

“That man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir,” said God. God took Abraham 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).

As many children as all the stars? It seemed impossible! But God told him that this would happen.

Then Abraham decided to obey God. “God will fulfill his promise,” he said. Many years passed. Now Abraham was 100 years old and God spoke to him once more: “... this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations..... I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations from 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” (Genesis 17:4, 5-7).

God also told Abraham that his wife Sarah would have a son. Abraham laughed at the thought that he would be a father at such an old age. Even so, this was a promise from God, a covenant. He knew that he could trust God. What would Sara think when he told her that she would give birth to a son?

(You can find this Bible story in Genesis 12; 15; 17:1-21.)

What Did God Promise?

Read each verse. In a short sentence tell what God promised Abraham.

Genesis 12:2 — “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.”

Genesis 15:5 — “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them. . . . So shall your offspring be.”

Genesis 17:19 — “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.”

Did God fulfill the promises that he made to Abraham?

How much time passed until God fulfilled his promises?