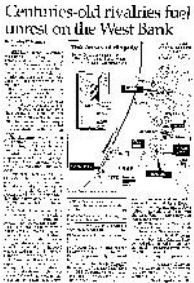


Bible Trek 2

The Old Testament:

- Written within a 2000-year period with 25 different authors in two languages yet it fits perfectly.
- The order of the books of the Old Testament is not inspired! It was put together due to convenience, how often they were referred to (based on the size of the scrolls) not their consecutive order.

<p>Actual Church Bloopers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The associate minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I upped my pledge - now up yours." • A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in honor of his wife. 	<p>Centuries-old rivalries fuel unrest on the West Bank</p> <p>Austin American Statesman 3/6/94</p> 
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<p><i>In perhaps the most notable land transaction in history, the book of Genesis describes how Abraham secured the permission of the community and purchased his family burial site in Hebron's rocky hills...</i></p> <p><i>Centuries before the principles of Zionism brought Jews to live in the desert hills west of the Jordan River, Arab families were farming the rocky soil and populating the towns.</i></p>	<p><i>Centuries before that, the Jews counter, their ancestors not only occupied the land; it was promised to them from God.</i></p> <p><i>The land sale 4,000 years ago that gave Abraham the Cave of Machpelah is the historic claim Jewish settlers now use to live in the Arab city of Hebron and pray at the shrine. Abraham, the father of monotheistic religion, is Ibrahim to the Arabs, who placed a mosque on the site in his name. From AAS 3/6/94</i></p>
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So we see that what we are going to look at tonight started 4,000 years ago yet is totally contemporary to us today!

Don't believe it....Watch the news tonight!




THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT-


- The agreement with Abraham ***forms the foundation of the bible.***
- Up to this point **ALL** people on earth were Gentiles, but God is going to create a **new people** called Israelites or Jews.

<p style="text-align: center;">Genesis 12:1-4</p> <p>The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. [2] "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. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">[4] So Abram left, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.</p>
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- Abraham obeys God and WALKS to Northern Israel, stays 20 years with his wife Sarai and Cousin Lot (of Sodom and Gomorrah fame).
- Then Gods calls him again and gives him an offer of a contract.

WHAT IS A COVENANT? IT IS A CONTRACT!

<p>Abrahamic Covenant</p> <p>L. S. D.</p> <p>DRUGS????</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Abrahamic Covenant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FOREVER! • SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE BLESSED - HOW? <i>THE MESSIAH</i> • DESCENDANTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A NATION OF PEOPLE - JEWS 
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<p style="text-align: center;">LAND</p> <p><i>Genesis 13:14-15</i></p> <p>The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring FOREVER.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS</p> <p><i>Genesis 22:18</i></p> <p><i>...and through your offspring ALL nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."</i></p>
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<p><i>SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS</i></p> <p>How?</p> <p>The Messiah will come from Abraham's line.</p>		<p>Note: offspring - Satan can now narrow down his attack from everyone - to only the Jews, in his attempt to save his own hide!</p>	
<p><i>DESCENDANTS</i></p> <p><small>Genesis 12:2</small></p> <p>"I will make you <i>into a great nation</i> and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>PROBLEM: ABRAHAM WAS 75 YEARS OLD – NO KIDS! GEN 12:4</i> <p><i>IS AGE A BARRIER FOR GOD? We'll see.</i></p>	
<p>The Problem?</p> <p>So Abram left, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. <i>Abram was seventy-five years old</i> when he set out from Haran. <small>Genesis 12:4</small></p> <p>Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and <i>Sarah was past the age of childbearing.</i> <small>Genesis 18:11</small></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Then Abram questions God about how he is going to give him these descendants since he and Sara are past child-bearing years. 	
<p>Genesis 15:1-5</p> <p>After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:</p> <p>"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."</p>		<p>[2] But Abram said, "O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" [3] And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."</p> <p>[4] Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."</p>	

<p>[5] He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."</p> <p>Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.</p>		<p>[7] 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."</p> <p>[8] But Abram said, "O Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"</p> <p>[9] 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."</p>	
<p>[10] 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. [11] Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.</p> <p>[12] As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.</p>		<p>[13] Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. [14] But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. [15] You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age.</p>	
<p>[16] In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."</p> <p>[17] When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.</p>		<p>Why is this one of the most important verses in the Bible?</p> <p><i>Genesis 15:6</i> Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness</p> 	

Abram became born again – He believes God in an impossible situation.

