, all-knowing, and all-powerful. He knows everything we say and do; nothing is hidden from Him, and there is no limit to His understanding. When we are weak, we have hope and can find strength in Him.

The idol worshippers help and encourage one another to stay strong in their wrongdoing but they do not rely on God. They think that their words and actions are not noticed by God, but He will deal with the enemies of His people and judge them for their words and actions.

Israel is just the opposite of the idol worshippers. They are the seed of Abraham, the servants of the one true God. Although Israel was scattered among the nations God is bringing His people back to the land He has promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He has strengthened, helped, and supported Israel with His righteous right hand (Messiah). Those who believe in God and in His holy one, Messiah, will overcome the world and rejoice.

These verses give us hope and encouragement. Biblical hope is when we claim the promises of God by faith, according to the standards, structure, and order of God. When we are in a covenant relationship with God we can persevere, trusting in God to bring us through anything we may face in life.

Romans 4: 1-25

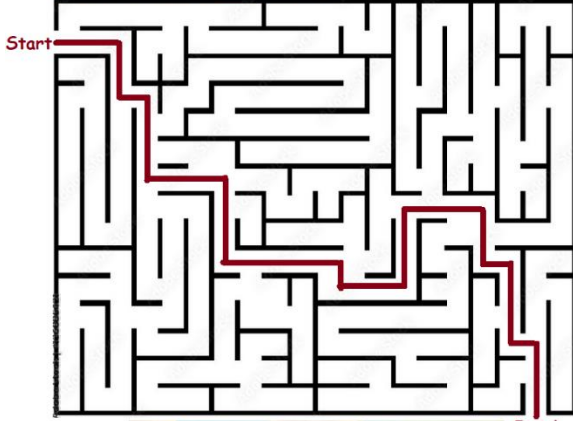
In this section of his letter to the believers in Rome, Paul stresses the importance of faith versus works. He uses Old Testament scripture regarding Abraham to show that it was because of Abraham's faith, not his works, that he was counted as righteous (Gen 15:6). Abraham believed God when He told him that he would have a son by his wife Sarah even though they were both very old. This faith came before Abraham was circumcised. It was not because of his circumcision that he was considered righteous, but because of his trust and belief in God. The act of circumcision is a sign of the covenant between God and man and signifies the death of the flesh (our natural sinful desires).

Just as it was with Abraham, it is our faith, not our works, that brings about the death of our carnal (fleshly) nature. We must have faith to accept God's gift of salvation. God wants us to live our lives according to His word, but it is our faith and belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of Messiah Yeshua that brings our salvation.

Answer Key



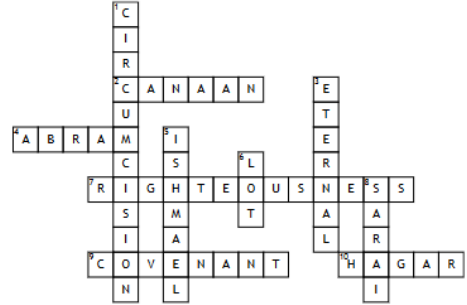
Help Abram and his people get to the promised land



Across

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