

Message Notes

Abraham: The Believer

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - "Genesis so far"

Six Portraits of Abraham

Portrait #1 - Abraham's Family Tree

Genesis 11:10-11, 24-32

Portrait #2 - Recipient of THE Promise of God

Genesis 12:1-7

Portrait #3 - Abraham, the Believer!

Genesis 15:1-21

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Thirteen years of complete silence

Genesis 16:15-17:5

A test of faith

Genesis 22:1-18

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Abraham Pimps out Sarah

Genesis 12:10-13

Uh, yeah, you laughed

Genesis 18:9-15

Abraham Pimps out Sarah AGAIN!

Genesis 20:1-13

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Genesis 21:1-3

Themes further developed in the Bible

The Promise (Covenant) with Abraham

Abraham as a model of faith

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12, 17-19

Gospel Application - "What promises are you trusting God for right now?"

Promise of Eternal Life - 1 John 5:11-13

Promise of Answered Prayer - John 16:24

Promise of Victory - 1 Corinthians 10:13

Promise of Forgiveness - 1 John 1:9

Promise of Guidance - Proverbs 3:5-6

Five Promises God has made you

1 John 5:11-13

¹¹And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 16:24

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

1 Corinthians 10:13

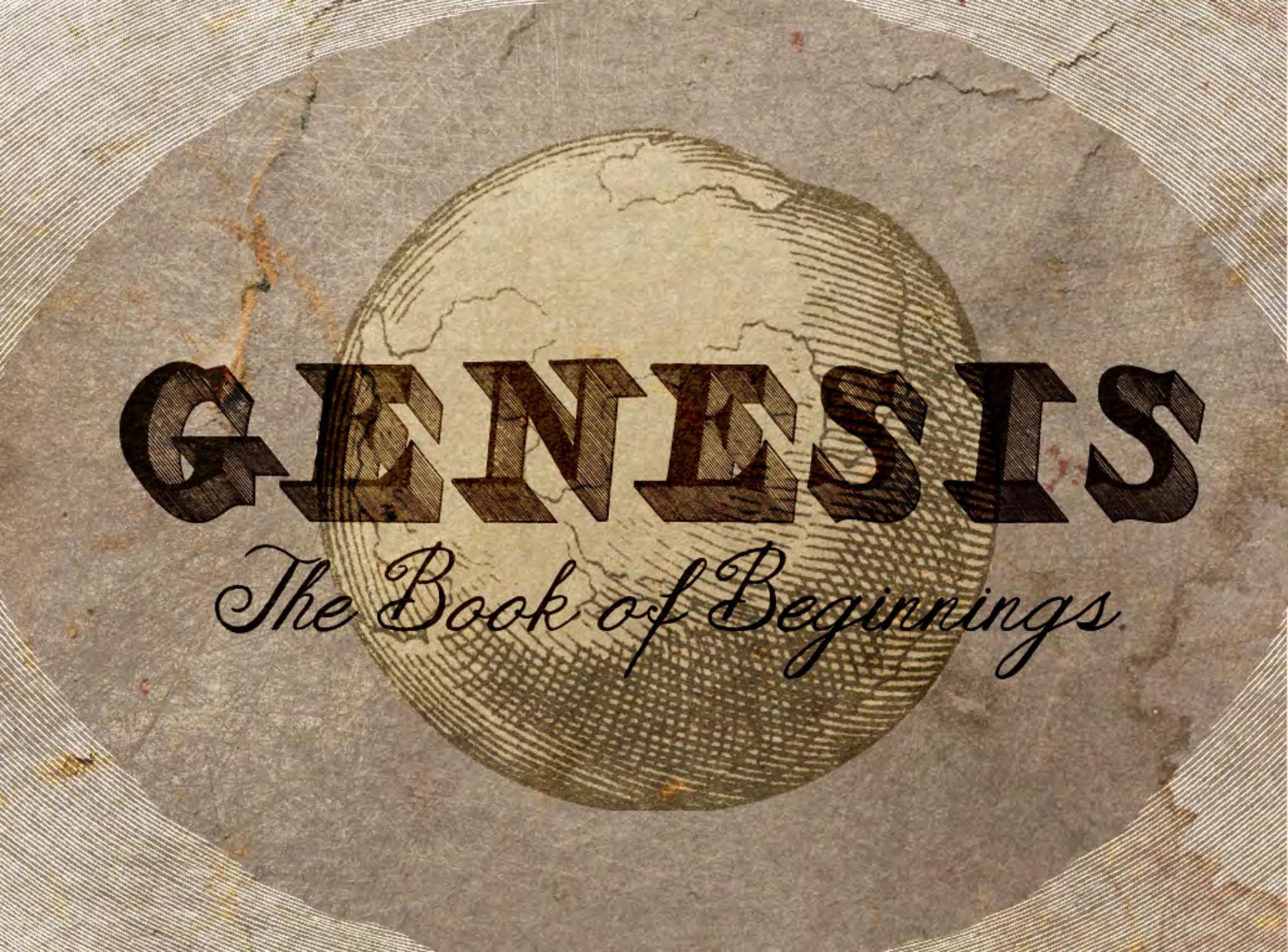
No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1 John 1:9

⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.



GENESIS

The Book of Beginnings

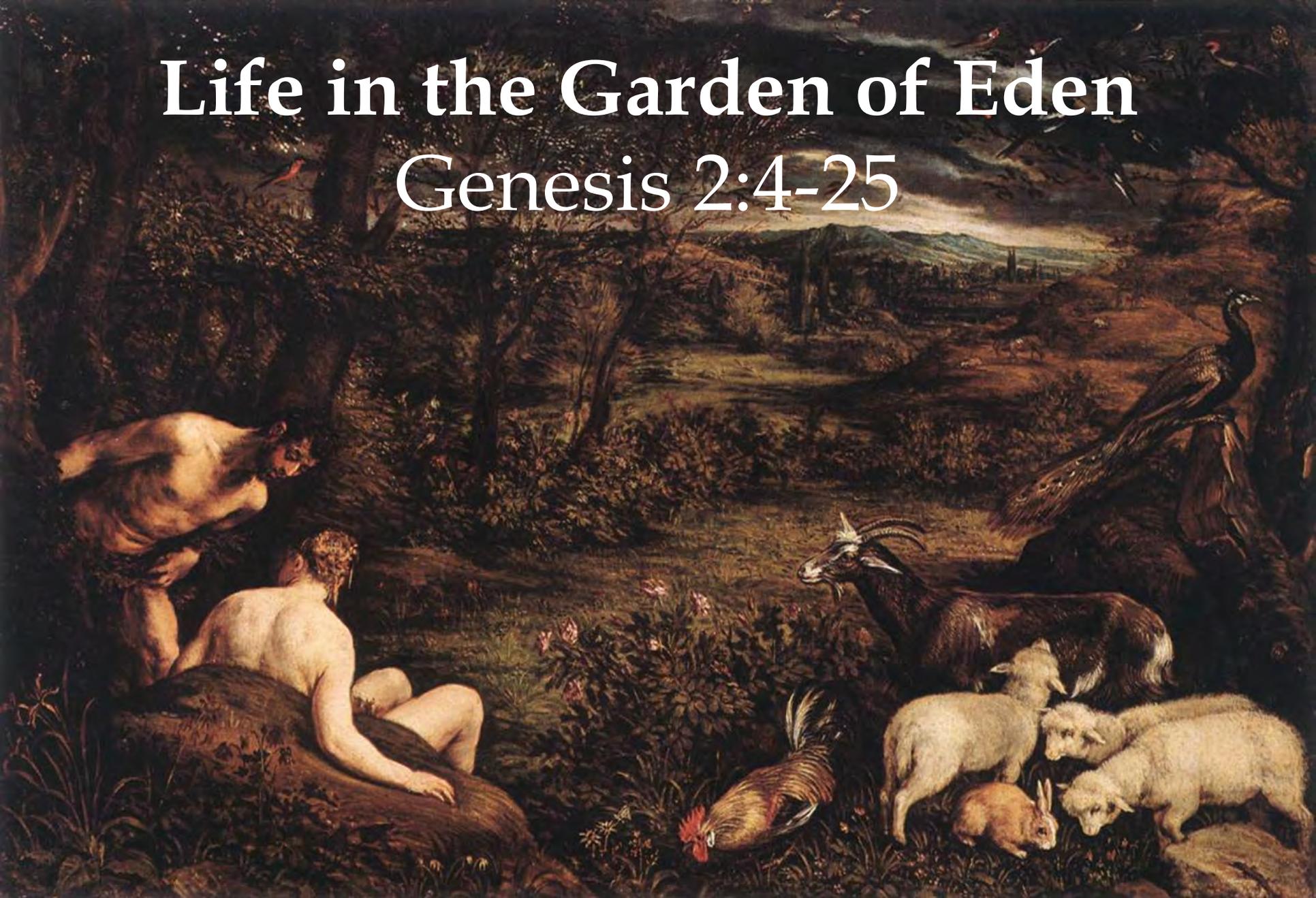
Genesis 1:1

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.



Life in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:4-25



BASSANO, Jacopo, *Garden of Eden*
1570-73, Oil on canvas, 77 x 109 cm, Galleria Doria Pamphilj, Rome

The Fall of Mankind:

It's no longer the way it is supposed to be

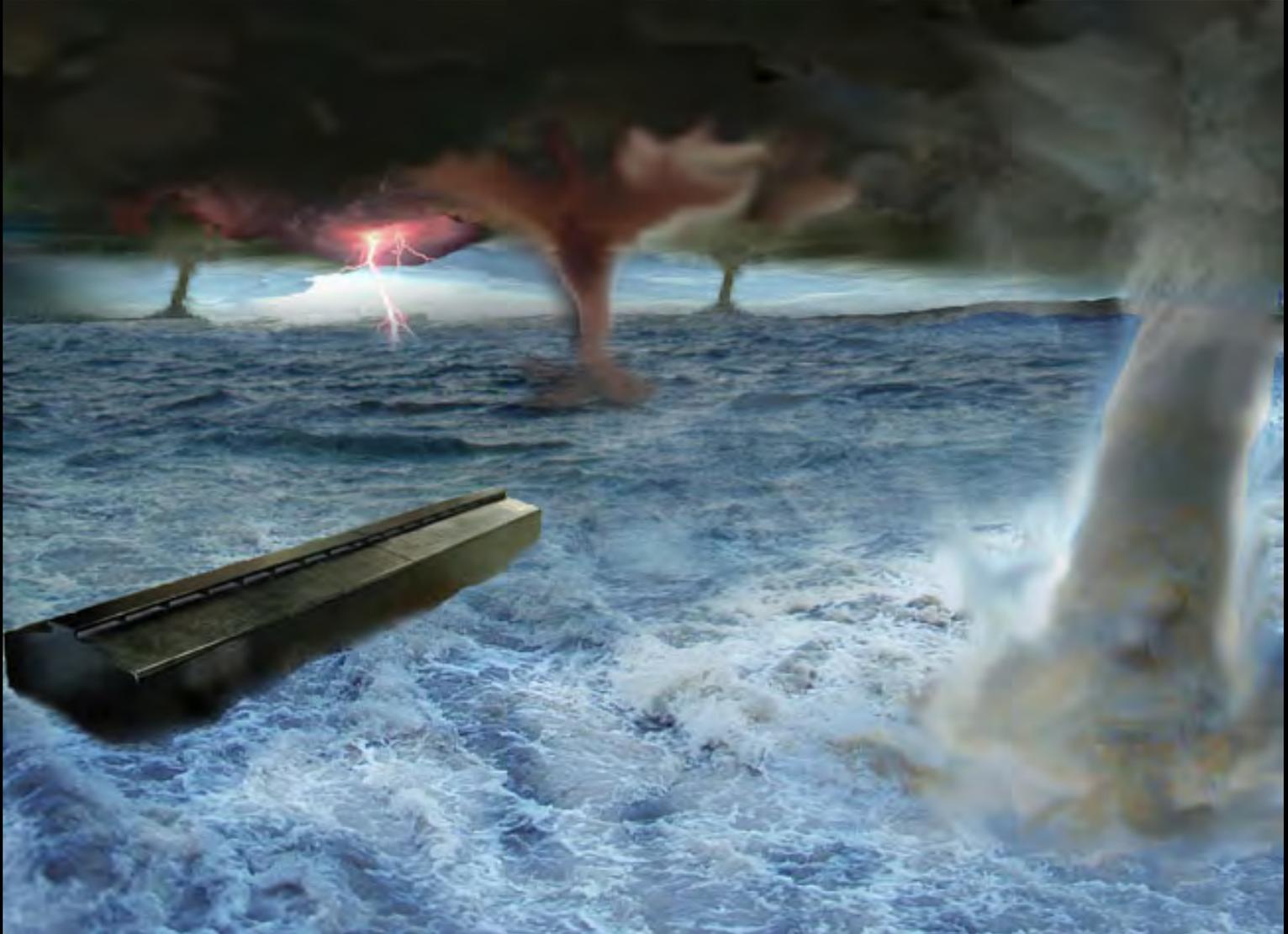
Genesis 3