- *Note: The same applies to you and I – We cannot make ourselves acceptable to God so we must rely on God in our **own impossible situation.***
- Which is: We cannot be good enough to get to heaven...

Q. Was Abram religious before?


- Yes (he walked with God and moved to another country for God) **But at this point he placed his whole future in God's hand!!**
- This is when God declares that he is righteous or **had a relationship with him.**
- We (from a human perspective) would have said it is long before...shows you how far off we would be in our assessment.

In VS. 8 Abraham asks God for a "sign" they then set up a contract (there were no word processors then).

An agreement in those days said : (vs. 9)

- There are two halves of the agreement (signified by the split animals).
- If one of us reneges on this deal he will end up like these split animals.
- They walk between them together to signify their understanding and agreement of the covenant/contract.
- IF you did a contract this way it is doubtful you would get sellers amnesia at a later date!

However... *Abram* falls asleep and God shows *Abram* in his dream that he walked through the animals alone.

<p>Genesis 15:17</p>  <p>When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and <u>passed between the pieces.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHY? • No one could look on God and live. God is saying I will uphold this contract regardless of you I will make it happen!!
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Very important!!

- THIS MAKES THE COVENANT/CONTACT: ***ETERNAL, LITERAL AND UNCONDITIONAL!!***
- Many times in the Old Testament you hear God say *"If my people will... I will..."*

VERY IMPORTANT! THIS COVENANT IS NOT DEPENDENT ON ISRAEL'S OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW.

Here in the Old Testament (OT) (or Old Covenant)

- We see God giving us a real life illustration in the OT of his plan of salvation.
- This future people – Jews , coming from the descendents of **Abraham will be saved from the wrath of God by....GOD!**
- This contract is **not dependent** on Abraham's "performance", **it is dependent on God to make it happen.**

In the New Testament (or New Covenant) (note: this is why it is called "NEW")

- Our contract of salvation is not dependent on our "performance", it is also dependent on God to make it happen. Jesus did not walk through the crosses; he hung on one. **His action is what saves us - not ours.** However, this action requires that we accept it.

A QUICK JUMP TO THE NEW TESTAMENT:

- Jesus is speaking to his disciples of the end of the age (I believe our time) and Jesus himself says regarding his followers/Christians:

John 10:28-29

I give them eternal life, and they shall **never** perish; **no one** can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; **no one** can snatch them out of my Father's hand.



Q. In this passage, Who is responsible to keep them from being "snatched out of his hand"?

GOD (JUST AS IN THE OT). The covenants are then for GOD TO FULFILL

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Old Testament (Abrahamic)

- God ?
- Man ?

New Testament (New)

- God ?
- Man ?



- Many people and church's claim *that you are responsible* to keep yourself "good enough" to stay accepted by God or God will toss you out.

The Bible does not say that...

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

God

Abram and Sarai decide to

FIX GOD'S PROBLEM – SOUNDS LIKE US?

Genesis 16:1-4

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; [2] so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. [3] So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. [4] He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

Let's fix God's problem:

- Sara gave her chief maid to be the mother of the heir. This was right in local culture...but not part of God's plan.
- Sara blames GOD.
- Abraham listens to Sara (like Adam and EVE?).
- **The result..ISHMAEL!**
- Sarai & Hagar begin to hate each other and Sarai drives Hagar out of the camp....


<p>Genesis 16:7-12 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. [8] And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"</p>	<p>"I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. [9] Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." [10] The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." [11] The angel of the Lord also said to her:</p>
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<p>"You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. [12] 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."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAGAR is promised that her son will be "wild " ("free and untamed" in one translation). • He was in fact the father of the Arab nation who were Bedouins, "free and untamed" wandering through the desert all the way up until now!!
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HAGAR is promised by; THE Angel of the Lord, (VS. AN Angel of the Lord), a physical manifestation of God- not a created angel...

