

Tower of Babel

It didn't take long for man to sin, **Genesis 11:1-9** says, *"Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.' And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the Lord said, 'Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down there and confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.' So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth."*

This was the beginning of the end. In the garden the serpent says this to Eve.

Genesis 3: 1-5, *"Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God really said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, 'From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' The serpent said to the woman, 'You certainly will not die! For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.'"*

Yes, since the beginning of time it was all about becoming God. It is called Humanism. Humanism says that we are all gods. Today we call it Secular Humanism. This is how **wikipedia** puts it. The meaning of the term "Humanism" has changed according to successive intellectual movements that have identified with it. During the Italian Renaissance, ancient works inspired Italian scholars, giving rise to the Renaissance humanism movement. During the Age of Enlightenment, humanistic values were reinforced by advances in science and technology, giving confidence to humans in their exploration of the world. By the early 20th Century,

organizations dedicated to humanism flourished in Europe and the United States, and have since expanded worldwide. In the early 21st century, the term generally denotes a focus on human well-being and advocates for human freedom, autonomy, and progress. It views humanity as responsible for the promotion and development of individuals, espouses the equal and inherent dignity of all human beings, and emphasizes a concern for humans in relation to the world. Starting in the 20th Century, humanist movements are typically non-religious and aligned with secularism. Most frequently, humanism refers to a non-theistic view centered on human agency, and a reliance on science and reason rather than revelation from a supernatural source to understand the world. Humanists tend to advocate for human rights, free speech, progressive policies, and democracy. People with a humanist worldview maintain religion is not a precondition of morality, and object to excessive religious entanglement with education and the state. Early 20th Century naturalists, who viewed their humanism as a religion and participated in church-like congregations, used the term "religious humanism". Religious humanism appeared mostly in the US and is now rarely practiced. The American Humanist Association arose from religious humanism. The same term has been used by religious groups such as the Quakers to describe their humanistic theology. Humanism and religion have been strange bedfellows for centuries. This may all sound good, human rights and helping those in need. Yes, and I'm sure that Eve did not think that the serpent was lying to her. But this is what Scripture records.

Isaiah 14:12-15, *"How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit."*

Lucifer fell from his place of glory, which was standing before the face of God, because he wanted to be God, he wanted to be king, he wanted a kingdom with people bowing before him.

Colossians 3:16-17 say this, *"Let the Word of Messiah richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Yeshua, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

Revelation 13 speaks of two beasts that will rise up, one from the water and one from the earth and there will be one ruler over all the earth. Even though many people in history have tried, not one has ever succeeded, for only God knows the time of all things.

"And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain."

Revelation 13:11-18 continues to say, *"Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666."*

This is what God stopped. He knew the time was not now, but for later. Today we see that different languages do not stop us. Many people speak different languages, and we have interpreters, and today we have the return of the Tower of

Babel and it is called the United Nations building where all the nations of the world come to practice Humanism, a world without God.

Father Abraham

So now the Lord had to find a righteous man who would walk with and He did. He was called Abram. Like Noah who was the tenth generation from Adam, Abram was the tenth generation from Noah. It is believed that God created the world only because of Abraham and his descendants...Messiah.

Let's look closer at why Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3 tells us this, *"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.'"*

Yes, God was going to bless Abram, with these seven blessings, but first he had to obey God and leave everything behind. We read God's Word and we even sing the song, "Every promise in the book is mine." But that promise is only if we obey God.

We too, must walk with God and as we see from this Scripture, Abram, the righteous man, was going to be like Noah who was a blessing to others. When we are righteous before the Lord, God does not only bless us, but we then become a blessing to others. So Abram left Haran just like the Lord asked, and his nephew Lot went with him.

Hebrews 11:8 says, *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."*

Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. He took his wife Sari, nephew Lot, and all the servants. Then he and his family moved to the land of Canaan. Abram traveled through the land as far as the town of Shechem and then to the big tree at Moreh.