Cain and Abel



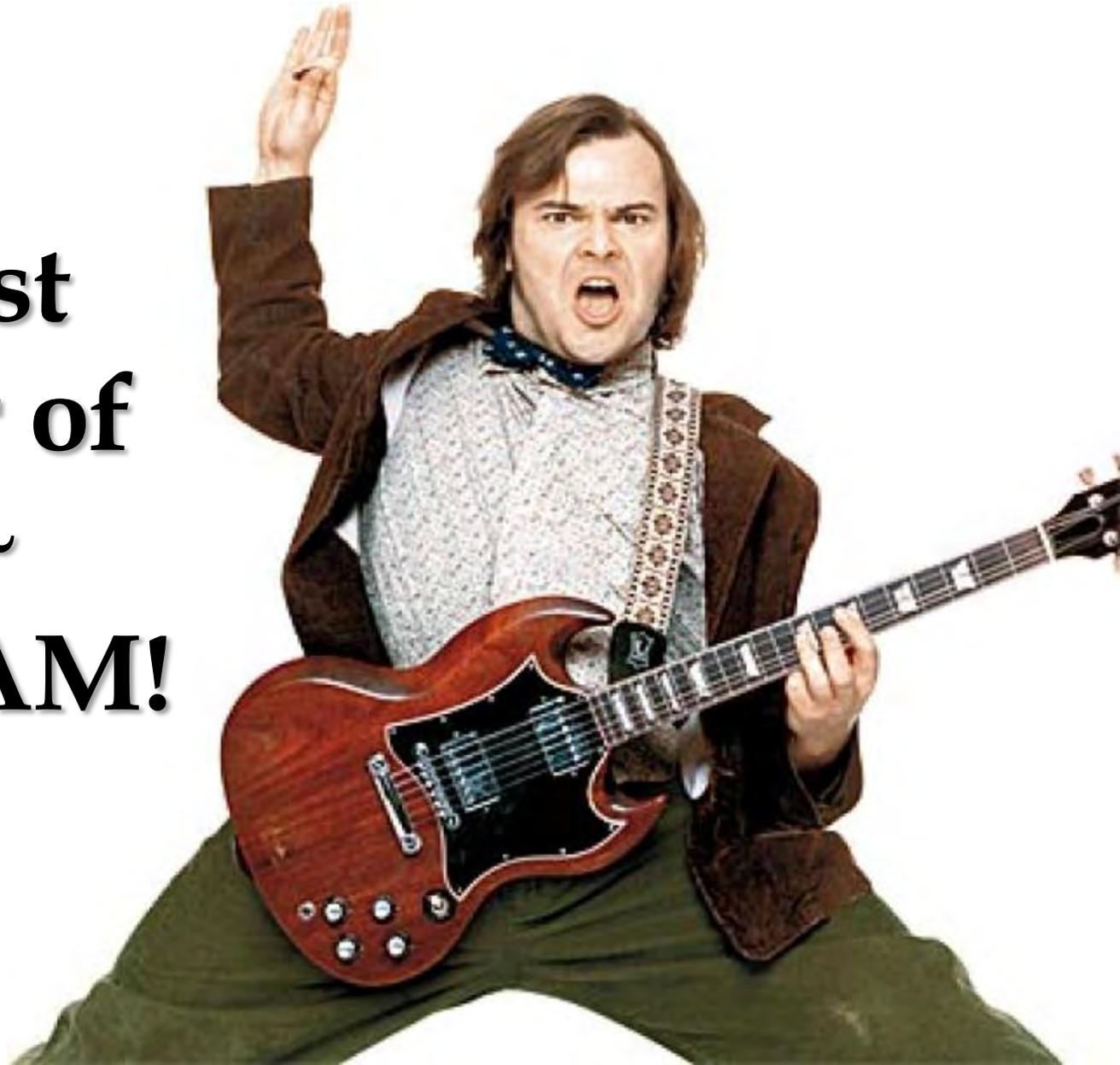
The Flood: The God who will not be mocked