- This was actually Jesus before he was born of Mary. **How do we know that ?**

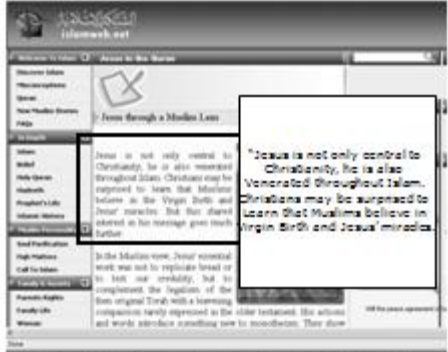
In a later passage....

<p>Genesis 22:15-17 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 ...</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only God can swear by himself (declares the Lord). Notice the first person tense. • No one can look on God and live, so it is not God the father. • The Holy Spirit is just that – Spirit <p>So the only physical manifestation of God on this earth has been and is Jesus.</p>
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Jesus "THE ANGEL OF THE LORD" appears 50 times in 49 verses of the Old Testament.!

In a verse that specifically talks about the end times – the future still to us, God says:

<p style="text-align: right;">Still future!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zech. 12:8 On that day the Lord will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the Lord going before them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Islamic religion recognizes not only Ishmael but Abraham...Their contention however, is that: • Gods covenant is with THEM not the JEWS! • Because even though Ishmael was illegitimate, he was the first born!
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus is recognized only as another prophet and then lower than Muhammad YET contrary to their teachings, their entire existence and religion are a direct result of <u>Jesus "THE ANGEL OF THE LORD"</u> establishing a covenant with them.
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<p style="text-align: center;">The Koran says:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Surah 5:51 Believers, take neither the Jews nor the Christians for your friends!</i> ▪ <i>Surah 9:5 "slay the idolaters (non-Muslims) wherever you find them."</i> ▪ <i>or from Muhammad himself (from the Hadith) "The last hour will not come before the Muslims fight the Jews and the Muslims kill them."</i> ▪ <i>Qur'an 47:4: "Therefore, when ye meet the Unbelievers (in fight), smite at their necks..."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is why the use beheading!
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This is why it is important to see that the Trinity was in full force from the beginning (Gen. 1)

Muslims, and many other religious systems say they are worshiping **the same God**, as Christians but they **DENY** that Jesus is God and the work of the Holy Spirit.

What separates Christianity from all others is this:
!F you deny Jesus Christ... you are denying God.

A recent scientific study of X and Y chromosomes confirms that the bloodline of both the Arab nations and the Jewish nation are indeed related.

Facts for Faith Dec 2000

Genesis 17:17-21
 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?" [18] And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"
 [19] Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac."

Here is EXACTLY what God says regarding his covenant with Abraham's offspring

I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. [20] 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. [21] But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."


Isaac
 NOT
 Ishmael!

GEN 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.
 GEN 17:2 I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."
 GEN 17:3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,

GEN 17:4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.
 GEN 17:5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.
 GEN 17:6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.

GEN 17:7 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.
 GEN 17:8 The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

- **Abraham is now 99 years old** (Is GOD patient..what is God's timetable AS COMPARED TO OURS?)
- In **GEN 17:10** God introduces *the rite of circumcision* (a permanent sign).

<p>GEN 17:10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.</p>		<p>Abrahamic Covenant</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAND • SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS • DESCENDANTS 	
<p>What is this a sign of?</p>			

- At Each Young Boys Circumcision they remember... ***LSD!!! A covenant instituted by BLOOD!***
- *This is a permanent sign that God will keep his promise!!*
- **Gen 21** God delivers! He always does!!! ***At the appointed time***

<p>Genesis 21:1-5 Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. [2] Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. [3] Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.</p>		<p>[4] When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. [5] Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.</p>	
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Note: *It is only on the EIGHTH DAY that the vitamin K appears in the blood which allows the blood to clot.*¹

- What are the odds of knowing this 5,000 years ago???
- **God knew!**

Now let's fast forward to Genesis 22...

¹ The Signature of God, Grant Jeffreys, Frontier Research Publications, Inc. 1996 pg. 156



<p>Genesis 22:1-3 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. [2] Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."</p>		<p>[3] Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled 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.</p>	
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- **Note: It is not "Take your son, your only son, Ishmael", it is "Take your son, your only son, Isaac".**

GOD CHOOSES THE PLACE! THE REGION OF MORIAH .