Genesis 12:7 says, *“The Lord appeared to Abram and said to him again, I will give this land to your descendants.”*

Because of Abram’s obedience, God was showing him that He had not forgotten His promises, and in fact, God gave Abram one more promise that He was giving him and his descendants the land where he was standing. We will see that what happens to Abram and his family will give us a glimpse into the future of the Jewish people. During this time a famine came on the land and so Abram took his family to Egypt and waited out the famine. While he was there Pharaoh blessed Abram with sheep, cattle, donkeys, camels, and servants. It is strongly believed because of what they have found that Abram gave the Pharaoh advice on building the pyramids. Abram returned to the land that God was giving him, but Abram moved from place to place. He had much wealth and livestock. So one day Abram and Lot had to separate to allow space for their animals.

Genesis 13:14-18 continues, *“The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, ‘Now raise your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward, and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever. I will make your descendants as plentiful as the **dust of the earth**, so that if anyone can count the dust of the earth, then your descendants could also be counted. Arise, walk about in the land through its length and width; for I will give it to you.’ Then Abram moved his tent and came and lived by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron; and there he built an altar to the Lord.”*

Abram’s descendants would be like the dust of the earth.

Genesis 22:17 says, *“Indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed **as the stars of the heavens and as the sand**, which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.”*

We know that God made man from the dust and to dust he shall return, **Genesis 2:7** tells us, *“Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person.”*

And **Genesis 3:19**, "You will work hard until the day you die, and then you will become dust again. I used dust to make you, and when you die, you will become dust again."

Hosea 1:10 says this, *"Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or counted; and in the place where it is said to them, 'You are not My people,' it will be said to them, 'You are the sons of the living God.'"*

There is a whole different meaning behind sand than dust. Yes, Abram's descendants will die as mere men, but there will be a final redemption, a day when the Messiah will return with Abraham's descendants and they will live forever. The stars also have meaning.

Let's look at **Numbers 17-19** as Baalam tells Balak this, *"I see Him, but not now; I look at Him, but not near; a star shall appear from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel, and shall smash the forehead of Moab, and overcome all the sons of Sheth. And Edom shall be a possession, Seir, its enemies, also will be a possession, while Israel performs valiantly. One from Jacob shall rule, and will eliminate the survivors from the city."*

The stars will shine in righteousness and righteousness shall rule them.

Daniel 12:2-3 says this, *"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. And those who have insight will shine like the glow of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."*

So God was walking with Abram every step of the way and reminding him that His promises still stood.

Deuteronomy 5:33 says this, *"Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess."*

The promise to the Israelites was the promise to Abram. After all of God's promises to Abram, God finally makes a covenant with him.

Genesis 15: 1-11 goes on to say this. *"After these things the Word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.'"*

(It is believed that this is a reference to the Messianic age. The Hebrew word for 'very' is me'od, which has the same letters as the word Adam. They say that Adam, David and the Messiah show the progression of God's covenants, as the title says, from tree to tree.) With Messiah as our very great reward.

So let's continue. *"Abram said, 'Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' Abram also said, 'Since You have given me no son, one who has been born in my house is my heir.' Then behold, the Word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'This man will not be your heir; but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.' And He took him outside and said, 'Now look toward the heavens and count the **stars**, if you are able to count them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' **Then he believed in the Lord; and He credited it to him as righteousness.** And He said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.' But he said, 'Lord God, how may I know that I will possess it?' So He said to him, 'Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.' Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds. And birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. When the sun had set, behold, a smoking oven and a **flaming torch** appeared and passed between the pieces. **On that day** the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give you the land, from the river of Egypt, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, and all the land in between."*

So let's look at these flaming torches. In Hebrew the word for Torch is "lappid", which is also a title that is used for the Messiah.

Let's look at **Isaiah 62:1**, *"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, and her salvation like a torch that is burning."*

Remember Yeshua means, "God's Salvation". The Lappid, Yeshua, will burn or the torch of God's salvation will burn. Yeshua is the oil and He is the light and He is our salvation.

Psalm 27:1 says *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?"* It seems as though God required this elaborate sacrifice with these animals having to be cut in half, and being so particular in how they had to be laid out and you have to ask yourself, "Why?"

