



BULLDOZERFAITH
LIVING LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



*Some time later God tested Abraham.
He said to him, "Abraham!"
Here I am," he replied.*

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

(Genesis 22:1-2)



CROSSING POINT GLOBAL COMMUNITY

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THE FATHER

"and she, (Sarah) said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring." (Genesis 21:10-13)

Abraham had two sons at the time of this Scripture, Ishmael, and Isaac. He had a great love for them both. Imagine Abraham's heartbreak to send away his firstborn son, knowing God had a bigger plan for all humanity.

He may have felt he was sacrificing one son for another. Still, his choice was to believe the Lord's words of comfort to him, that Ishmael would also be blessed and become a nation.

Yehovah was asking Abraham to trust Him and be a part of helping Him to bring about His purpose for the restoration of all people back to Himself.

It was Isaac's line of descendants that were to be recognized as the sons of God. The ones chosen to learn Yehovah's way and take it out to the nations. This was all part of God's big plan.

We know that Abraham wasn't perfect, yet Yehovah loved him dearly and called him a 'friend.' God confided in Abraham what He was doing and even allowed him to save his nephew, Lot, from being killed when Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed.

When Yehovah asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, it appears He was sharing a deep part of His heart with him; a Father's heart and desire to save all His 'sons,' and it would come at a great cost.

Because Abraham believed that Yehovah was able to raise Isaac from the dead, it gave him faith to do what He was asking him to do. **"Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death."** (Hebrews 11:19)

Still, in the mind and heart of Abraham, he would have had the thoughts and feelings of a father who was about to walk with his son on the most challenging journey of both their lives. With every step Abraham took, he would have felt the weight of what he believed he was about to do.

It can be hard for some of us to reconcile God's plan of salvation to sacrifice his only Son, Yeshua. We have an inbuilt instinct to protect our children no matter what. We may choose to lay down our own lives for another person, but we would not willingly offer up our child's life to save another.

Yehovah's love is the sacrificial kind in a way that is 'otherworldly.' It goes beyond our comprehension of right and wrong.

I believe compassion to be the cornerstone of Yehovah's heart when He looks down on the world He created and how we have made such a mess of it all and continue to do so.

He knew we would need a "Saviour" and that it would have to be Yeshua.

Yehovah had to walk His own Son on the painful journey to be crucified, knowing there wasn't going to be a ram caught in a thicket to take His place. Yeshua was to be the sacrifice, and the thorns that held the ram's head captive in Isaac's story would be embedded around Yeshua's head as he hung on the tree, fulfilling the prophecy that He was the "sacrificial lamb." Yehovah's own heart would have been breaking because of the pain and suffering His Son was about to endure.

We need to remember this when we consider all that has been said and done for us to be saved. It's not just about our salvation; it's also about an incredible sacrifice of a Father and His Son.

Yeshua willingly trusted and obeyed His Father, **"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,"** (Isaiah 53:7) Also Isaac, who was led by his father, Abraham. He went without question or fear, believing in his own heart he was saved.

Our calling is this; **"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.."** (Romans 12:1)

Blessings, Kenny

THE SON

*"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is more delightful than wine."
(Song of Songs 1:2)*

One of my favorite verses in the Bible was when Yeshua first set out the details of the Covenant (Ketubah-marriage contract) to the Israelites. He was offering them to 'belong' to Him and be in His kingdom. To Yeshua, they were a great treasure that He wanted to cherish and hold dear to His heart. He was singling them out from all the people on the earth to be His. He chose them. On that night, He was a Bridegroom asking for them to be His Bride.

"Now, if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations, you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." (Exodus 19:5-6)

Even though everything didn't go as planned and the Israelites went back on their word when they said, "Yes," to Yeshua, He has always remained faithful to His betrothed.

Time and time again, He comes back, snatching us from the arms of the enemy, and brings us back home. The desire of His heart remains the same; to be our God and for us to be His people. *"I will walk amongst you and be your God, and you shall be My people." (Leviticus 26:12)* He washes us with His blood and covers us with garments of white as He wipes our tears away.

It is a classic love story with a passionate plea, *"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him (Psalms 34:8)*

He is relentless in pursuing those who belong to Him; we should never forget that His love for us is as intense as that of the lover in "Song of Songs" and as persistent as the hound in "The Hound of Heaven." by Francis Thompson, published in 1893.

"I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" (Luke 12:49)

He is serious in His intent for the completeness of your salvation, and you can believe that He will never let you go.

You can put your trust in Him, no matter what you have experienced in the past. Your experience of love and trust may have been shattered by the ones who were supposed to love you and protect you. This can have a devastating effect when trying to have faith and let your barriers down to let God in. This has been my experience, and sometimes it can feel like you will never completely let go of those walls you put up to protect your heart. But then Yeshua comes knocking, sometimes in the dead of night when you are fast asleep, and you have let down your guard. He whispers in your ear, saying, *"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." (Jeremiah 31:3)*, and another brick falls to the ground...

We, as humans, are weak in our resolve to love, honor, and obey. But God is faithful, and His every Word is true. He comes at us with compassion, knowing that we are but 'dust' and that we will fail Him over and over again. Yeshua took a chance on us, knowing who we are, and still, He will never let go. That is a LOVE that is hard to explain - His Spirit that lives inside us is our ever-growing witness that He is real.

When we reveal the love that He has for us to each other, His light is shining at it's brightest!

Remember the story of the good Samaritan? The 'Neighbour' was the one who who showed mercy to the man who had been robbed. *"Yeshua tells us to, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:37)*

*Grace and peace to you,
Esther*

"You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume more than any spice!"