Q WHERE IS MORIAH??

- Jerusalem – pre-population It is the exact spot of Solomon's temple and the Islamic Dome of the Rock.
- These sites exist along with the rock that Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac on.

<p>God not only knew "his Son, his only Son, whom he loved" would die...</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">HE PICKED THE VERY SPOT!</p>		<p>2,000 years later on this very piece of Real Estate he provided again – this is where Jesus died!</p>	
<p>Genesis 22:6-18 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, [7] 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?"</p>		<p>[8] Abraham answered, "<u>God himself will provide the lamb</u> for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. [9] 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. [10] Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.</p>	

<p>[11] But <u>the angel of the Lord</u> called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"</p> <p>"Here I am," he replied.</p> <p>[12] "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 <u>your son, your only son.</u>"</p> <p>[13] Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns.</p>		<p>He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. [14] 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."</p> <p>[15] The <u>angel of the Lord</u> called to Abraham from heaven a second time [16] and said, "I swear by myself, declares <u>the Lord</u>, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,</p>	
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<p>[17] 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, [18] and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."</p>		<p>God presents a problem that only he can solve!</p>
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- *This is the supreme test of faith. After waiting for 35 years for a son...The old Abraham would not have obeyed, the new does! **Why?***

Abraham has allowed God to work in his life and has found that God is faithful...

- *Even though Abraham does not understand **the WHY of God's plan**,*
- *He understands that regardless off **what the present seems like...***
- *God's plan has been proven in the past to be better than Abraham's.*

You can bet that Abraham did not:

- ***Feel like sacrificing his son.***
- ***Was afraid of sacrificing his son.***
- ***Thought God was probably crazy....at least for the moment.***
- ***But Abraham CHOSE not to follow his feelings, but to follow God.***
- ***You cannot trust your feelings EXAMPLE: Scary Movie!***

Q. Why did God test Abraham?


<p>God is NOT in the THE RELIGION BUSINESS!</p> <p>God is in the RELATIONSHIP BUSINESS!</p>	<p>A. <i>God is in the relationship business NOT the religious business!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>God wanted to prove to Abraham that he was interested in their RELATIONSHIP not whether he was RELIGIOUS.</i> • <i>The future of Abrahams family totally depends on whether God can be trusted</i> • REMEMBER, Your God is not whom you say your God is...it is whom you obey!
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IN THE NEW TESTAMENT :

<p><i>Hebrews 11:6</i></p> <p>And <u>without faith</u> it is <u>impossible</u> to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.</p>	<p>ABRAHAM SAYS:</p> <p>“GOD...I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU ARE GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS PROBLEM BUT...IT'S UP TO YOU”.</p>
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<p>Genesis 22:4-5</p> <p>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. [5] He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and <u>then we will come back to you.</u>"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abraham literally believed that God would raise Isaac back from the dead <p>WHY?</p> <p>Because the Abrahamic Covenant was dependent on Isaac <u>living.</u></p>
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<p>Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, [18] even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." [19] Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.</p>	<p>Who else took their Son their only Son and sacrificed him?</p> <p>God</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Gen 22:6 Isaac is 13 years old- he knew what was to happen. • <i>A couple of well placed kicks and OLE Abe would be out of the Picture YET.... Isaac willingly obeys his fathers command, puts the wood on his back and places himself on the alter to be offered as a sacrifice.</i>
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<p>Who else placed the wood on his back, walked up a hill in this same area and willingly laid down his life?</p> <p>JESUS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JESUS Who likewise willingly obeyed his father and <i>"Humbled himself and became obedient unto death-even the death of the cross."</i>(Phil 2:8) • GOD PROVIDES A SUBSTITUTE SACRIFICE. The Ram caught in the bush!
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Which is also a picture of what God set out to do from the beginning.

- On this spot, 2,000 years later Jesus Christ is **the substitute sacrifice** for you and me.
 - The sacrifice...Is played out over and over again in the bible...
 - THE PENALTY OF SIN ACCORDING TO GOD IS DEATH! AND HE PAID IT..... FOR YOU AND ME.
- OUR ASSURANCE THAT GOD WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE OF SALVATION IS THAT THE CONTRACT IS SEALED IN JESUS BLOOD.