The Scriptures tell us that “on that day”, the day of this elaborate sacrifice. God made a covenant with Abraham. It is believed that on that day of that sacrifice it was a foreshadowing of the final redemption. The prophets used that kind of wording to indicate the future day of the Lord. Yeshua said this about that day.

John 8:56, *“Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see My day, and he saw it and rejoiced.”*

Hebrews 11:13-15 tells us that Abraham had a foreshadowing of the future. *“All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen and welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country which they left, they would have had the opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.”*

The Exodus from Egypt occurred 430 years later on that very day of this covenant. Now to add to all of this, on this very day of this covenant, which was the very day, 430 years later, the Passover lambs were slaughtered in Egypt on the 14th day of Nisan, the same day that Yeshua was also the Lamb that was slaughtered for us in Jerusalem. This was the day that God made a new covenant with all mankind. We see Abraham driving away the birds of prey. This kind of sounds like what we read in Noah about the raven, how Noah would not let the raven back into the boat. But on this day, Abraham was driving the death angel away like in Passover. Also like Noah, when the door was shut to keep the rain out, so too, the tomb of the Lord was sealed, so too, Abraham was in the darkness and God’s light was in the torch which brought him light as in the resurrection of Messiah brought us the Light, so too, in the day of Noah the rain stopped and the sun shined once again. But one more thing happened on that day 30 years later, Isaac was born, and so we see that God kept His promise to Abram as

Hebrews 11:11 records this, *“Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were too old to have children. But Abraham believed God's promise that they would have children. He trusted God to do what he had promised. As a result of his faith, God made it possible for him and Sarah to have a baby. Abraham was so old that he was almost like a dead man. But*

from this one man there came very many grandchildren. His family became so large that nobody could count them. They were like the number of stars in the sky."

Genesis 17:1-6 goes on to say this, *"Now when Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty: walk before Me, and be blameless. I will make a covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly. Abram fell on his face, and God talked to him saying, "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you and you will be the father of many nations. No longer will your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of many nations." God continues to say, "I will make great nations of you and kings will come from you. I will establish My everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. I will be their God and I will give your descendants this land in which you dwell. All the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession and I will be their God."*

Genesis 17: 9-14 says, *"Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the **sign** of the covenant between Me and you. And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, including a slave who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. A slave who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall certainly be circumcised; so My covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting covenant. But as for an uncircumcised male, one who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."*

Why Circumcision?

God spoke to Abraham and said the sign of His covenant with him was circumcision and so Abraham at 99 years old circumcised his flesh and his son Ishmael and all the males of his household.

Probably of all the covenants, one has to ask, why circumcision? It seems rather odd. This is the covenant in the flesh. Why? Because man is flesh and he is the dust of the earth and he will return to the earth. So circumcision is the place of birth and

all those who are descendants of Abraham must have the mark of Abraham their father.

You also have to wonder why the Bible calls it a mark. We read in **Genesis 4:15**, *"So the Lord said to him, 'Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him seven times as much.' And the Lord placed a **mark** on Cain, so that no one finding him would kill him."*

Ezekiel 9:4 also says, *"The Lord said to him, 'Go throughout the city, through all of Jerusalem, and put a **mark** on the foreheads of the men who are sighing and crying over all the disgusting practices that are being committed in it.'"*

Were both of these marks on the forehead the same? The Bible does not make it clear to us what the mark was.

You have to wonder why the Bible does not tell us about these marks and yet, maybe it does. We know that the blood was put on the doorposts as a sign, or to mark the houses that the death angel was to pass over, (**Exodus 12:13**).

Exodus 13: 8-9 says this about the Tefillin worn by Jewish men. *"And you shall tell your son on that day, saying, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.' And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the Lord brought you out of Egypt."*

Ezekiel 9:5-6 goes on to say, *"But to the others He said in my presence, 'Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity and do not spare. Utterly kill old men, young men, female virgins, little children, and women, but do not touch any person on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary."*

So as far as the mark in Ezekiel, their mark could have been like the blood on the doorpost except it was on their forehead. It could have been something like when Catholics put ashes on their forehead for Ash Wednesday which was something temporary. But as far as Cain goes, God was against him, and yet, God did not want him killed because that was exactly why He was punishing Cain. Let's look at one more mark and maybe we can tell.