(Song of Solomon 4:9-10)



THE WEDDING

A Wedding Song (Psalm 45)

"My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the King; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.

You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever.

Gird your sword on your side, you mighty one; clothe yourself with splendor and majesty. In your majesty ride forth victoriously in the cause of truth, humility and justice; let your right hand achieve awesome deeds.

Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the King's enemies; let the nations fall beneath your feet.

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your Kingdom.

You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.

All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; from palaces adorned with ivory the music of the strings makes you glad.

Daughters of kings are among your honored women; at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir.

Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention: Forget your people and your father's house.

Let the King be enthralled by your beauty; honor Him, for He is your Lord.

The city of Tyre will come with a gift, people of wealth will seek your favor.

All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold.

In embroidered garments she is led to the King; her virgin companions follow her—those brought to be with her.

Led in with joy and gladness, they enter the palace of the King.

Your sons will take the place of your fathers; you will make them princes throughout the land.

I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

[Psalm 45 \(music by Shane and Shane\)](#)

[click on link to listen](#)

*"My heart burst at its banks, spilling with beauty and goodness.
I pour it out as a song to my King, shaping the rivers into words"*

THE SON

As a diamond reflects light on all its sides, each side as glorious as the other, so does Yeshua; as each facet of His being is revealed.

Here are just some of the characteristics of who He is to us.

Beginning and End - "I am the 'Aleph' and the 'Taw', the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." (Revelations 22:13)

The Word - "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Authority - "And He is the head of the body, the ecclesia; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him," (Colossians 1:18-10)

Creator - "For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him." (Colossians 1:16)

Husband/Redeemer - "For your Maker is your husband—the Lord Almighty is His name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth." (Isaiah 54:5)

Advocate - "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One." (1John2:1)

Saviour - "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Messiah - "The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah, '(that is, the Christ.)'" (John 1:41)

Friend - "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:15)

Author and Perfector of our Faith - "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrew 12:2)

Healer - "He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalms 147:3)

Deliverer - "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (Psalms 18:2)

Conqueror - "When I saw Him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." (Revelations 1:17-18)

Righteous Judge - "He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead." (Acts 10:42)

Lamb of God - "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

Prophet - "Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." (Mark 6:4)

Home - "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" (John 14:1-2)



A FORESHADOW OF MESSIAH

ISAAC

YESHUA

Birth Prophesied

"Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, (Abraham) saying, "This man will not be your heir, but one who will come forth from your own body he shall be your heir. And He took him outside and said, "Now look towards the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them. And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." (Genesis 15:4-6)

Birth Prophesied

"But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end. (Luke 1:30-33)

Named by God

"Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. (Genesis 17:19)

Named By God

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,(Yeshua) because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Miraculous Conception

"Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" (Genesis 17:17)

Miraculous Conception

"But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:20)

The Covenant

"The Lord appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt, stay in the land of which I tell you. Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven , and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 26:3-4)

The Covenant

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on his shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal father, Prince of Peace. There will be no to the increase of His government or of peace. On the throne of David and over his kingdom. To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness. From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

The Sacrifice

"Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." (Genesis 22:2)
Abraham answered (Isaac), God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." (Genesis 22:8)

The Sacrifice

"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)
The next day John (The Immerser) saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

One Bride

"...you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom i live, but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son, Isaac." (Genesis 24:3-4)

One Bride

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready (Revelations 19:7)



UNFOLDING PLAN OF REDEMPTION



1.Abraham
 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
 (Genesis 12:2)
START - follow the numbers

2.Abraham
 "He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."
 (Genesis 15:5)

3.Abraham - Israelites
 "Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions."
 (Genesis 15:13-14)

4.Abraham and Sarah
 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."
 (Genesis 17:16)

5.Isaac
 "But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."
 (Genesis 17:21)

6.Abraham and Isaac
 "and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."
 (Genesis 22:16-18)

7.Isaac
 "Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham."
 (Genesis 26:3)

14.Coming Messiah - Israel
 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws
 (Ezekial 36:26-27)

16.Yeshua
 "When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:
 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." .."
 (Matthew 2:4-6)

17.Yeshua
 "Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
 (Matthew 16:16)

18.Yeshua
 " ...the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ..'
 (Romans 1:2-6)

8.Jacob
 "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.28:14 Or will use your name and the name of your offspring in blessings (see 48:20) 15I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
 (Genesis 26:3)

15.Yeshua - Israelites
 "He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us- to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days."
 (Luke 1:69-75)

19.Yeshua
 "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."
 (Revelations 21:3)
THE END

13.Coming Messiah - Israel
 "to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever. And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—
 (Isaiah 56:5-6)

12.Coming Messiah - Israel
 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts . I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."
 (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

11.Coming Messiah - Israel
 "May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. Then all nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed."
 (Psalm 72:17)

10.Nathan - King David - Coming Messiah
 "The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."
 (2Samuel 7:11-16)

9.Moses - Israelites
 "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation: These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."
 (Exodus 19:4-6)