God produced through a miracle birth...

- Isaac, the firstborn of a NEW NATION - Jews.

2,000 years later, through another miracle birth,

- God would create a new nation of believers-Christians that continues on to this day.
- The Jewish nation would exist and then eventually be disbursed throughout the world (but never assimilated) after the Diaspora of Rome.

<p>No other ancient nation has ever ceased to exist and then returned to take its place on the world stage.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus himself prophecies the return of the Jews as a nation (in Matthew 24:32-35).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jewish nation would be hauled off to captivity, would return to the promised land and be scattered to almost every country throughout the world for almost 2,000 years. • But God said the Abrahamic Covenant was up to him to fulfill.
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God proves that he is in control.

- In the following scripture, God himself declares how preposterous this prophecy is. 700 years before Jesus Christ and 2700 years before the actual event, God declares through the prophet Isaiah:

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Isaiah 66:8</i> Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a <u>country be born in a day</u> or a <u>nation be brought forth in a moment?</u> Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.</p>	 <p>The image shows the front page of 'THE PALESTINE POST' newspaper. The main headline reads 'STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN'. Other headlines include 'U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE', 'Egyptian Air Force Suffers', '2 Columns Cross Southern Border', and 'Proclamation by Head of Government'. There is a portrait of a man in the bottom right corner.</p>
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On One Day?

- May 14, 1948 Israel resurrected!
- Of all the barren land the world could have given them, They get the **EXACT** land God gave them in the Abrahamic Covenant!
- Co-incidence?

ISRAEL



- The events that led up to this prophecy being fulfilled were so out of the control of man that only God could bring it about.

In Abraham, not only the plan for the Jews is revealed, but the plan for the whole world including Christians!

- This will become extremely important when we get to Prophecy. God has made a contract with both the Jews through the Abrahamic Covenant and the Gentiles.
- Each one is a blood covenant – God will fulfill them **COMPLETELY!**

In closing, Let's consider one of the great questions:

If you are seeker - **the question is how to get to a point of belief?**

If you are a believer – **the question is how do you deal with doubts?**

Abraham is called the Father of Faith – yet if we study his life:

1. It clearly wasn't that he Never doubted
2. Or that he Always did the right thing
3. Or that his motives were always pure
4. He rarely had all of the answers since he was fairly oblivious to the grand plan.

Abraham simply never gave up his will to follow God – regardless of the circumstances!

Is it OK to doubt that God exists ... sure, but then the next step is to ask God to help us with our unbelief.

In fact, if you are a believer and doubting, **that is one sure sign that you are a believer**, since only Satan has an interest in creating doubt – to negate your effect on your sphere of influence.

Faith is a decision of the will to CHOOSE to believe. Faith is active and is a choice that once made, God gives us the power to continue through his Holy Spirit.

You make this choice **NOT HAVING ALL THE INFORMATION IN A NICE NEAT PACKAGE.** If we had it in a nice neat package we would not have faith **we would have KNOWLEDGE.**



Let me illustrate:

I pull my hand out of my pocket and show you my clenched fist. I ask you, "What do I have in my fist"? You say " a coin".

NOW THAT IS AN OPINION!

I then say " I have a quarter in my fist, do you believe that"? You reply "Yes".

NOW THAT IS FAITH –

YOU ARE BELIEVING IN WHAT YOU HAVE NOTSEEN, YET YOU ARE ACTING ON ALL THE INFORMATION AT HAND.

Now watch as I destroy your faith! I show you the quarter and now you do not need to exercise faith anymore.

It is no longer faith – it is knowledge.

Hebrews says that faith is the evidence of things not seen.

Don't get them mixed up. In your quest for truth, faith is more important than knowledge. One you have made the decision to act in faith God will show you more knowledge than you will have thought possible!

Make sure the object of your faith is worthy of the trust.

There is a vast difference between thin ice and thick ice.

You can have very little faith in thick ice and walk out on it and it will support you. On the other hand you can have enormous faith in thin ice and you can drown. The amount of your faith may be very small but what matters is that that faith must be invested in something solid.