Revelation 13:16-17 says, *"And he (the beast) causes all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, to be given a **mark** on their right hands or on their foreheads, and he decrees that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name."*

The Bible tells us that we are not to tattoo our bodies.

Leviticus 19:28 says *"You shall not make any cuts in your body for the dead nor make any **tattoo** marks on yourselves: I am the Lord."*

Tattoos are taboo in God's eyes, maybe because they are permanent or maybe because this is what God did to curse Cain and so we see that the Antichrist may do just that, tattoo a series of numbers or a word on the foreheads of those who worship him. This is what the Nazi's did to the Jews because they knew God was against it. But as for circumcision God wanted a mark that would be permanent and telling, in as much as only the Jews would have such a mark, but one day as

Revelation 22:3-4 tells us we will all have the mark of God on our foreheads. *"There shall be nothing in the city that is evil; for the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. And they shall see His face; and His name shall be written on their foreheads."*

Years ago Christians would say, "I am from Abraham, so I am not under the law." So do I have to be circumcised to be saved or do I have to become a Jew to be saved? We know that there has been much debate over the question of a Gentile needing to be circumcised.

Paul quoting **Genesis 15**, tells us this in **Romans 4:1-6**, *"What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.'"*

Let's stop to look closer at this, the term law does not mean the first five books of the Bible, nor does it mean the Ten Commandments. What it does mean is the requirements of the law to become a Jew. Going back to Moses' day, there were many non- Israelite people who believed in the One True God and these people left Egypt with Moses as **Exodus 12:38** tells us, *"Many other people who were not Israelites went with them, as well as a large number of sheep, goats, and cattle."*

(In Paul's day they called those people "God fearers.")

Acts 10:1-4 tells us about one of these God fearers. *"Now there was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and made many charitable contributions to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, 'Cornelius!' And he looked at him intently and became terrified, and said, 'What is it, lord?' And he said to him, 'Your prayers and charitable gifts have ascended as a memorial offering before God.'"*

Before Yeshua these people entered into the covenant through Jewish circumcision but as Paul tells us, we Gentiles do not need to enter in this way. We, as Gentiles, do not need to convert to Judaism like they did back then, because now everyone who belongs to God can become part of Israel, because Yeshua has grafted us in as

Romans 11:17-23 says, *"But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again."*

There is a cutting process to grafting into a tree and this could be why Paul used this analogy. Even though Gentiles do not need Jewish circumcision, nonetheless, there is a circumcision for us all as **Romans 2:28-29** tells us, *"You are not a true Jew if you are only a Jew in your physical body. True circumcision is not only on the outside of the body. A true Jew is one who is a Jew inside. True circumcision is done in the heart. It is done by the Spirit, not by the written law (the requirements to convert). And anyone who is **circumcised in the heart by the Spirit** gets praise from God, not from people."*

Circumcision of the heart is done not by human hands but by the Holy Spirit. It is a spiritual circumcision, and like circumcision, it is a sign of our covenant with God as born again believers.

Let's look at **John 3:1-5** says, *"Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Yeshua at night and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him.' Yeshua responded and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.' Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a person be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother's womb a second time and be born, can he?' Yeshua answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been **born of the Spirit** is spirit."*

We too must enter into a covenant with God through circumcision as **Galatians 5:24** says, *"Now those who belong to Messiah Yeshua **crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires."*

To belong to Messiah Yeshua is to be born again and to be born again one must die to the flesh, it is a denying of oneself and of the world. This is the circumcision that we all must now be part of. Yes, Jewish people still need to circumcise their children, but one day those children will also have to circumcise their hearts. We can not be part of this world and part of God as **James 4:4** says, *"You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."*

Romans 12:2 says, *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

1 John 3:24, *"The one who keeps His commandments remains in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He remains in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."*

We must still keep God's Commandments, this is not the law that is referred to when becoming a Jew, but once again, we must all circumcise our hearts because it too, is a cutting away of the flesh (the world).