ABRAHAM

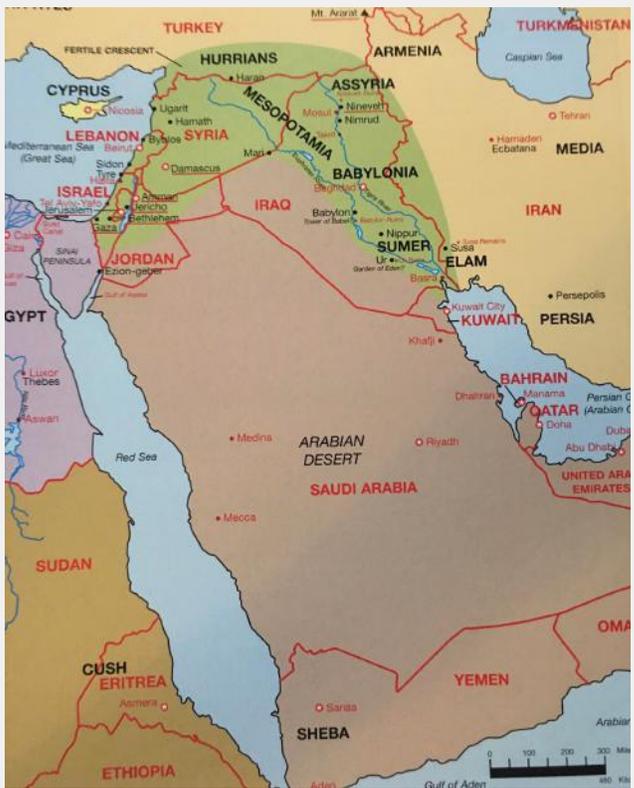
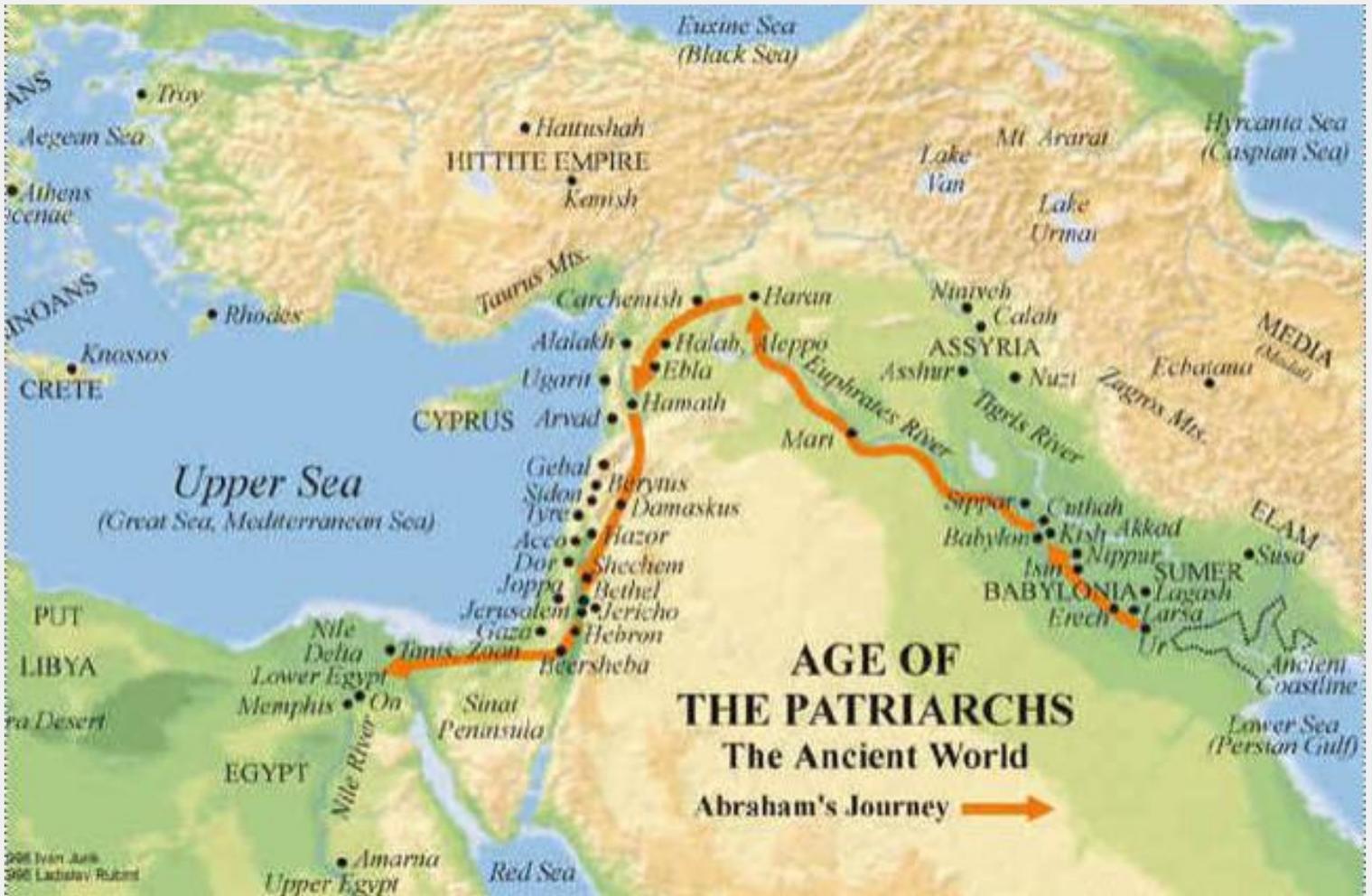
So, what do we know about Abraham?

- From the family line of Shem, son of Noah (Genesis 11:10-26)
- His father was Terah and his brothers were Nahor and Haran (Genesis 11:27)
- Husband to Sarai, (half sister, same father, also barren) name changed by God to Sarah (Genesis 11:29)
Concubines - Hagar and Keturah (Genesis 16:3-4)
- First son was Ismael, through Hagar, Sarai's Egyptian maid (Genesis 16:11)
- Second son was Isaac through Sarah, his first wife and the promised son from God
- Six sons through Keturah after Sarah passed away, Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. These sons became the father of the Arabian tribes living in the east of Israel.
- He originated from Ur of the Chaldeans (present day Iraq) along with his extended family
- Was seventy-five when he was called by God to leave his country and set out for the land of Canaan
- Was eighty-six when Ishmael was born
- Was ninety-nine when he was circumcised, Ishmael was thirteen and Isaac was eight days old establishing the Covenant of Circumcision
- Was one hundred years old when Isaac was born and Sarah was ninety
- Was one hundred and seventy-five when he passed away and Sarah was one hundred and twenty-seven when she passed away
- Buried along side his wife, Sarah in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, (present day Hebron) in the field of Ephron, son of Zohar, the Hittite.