The Tower of Babel



**Our first
rock star of
faith ~
ABRAHAM!**



Portrait #1 - Abraham's Family Tree



THE FAMILY TREE

Don't check back too far.
You might not like what you find.

Portrait #1 – Abraham's Family Tree

Genesis 11:10-11, 24-32

¹⁰This is the account of Shem's family line. Two years after the flood, when Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of Arphaxad. ¹¹And after he became the father of Arphaxad, Shem lived 500 years and had other sons and daughters...

Portrait #1 – Abraham's Family Tree

Genesis 11:10-11, 24-32

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²⁴When Nahor had lived 29 years, he became the father of Terah. ²⁵And after he became the father of Terah, Nahor lived 119 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁶After Terah had lived 70 years, he became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran.

Portrait #1 – Abraham's Family Tree

Genesis 11:10-11, 24-32

²⁷ This is the account of Terah's family line.

Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. ²⁸ While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. ²⁹ Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milkah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milkah and Iskah.

Portrait #1 – Abraham's Family Tree

Genesis 11:10-11, 24-32

³⁰Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive. ³¹Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there. ³²Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

Portrait #2 - Recipient of THE Promise of God



Portrait #2 – Recipient of THE Promise of God

Genesis 12:1-7

¹The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household 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. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Portrait #2 – Recipient of THE Promise of God

Genesis 12:1-7

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Portrait #2 – Recipient of THE Promise of God

Genesis 12:1-7

⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Portrait #3 - Abraham, the Believer!



Portrait #3 – Abraham, the Believer!

Genesis 15:1-21

¹After 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.”

²But 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?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

Portrait #3 – Abraham, the Believer!

Genesis 15:1-21

⁴Then 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.” ⁵He 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.”

Portrait #3 – Abraham, the Believer!

Genesis 15:1-21

⁴Then 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.” ⁵He 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.”

⁶Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Portrait #3 – Abraham, the Believer!

Genesis 15:1-21

⁷He 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.”