So let's continue. **Galatians 3:6-9**, says, *"Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: 'All nations will be blessed through you.' So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith."*

Genesis 17: 15-22 goes on to say, *"Then God said to Abraham, as for your wife Sarai, you shall now call her Sarah. I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her and she shall be the mother of nations; kings of people will come from her. Your wife Sarah will bear you a son and you shall call him Isaac and I will establish My everlasting covenant with him and his descendants."*

Your Name Shall Be...

God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah and we will see that God will also change Jacob's name to Israel. Abraham means the father of many nations. But let's take a closer look into Sarah's name. Sari was the half sister to Abraham. Sari is the fourth woman to be mentioned in the Bible and she came from the line of Seth. Sari was not her first name, her first name was Yiscah when she was a young girl. Yiscah literally means "to see." It is believed that she was born with divine inspiration and Sari was a beautiful woman. As they say, "she was a sight to behold." Her spiritual insight gave her sight to perceive the world and of course, how the world perceived her. It is believed that she changed her name as she grew older to Sarai because of modesty. She did not want to be gazed upon.

Sarai literally means "my princess." The one who was seen was now the one of royalty. Her spiritual insight showed her that she was going to be a princess. Sarah was the crown of her husband and her husband listened to her prophetic wisdom.

But this princess had to struggle with the fact that she had no heir, in which she was blinded in her decision to give her maid to her husband. But in her struggles, she still had the struggle that she still did not have a child. Her prophetic knowledge showed her that her maidservant Hagar and her son had to leave, because it would be her son that would be the proper heir. It was her prophetic insight that allowed her to go with Abram to a new land. Sarai was 90 when God changed her name to Sarah. Yes, Sarah had Isaac and now her name "my princess" would just be "princess," because now God gave her to all of us. Sarah lived to be 127 years old.

When Sarah died all of Canaan wept and she will forever be known as the mother of nations. But Sarah and Jacob's names have a whole lot more in common. Jacob becomes Israel by the angel who wrestled with him and prevailed. It is said that the conversation went like this: Your name shall no longer be Jacob – people will no longer say about you that you received the blessings through trickery and deceit (the meaning of "Jacob"), but rather with striving and openly (the meaning of "Israel"), and in the end, the Holy One, blessed be He, will appear to you in Bethel and change your name and there He will bless you."

Genesis 35:9-10 tells us, *"God appeared again to Jacob on his arrival from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him. God said to him, 'You whose name is Jacob, you shall be called Jacob no more, but Israel shall be your name.'"*

Thus He named him Israel. The Hebrew noun form of Sarah is "sar" which means prince, chief, ruler, which also is the verb base for Israel. Israel became a nation and it is the chief prince among all nations for Yeshua will one day come to rule in Israel and the whole world. Now Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born and when he was 8 days old Abraham circumcised Isaac in keeping with the covenant. Abraham is the "Father of faith" and because of that faith God rewarded him as

Hebrews 11:6 tells us, *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."*

Speaking of God's promises, **Romans 4: 16-25** says this, *"For this reason (faith) it depends on trust, so that the promise according to grace might be guaranteed to all the offspring—not only to those who live by the Torah but also to those of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all (as it is written, 'I have made you a father of many nations'). He is our father in the sight of God in whom he trusted, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence that which does not exist. In hope beyond hope, he trusted that he would become the father of many nations according to what was spoken—"So shall your descendants be." And without becoming weak in faith, he considered his own body—as good as dead, since he was already a hundred years old—and the deadness of Sarah's womb. Yet he did not waver in unbelief concerning the promise of God. Rather,*

he was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God. He was fully convinced that what God has promised, He also is able to do. That is why 'it was credited to him as righteousness.' Now not only for his sake was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake as well. It is credited to us as those who trust in Him who raised Yeshua our Lord from the dead. He was handed over for our transgressions and raised up for the sake of setting us right."

Yes, our faith in Yeshua and His righteousness, now makes us righteous through Him. **Romans 10:10** says this, *"For with the heart a person believes (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Messiah) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation."*