- **Righteous Friend of God** - "And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone." (James 2:23-24)
- **'Abram the Hebrew'** - "A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew... "(Hebrew means to 'cross over and Abram had crossed the River Euphrates. (Genesis 14:13)
- **Prophet** - Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all who belong to you will die." (Genesis 20:10)
- **Father of Faith** - "That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring - not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all." (Romans 4:16)
- **Salvation** - "Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:9)
- **Blessed** - "And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed'" (Acts 3:25)
- **Chosen** - "For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." (Genesis 18:19)
- **Faith in Action** - "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered Him faithful. By faith Abraham, even though he was too old to have children—and Sarah herself was not able to conceive—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. (Hebrews 11:8-12)

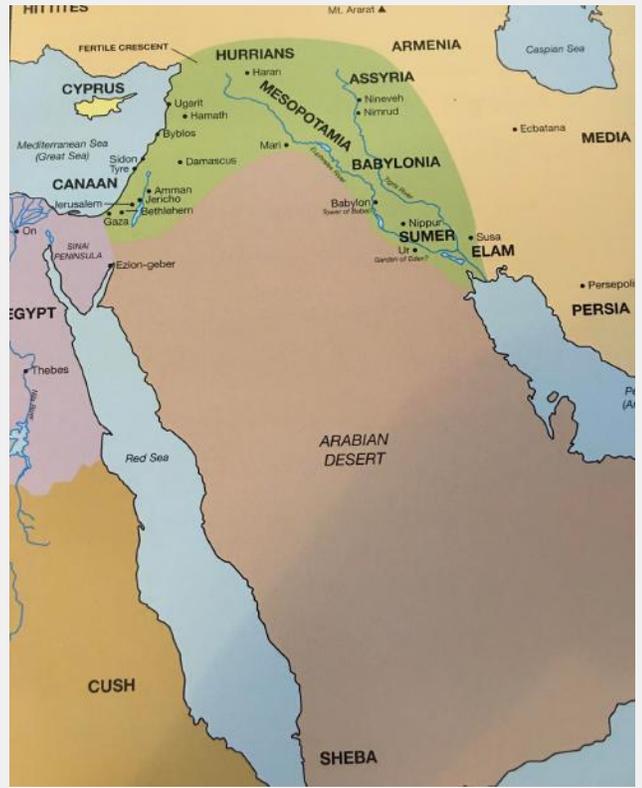


ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY



- Abraham's Journey
1. Started at Ur of Chaldeans, Babylonia (Iraq)
 2. Haran, Canaan (Israel)
 3. Shechem, Canaan (Israel)
 4. Hills between Bethel and Ai, Canaan (Israel)
 5. Negev, Canaan (Israel)
 6. Egypt
 7. Negev, between Kadesh and Shur, Canaan (Israel)
 8. Gerar, Canaan (Israel)
 9. Bethel, Canaan (Israel)
 10. Hebron, Canaan (Israel)

For a great teaching on making the decision to follow Yeshua without doubt or compromise as Abraham did, please click on the below link.



MIDDLE EAST NOW

MIDDLE EAST THEN (BC)