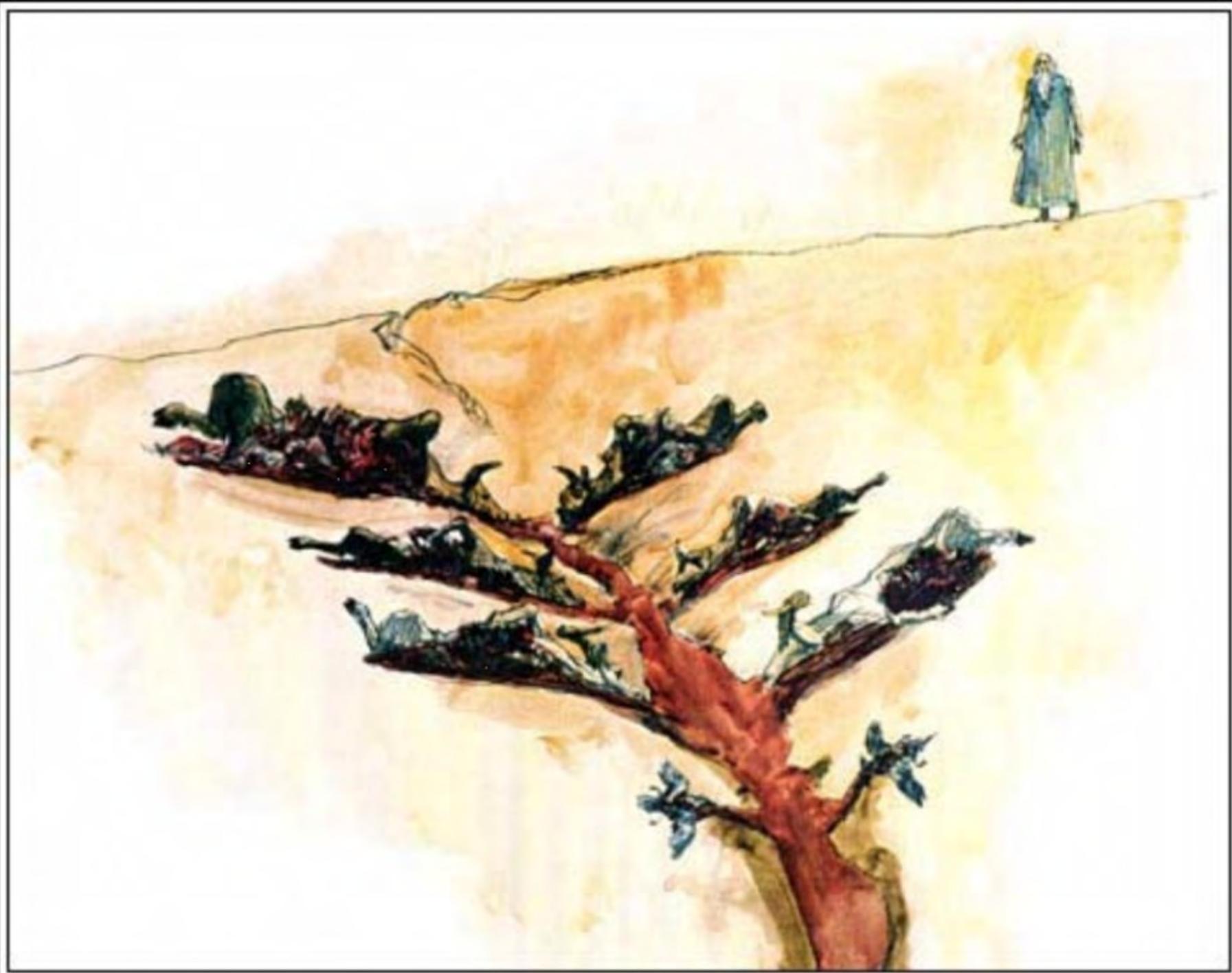
⁸But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

Portrait #3 – Abraham, the Believer!

Genesis 15:1-21

⁹So 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.”

¹⁰Abram 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. ¹¹Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.



Portrait #3 – Abraham, the Believer!

Genesis 15:1-21

¹²As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

¹³Then 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. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”.”

Portrait #3 – Abraham, the Believer!

