

# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021 - 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

## Genesis 17:1-7 - God Blesses Abraham and Sarah

### TIMELINE FOR ABRAM/ABRAHAM'S LIFE

Genesis 12: 1-4 – Abram was seventy-five years old when God told him to go from his country and that He would bless him and make of him a great nation.

Genesis 15: 1-6 – God brought Abram out from underneath his tent and told him that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars.

Genesis 16: 1-14 – Abram was eighty-five years old when Sarai his wife suggested that he have a child by Hagar, the Egyptian slave girl.

Genesis 16: 15-16 – Abram was eighty-six years old when Ishmael (“God hears”) was born to Hagar.

Genesis 17 – Abram was ninety-nine years old when God repeated His promises, changed his name to Abraham, and commanded that every male be circumcised as a sign of the promises.

Genesis 21: 1-21 – Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born.

### Genesis 17

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “I am God Almighty. <sup>2</sup>I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous.”

<sup>4</sup>“You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you, for an everlasting covenant.”

## Psalms 22:23-31 - All the Earth Shall Turn to the Lord

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him.

*Do you fear the Lord? Do you praise Him? Does your life glorify Him? Do you stand in awe of Him?”*

<sup>24</sup>For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

*What does it mean to you to know that God does not look down on you for your afflictions, He does not hide His face from you, and He hears when you cry to Him?*

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

*What does it mean to you that our God has a special concern for the poor?*

<sup>30</sup>Future generations will be told about the Lord,

<sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

*What are you doing so that future generations – including people yet unborn - will be told about the Lord?*

## **Romans 4:13-25 - The Promise and Those Who Share Abraham's Faith**

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath.

<sup>16</sup> It depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us), <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations."

In the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

<sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be."

<sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

<sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God.

<sup>21</sup> Being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

*Are you fully convinced that God is able to do what He has promised?*

*Where do you need to grow in your faith, trust, and confidence?*

*How can you keep your faith, trust, and confidence in God and your relationship with God strong so that you will be ready when you need to face the seemingly impossible things in life?*

<sup>23</sup> Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Hebrews 11: 11-12** – Abraham believed that God could make him the "father of many nations" "even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren." He considered him faithful who had promised – even though he was "as good as dead."

## **Mark 8:31-38 - The Passion Prediction**

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly.

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

*Deny yourself - Take up your cross - Follow Jesus*