Stepping Over The Line - Kenny Russell

THE PROMISED LAND



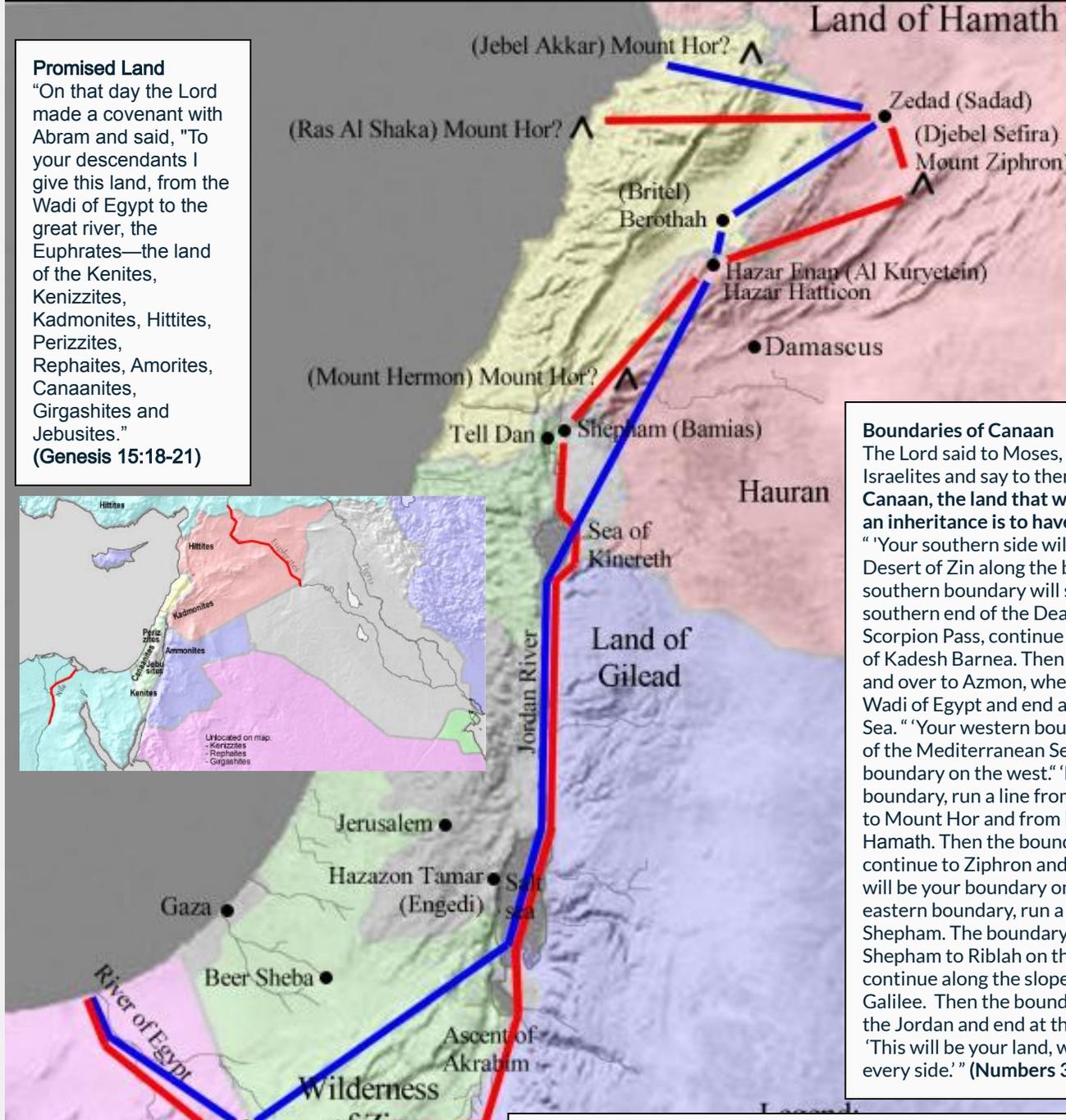
Land divisions for the twelve tribes (Joshua 13:1-19)

Promised Land
 "On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."
 (Genesis 15:18-21)



Boundaries of Canaan
 The Lord said to Moses, "Command the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter Canaan, the land that will be allotted to you as an inheritance is to have these boundaries: "Your southern side will include some of the Desert of Zin along the border of Edom. Your southern boundary will start in the east from the southern end of the Dead Sea, cross south of Scorpion Pass, continue on to Zin and go south of Kadesh Barnea. Then it will go to Hazar Addar and over to Azmon, where it will turn, join the Wadi of Egypt and end at the Mediterranean Sea. "Your western boundary will be the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. This will be your boundary on the west." "For your northern boundary, run a line from the Mediterranean Sea to Mount Hor and from Mount Hor to Lebo Hamath. Then the boundary will go to Zedad, continue to Ziphron and end at Hazar Enan. This will be your boundary on the north. "For your eastern boundary, run a line from Hazar Enan to Shepham. The boundary will go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain and continue along the slopes east of the Sea of Galilee. Then the boundary will go down along the Jordan and end at the Dead Sea." 'This will be your land, with its boundaries on every side.'" (Numbers 34:1-12)

The Boundaries of the Land
 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: "These are the boundaries of the land that you will divide among the twelve tribes of Israel as their inheritance, with two portions for Joseph. You are to divide it equally among them. Because I swore with uplifted hand to give it to your ancestors, this land will become your inheritance. "This is to be the boundary of the land: "On the north side it will run from the Mediterranean Sea by the Hethlon road past Lebo Hamath to Zedad, Berothah and Sibraim (which lies on the border between Damascus and Hamath), as far as Hazer Hattikon, which is on the border of Hauran. The boundary will extend from the sea to Hazar Enan, along the northern border of Damascus, with the border of Hamath to the north. This will be the northern boundary. "On the east side the boundary will run between Hauran and Damascus, along the Jordan between Gilead and the land of Israel, to the Dead Sea and as far as Tamar as far as the waters of Meribah Kadesh, then along the Wadi of Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. This will be the southern boundary. "On the west side, the Mediterranean Sea will be the boundary to a point opposite Lebo Hamath. This will be the western boundary. (Ezekial 47:13-20)



THE CALLING OF ABRAHAM

1. THE CALL OF ABRAM IN HARAM (present day Turkey)

"The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:1-3)

2. THE LAND IN CANAAN (present day Israel)

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. (present day Nablus, West Bank area, half way between Nazareth and Jerusalem.) At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." (Genesis 12:6-7)

3. ABRAM AND LOT SEPERATE AND LAND IS CONFIRMED

"The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, (present day West Bank) where he pitched his tents. (Genesis 13:14-18)

4. THE COVENANT

"After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then He said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.

He also said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

So the Lord said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Abram brought all these to Him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. **On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."**

(Genesis 15:1-21)

THE CALLING OF ABRAHAM

5. THE COVENANT OF CIRCUMCISION

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.** I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God." Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come.

This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. **My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.**

Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation.

But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."

When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him. (Genesis 17:1-22)

6. "SARAH WILL HAVE A SON"

"Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and **Sarah your wife will have a son.**

"Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son." Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh." (Genesis 18: 9-15)

THE CALLING OF ABRAHAM

7. ABRAHAM PLEADS FOR SODOM

"Then the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

"Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know." The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord.

Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?

Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

The Lord said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?"

"If I find forty-five there," He said, "I will not destroy it."

Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?"

He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?"

He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?"

He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."

Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?"

He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home. *(Genesis 18:17-33)*

THE CALLING OF ABRAHAM

8. ABRAHAM TESTED

"Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!""

Here I am," he replied.