Genesis 15:1-21

¹⁷When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates – ¹⁹the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough



TECHNICAL
DIFFICULTIES:

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough

Thirteen years of complete silence

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough

Thirteen years of complete silence

Genesis 16:15-17:5

¹⁵So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. ¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough

Thirteen years of complete silence

Genesis 16:15-17:5

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ²Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." ³Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations..."

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough

A test of faith

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough

A test of faith

Genesis 22:1-18

¹Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him,
“Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

²Then 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.”



CARAVAGGIO, *The Sacrifice of Isaac*, 1601-02, Oil on canvas, 104 x 135 cm, Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough

A test of faith

Genesis 22:1-18

³Early 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. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵He 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."

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough

A test of faith

Genesis 22:1-18

⁶Abraham 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,

⁷Isaac 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?”

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough

A test of faith

Genesis 22:1-18

⁸Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

⁹When 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. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Portrait #4 – Abraham’s trust in God, even when times were tough

A test of faith

Genesis 22:1-18

¹¹But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

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 your son, your only son.”

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough

A test of faith

Genesis 22:1-18

¹³Abraham 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.

¹⁴So 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." "

Portrait #4 – Abraham's trust in God, even when times were tough

A test of faith

Genesis 22:1-18

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Portrait #5 - Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect



TATTOO

you're not as amsome as you think



Ford designers, are you serious ?



JUDGEMENT FAIL

failblog.org

**Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are
in no way perfect**

Abraham Pimps out Sarah

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Abraham Pimps out Sarah

Genesis 12:10-13

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. ¹¹ As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are. ¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Uh, yeah, you laughed

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Uh, yeah, you laughed

Genesis 18:10-15

¹⁰Then the LORD 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. ¹¹Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Uh, yeah, you laughed

Genesis 18:10-15

¹³Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.”

¹⁵Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said,
“I did not laugh.”

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Uh, yeah, you laughed

Genesis 18:10-15

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Abraham Pimps out Sarah AGAIN!

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Abraham Pimps out Sarah AGAIN!

Genesis 20:1-13

¹Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, ²and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Abraham Pimps out Sarah AGAIN!

Genesis 20:1-13

³But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, “You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman.”

⁴Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, “Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? ⁵Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister,’ and didn’t she also say, ‘He is my brother’? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands.”

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Abraham Pimps out Sarah AGAIN!

Genesis 20:1-13

⁶Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. ⁷Now 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 yours will die.”

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Abraham Pimps out Sarah AGAIN!

Genesis 20:1-13

⁸Early the next morning Abimelech summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid. ⁹Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said, “What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should not be done.” ¹⁰And Abimelech asked Abraham, “What was your reason for doing this?”

Portrait #5 – Abraham and Sarah are in no way perfect

Abraham Pimps out Sarah AGAIN!

Genesis 20:1-13

¹¹Abraham replied, “I said to myself, ‘There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’ ¹²Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. ¹³And when God had me wander from my father’s household, I said to her, ‘This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, “He is my brother.” ’ ”

Portrait #6 – God keeps his promise



Portrait #6 – God keeps his promise

Genesis 21:1-3

- ¹Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised.
- ²Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.
- ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

*Themes that are further
developed in the Bible*

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The Promise (Covenant) with Abraham

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The Promise (Covenant) with Abraham

Abraham as a model of faith

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12, 17-19

¹Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for.

⁸By 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. ⁹By 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. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12, 17-19

¹¹By faith Abraham, even though he was past age – and Sarah herself was barren – was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹²And 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 11:1-2, 8-12, 17-19

¹⁷By 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, ¹⁸even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ¹⁹Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

Gospel Application

Gospel Application

What promises of God are you choosing to believe, trust and act upon?

Promise of Eternal Life – 1 John 5:11-13

¹¹And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Promise of Answered Prayer – John 16:24

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name.
Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Promise of Victory – 1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Promise of Forgiveness – 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Promise of Guidance – Proverbs 3:5-6

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