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."

And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide.

And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.
(Genesis 22:1-19)

TWO BROTHERS

ISHMAEL

ISAAC

"And not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but **"Through Isaac shall your offspring be named."** This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring." (Romans 9:7-8)

1.FIRST natural son born to Abram, mother - Hagar
Abraham was 86 years old when Ishmael was born.
Ishmael died at 137 years

2.Named by God
The angel of the Lord also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son.**You shall name him Ishmael**, for the Lord has heard of your misery.
(Genesis 16:11)

3.Descendants increased and are hostile
"Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." The angel added, **"I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."** (Genesis 16:9)

He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and **he will live in hostility towards all his brothers."**
(Genesis 16:12)

4.Wife
God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, **his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.**

5.Twelve Rulers
"And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. **He will be the father of twelve rulers**, and I will make him into a great nation.
(Genesis 17:20)

1.FIRST and only 'son of promise' born to Abraham, mother - Sarah
Now you, brothers, **like Isaac, are children of promise.**
(Galatians 4:28)
Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born

2.Named by God plus Covenant is established
Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and **you will call him Isaac.** (*Isaac means he laughs.*) **I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.**
(Genesis 17:19)

3.Descendants increased and are a blessing
"Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall **all the families of the earth be blessed.** (Genesis 28:14)

4.Wife of Promise
"Abraham was now very old, and the Lord had blessed him in every way. He said to the senior servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. I want you to swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that **you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."**
(Genesis 24:1-4)

5.Twelve Tribes
Abraham was the father of Isaac, and **Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,** (Matthew 1:2)

Isaac and Ishmael. his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre. (Genesis 25:9)

ISHMAEL

Hagar and Ishmael - "The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. And He said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.

Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count." The angel of the Lord also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne.

Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael. (Genesis 16:7-16)

A blessing for Ishmael - "And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation.

(Genesis 17:20)

Ishmael and Abraham are circumcised - "On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him. Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, and his son Ishmael was thirteen; Abraham and his son Ishmael were both circumcised on that very day. And every male in Abraham's household, including those born in his household or bought from a foreigner, was circumcised with him." (Genesis 17:23-27)

Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away - "The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son.

But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob.

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt. (Genesis 21:8-21)

Ishmael's Family Line - This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Ishmael, whom Sarah's slave, Hagar the Egyptian, bore to Abraham. These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, listed in the order of their birth: Nebaioth the firstborn of Ishmael, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. These were the sons of Ishmael, and these are the names of the twelve tribal rulers according to their settlements and camps.

Ishmael lived a hundred and thirty-seven years. He breathed his last and died, and he was gathered to his people.

His descendants settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt, as you go toward Ashur. And they lived in hostility toward all the tribes related to them. (Genesis 25:12-18)

ISAAC

Birth of Isaac - "Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. *Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham* in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. *Abraham gave the name Isaac* to the son Sarah bore him. *When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him*, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." (Genesis 21:1-7)

Abraham sends out for a wife for Isaac - "Abraham was now very old, and the Lord had blessed him in every way. He said to the senior servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. I want you to swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac." (Genesis 24:1-4)
"Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. "The Lord, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land' - he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there." (Genesis 24:6-7)

Isaac marries Rebekah - "Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev. He went out to the field one evening to meditate and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?" "He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself. Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.." (Genesis 24:62-66)

Abraham's death - "Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac. But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east. Abraham lived a hundred and seventy-five years. Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah. After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who then lived near Beer Lahai Roi.." (Genesis 25: 5-11)

Generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger." (Genesis 25:19-26)

God confirms covenant with Isaac - "Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham's time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions." So Isaac stayed in Gerar." (Genesis 26:1-6)

Isaac becomes wealthy- "Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the Lord blessed him. The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy.." (Genesis 26:12-13)



ISAAC

God blesses Isaac - "From there he went up to Beersheba. That night the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham." (Genesis 26:23-24)

Isaac blesses Jacob - "So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said, "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed. May God give you heaven's dew and earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed." (Genesis 27:27-29)

Isaac is deceived - "His father Isaac asked him, "Who are you?" "I am your son," he answered, "your firstborn, Esau." Isaac trembled violently and said, "Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!" When Esau heard his father's words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me—me too, my father!" But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing." Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob (Jacob means he grasps the heel for he takes advantage of or he deceives.) This is the second time he has taken advantage of me: He took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!" Then he asked, "Haven't you reserved any blessing for me?" Isaac answered Esau, "I have made him lord over you and have made all his relatives his servants, and I have sustained him with grain and new wine. So what can I possibly do for you, my son?" (Genesis 27:32-37)

Isaac blesses Esau - "Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!" Then Esau wept aloud. His father Isaac answered him, "Your dwelling will be away from the earth's richness, away from the dew of heaven above. You will live by the sword and you will serve your brother. But when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck." (Genesis 27:38-40)

Isaac passes on the blessing of Abraham to Jacob - "Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I'm disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living." (Genesis 27:46)
So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. Go at once to Paddan Aram. (Northwest Mesopotamia) to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham." (Genesis 28:1-4)

Esau gets a wife from Ishmael's line. - "Now Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him to Paddan Aram (Harran) to take a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he commanded him, "Do not marry a Canaanite woman," and that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and had gone to Paddan Aram. Esau then realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac; so he went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, the sister of Nebaioth and daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, in addition to the wives he already had.." (Genesis 28:1-4)

Isaac's death - "Jacob came home to his father Isaac in Mamre, near Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had stayed. Isaac lived a hundred and eighty years. Then he breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people, old and full of years. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him. (Genesis 35:27-29)

Jacob's death - "Then he gave them these instructions: "I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite, the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre in Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite. There Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried, there Isaac and his wife Rebekah were buried, and there I buried Leah. (Genesis 49:29-31)



Always on time

In 2010 my husband decided we'd move to Far North Qld from Brisbane in an attempt to get our family out of the rat race and focus on our small family.

I remember at the time we rented a small home in Redlynch that over looked a back drop of Mountains from my backyard. The view was spectacular to say the least and I used to spend a lot of time in the afternoons watching the sunset whilst being deep in thought with Yeshua.

Being unemployed at the time, it wasn't long after we settled in that I was asking Yeshua what he wanted to use me for. I searched deeply for what my purpose was and pleaded with him that he would reveal that to me.

My prayers felt unanswered for a long time and having no friends or family around me I started feeling depressed, but I was persistent in asking and continued spending my afternoons pondering at those glorious mountains, praying and asking.

Fast forward a few months, I had an encounter with Yeshua I'll never forget.

I was in a deep sleep, like the type when your partners snoring so loud you don't wake up from. At around 3am in the morning, Yeshua spoke to me SO clearly.

He said, "I've given you the green light on your life."

No sooner had He said that, I involuntarily sat up in bed like I'd been struck with lightning and I woke a bit confused but electrified at the same time thinking to myself - did this really just happened!

From that point on, it didn't take long before I secured employment, I helped start a small ministry where I assisted heavily with the kids fellowship and I met the most amazing people.

To this day, I know that Yeshua continues to have the green light on my life. I know He is always with me listening to my prayers and answering them in His good timing.

He is never late and always listening.

Shelly

Rene'

Thank you so so much for all your prayers and the prayers that the lovely people around the world are making for Renè.

We are so grateful.

Renè is the talk of the hospitals with his amazing strength.

We have realised that it was a miracle that he even walked in to the hospital on the first day, before we even found the cause of his sickness was leukemia.

They have told us that his blood levels were that of someone who would otherwise be dead. They said someone with blood levels of sixty would be bed ridden. Rene's were eighteen and anything below twenty and they would expect you to basically be dead.

They ran the tests a couple of times, as they thought they had to be wrong.

Every nurse and Doctor we meet says his story proceeds him!!!

God walked him in that day!

Chantel (Rene's mum)



Adventures in Israel: Yemenite Henna Ceremony

<https://inspire-truth.com>

Blog by Hannah-rose Russell

Israel is full of culture! While most might think of the Jews as one people, the truth is that there are many ethnic groups within the Jewish culture — Yemenite, Moroccan, Ashkenazi, Sephardi, etc. Last month, my family and I moved onto a moshav (a farming community) near Akko which Yemenite Jews established in 1950.

With no idea what kind of people we were about to live among, we prayed that we weren't making a huge mistake. Thankfully, our apprehension eased as we began meeting the neighbors. Despite the language barrier and sticking out like sore thumbs with our stark white complexion, everyone has been really sweet and welcoming. On our first day in the new house, our neighbor came over with a lovely bottle of wine and cake to introduce himself and wish us a peaceful Shabbat. Later that week, my parents had him over for a dram of whiskey, and they spoke for three hours!

Everyone knows everyone here, creating a sense of family and belonging as you walk through the streets and observe what's happening. Our landlord's family are also some of the nicest people you'll meet. Before moving into the house, they were already inviting us to their wedding!

Thinking it was one of those empty western phrases like, "We need to hang out sometime," or "Oh, you should totally come," we didn't take them too seriously.

That is until we got a formal invitation to attend a traditional Yemenite henna ceremony — a pre-wedding gathering that celebrates the bride leaving her family to cleave to her new husband. After a quick Google search to learn about the customs of the ceremony, my mom and I got ready for the party in nervous anticipation. Completely out of our comfort zones, we prepared for the evening to be our coming-out party — our moment to make an impression on the community.

Sure enough, as soon as we arrived, the groom's father embraced us and led us to a table full of young men who live on our street. Only one of them spoke English, and he quickly took us under his wing, looking after us the entire night — refilling my mom's wine glass, telling us about life on the moshav, ordering food (he got me cow's brains — gag), asking us to dance, and explaining the different elements of the ceremony. The event hall was full of color with space for a dance floor, tables for the guests, and a large display of curtains and cushions for the henna, which took place toward the night's end (see pictures below). Broken into four parts, the night paid homage to the bride and groom's cultures with outfit changes in-between.

While most religious ceremonies can be awkward, this evening organically flowed through each part, beginning with a Yemenite entrance and dance, followed by a Moroccan-styled celebration. As the music and glee escalated throughout the night, it was apparent how important and stunning these people's customs and love for one another were. It was an honor to be welcomed into such an intimate setting usually reserved for close family and friends.

Two moments that stick in my mind were when the groom's father told me that we were now their family and when the groom spotted me in the crowd and gave me a hearty wave hello.

It was an experience to remember. I am still in awe of it all and looking forward to seeing what the wedding will be like. Though the henna stain has faded, the memories remain close to my heart.

Moving was not something my family was excited about, and we would never have chosen to live where we are; yet, God has an interesting way of leading you to a place you least expect.



Applying Henna



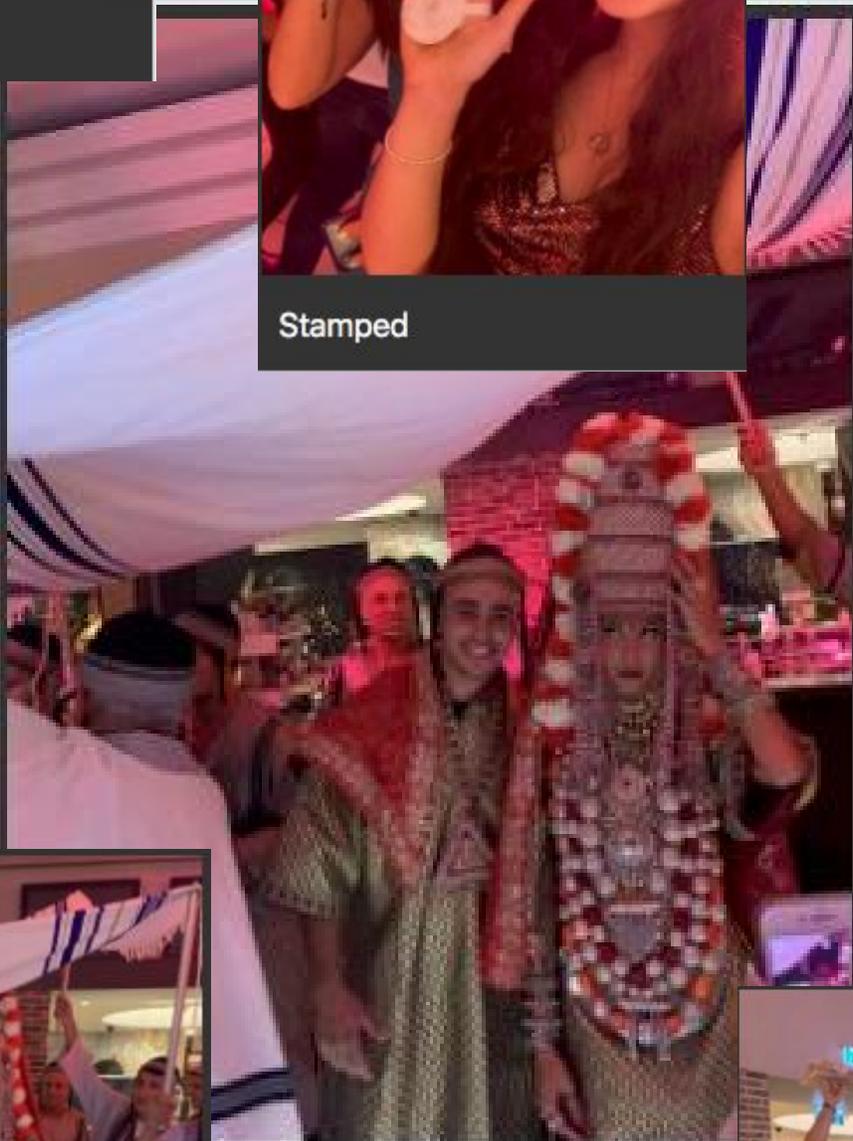
Stamped



Ready to dance



My henna stained in a heart ...



Cow's brains



the tashbuk



Moroccan Entrance

PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY

Gottalife Ministries is blessed to have a growing partnership base standing with us. We want to encourage newcomers to consider partnering with BulldozerFaith, monthly or as the Ruach HaKodesh leads.

We have been serving the global community of believers for over 28 years through media, online, and traveling ministry. For us, it is not only about people listening to teachings and attending ministry events but also joining together with other like-minded people to engage in missions. Today, we are connected with a growing group of passionate believers from different nations who desire to gather in one designated online space for prayer and encouragement in the Messiah. This has inspired us to launch Crossing Point Global Community to support the calling the Father has placed on our lives and create an environment for us to unite in faith and purpose.

The positive takeaway from the events of 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic is that we have enjoyed more frequent interaction and online fellowship. Our daily devotional times have been a great source of encouragement and faith-building as we focus on edifying and supporting many on their daily faith walk. Through BulldozerFaith, get ready for more spiritual growth and consider playing a part in our mission to develop ways to interact and build a strong faith community. Crossing Point's focus is to be a new platform developed within Bulldozerfaith as an outreach tool to share with our families and friends, bringing Yeshua's truth through the Torah and the Gospel of the Kingdom. We will be providing better access for personal ministry, prayer groups, and discipleship training to equip and operate more as a faith community where we can serve each other and function better as the body of Messiah, making a difference in others' lives.

Our direction in outreach is in three steps for ministry growth: friendship, relationship, & partnership.

1. **Friendship** – Outreach through caring for the needs of others and hands-on personal ministry.
2. **Relationship** - When we spend time together around the Word in the presence of Elohim, bringing us all to closer relationships, as a family, being one in the Messiah.
3. **Partnership** - When we establish mutual trust and desire unity together in outreach and fellowship, partnering becomes easy for seeking His Will and being dedicated to giving in time and finances to support the ministry.

We are prayerfully seeking Elohim to bring new partners to join us as the Spirit leads us to continue maintaining the ministry and expanding into the areas of greatest need.

Kenny is available to chat with you if you are considering supporting us in any way, and we thank you for being a part of what Yah is doing through BulldozerFaith. Please send him an email at kenny@bulldozerfaith.com, and we look forward to what YHVH has in store for 2021.

To give online please use this link <https://www.bulldozerfaith.com/give> or, if you would like to use PayPal, click here <https://paypal.me/bulldozerfaith>

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01344 488303 Cheques payable to "Gottalife"

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Account Number: 237026145877,
Routing Number: 053000196,
Swift Code: BOFAUS3N

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Account Holder: Gottalife Ltd.
Account Number: 02-1290-0793452-000
Address: TransferWise 56 Shoreditch High Street, London E1 6JJ United Kingdom

Email kenny@bulldozerfaith.com letting us know the amount so we can know in advance, thank you!



**THANK
YOU**

for being a part of our community!



BULLDOZERFAITH