




CBC Essentials
Conference:
The place of faith in the
life of a growing
Christian

Learning from those who have gone
before

Our four sessions:

1. Saturday, 9:30
2. Saturday, 10:45
3. Sunday, 9:15
4. Sunday, 11:00

Abraham, the friend
of God



Jesus, the son of God



Paul, the apostle of
God



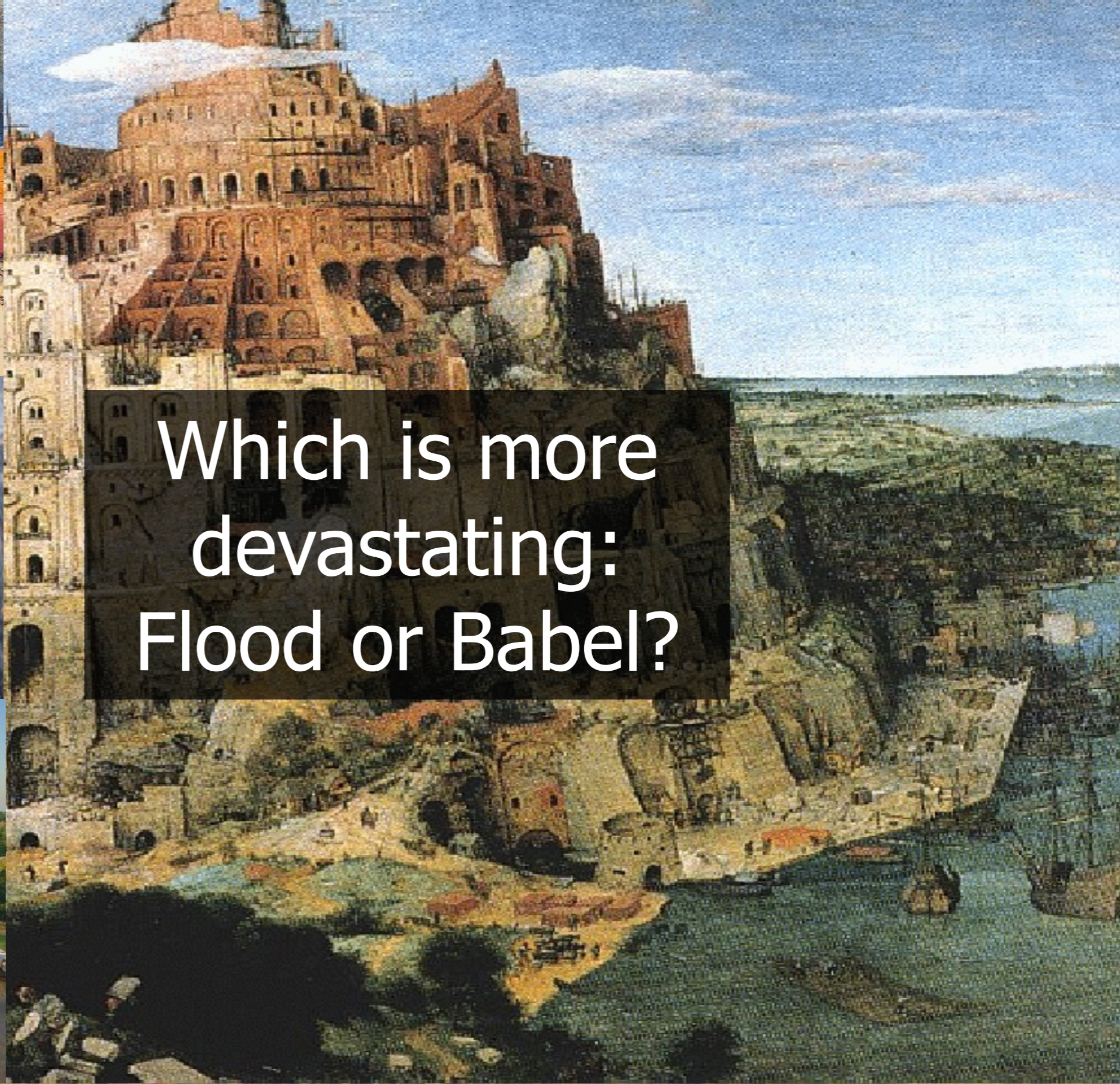
CBC, the church of
God

Setting the stage for the story of Abraham in Genesis 12—25

1. The failure of Adam and Eve, Gen 3
2. The failure of the flood, Gen 6
3. The failure of Babel, Gen 11



Which is more
devastating:
Flood or Babel?



Which is more
devastating:
Flood or Babel?

Babel

+ You live!
+ You learn a
foreign language
in 15 minutes



Flood

- You die!

Flood

Babel

God's Judgment upon Babel, Gen 11

Which was more devastating: Flood or Babel?

- The languages force division into nations.
- They are necessary to prevent further world-wide unity *against* God,
- but very bad because they ruin any chance of a unified, shalom community that God desires.

Gen 1-2

3

Cain 4

Lamech

Flood 6-9

Babel 11



Gen 1-2

3

Cain 4

Lamech

Flood 6-9

Babel 11 → Abraham





Israel

Desert

Euphrates Tigris

Ur

God's Promise to Abraham...12-25

Genesis 12:1-3

1 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 nations on earth
will be blessed through you."



LAND

12:1

NATION  **N**

12:2



LEADER

12:3

12:3 "All nations on earth will be
blessed **THROUGH** you"

Blessing

God



Abram



Nations

12:3 “All nations on earth will be
blessed **THROUGH** you”

In Galatians 3:8 Paul refers to Gen 12:3 like this:

“The Scripture ... announced the Gospel
in advance to Abraham: ‘*All nations
will be blessed through you*’”

12:3 "All nations on earth will be blessed THROUGH you"

Relationships
God
Rule

(you, Abe, are merely the channel for the Seed: He is where the blessing really comes from)

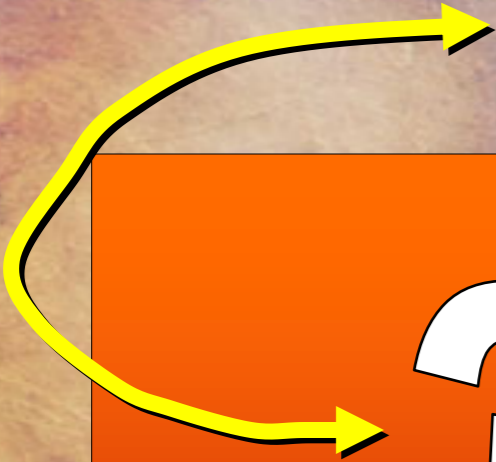
Abram



Nations

Seed





3:15, SEED

N a t i o n

Exodus 19:6, "I will make you into a "kingdom of priests."

God



Prophets & Priests

Other Nations,
i.e. the whole world!
to tell them about . . .



3:15, SEED

Land

Garden of Eden?



Europe



Land



Asia



Africa

The Middle East



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Gen 12:1-3 is not distinct from Gen 3; in fact it is directly based upon, and expands, the original promise.



3:15, SEED

Gen 12:1

Note the wording carefully

1 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.

The promises of God in Gen 12:1-3 will be fulfilled because He said so . . . whether anyone believes them or not. They are **Un** **Conditional** **al**
Straight declaration **Un** **Conditional** **al** If . . . Then **al**

Gen 12:10–20

God
supernaturally

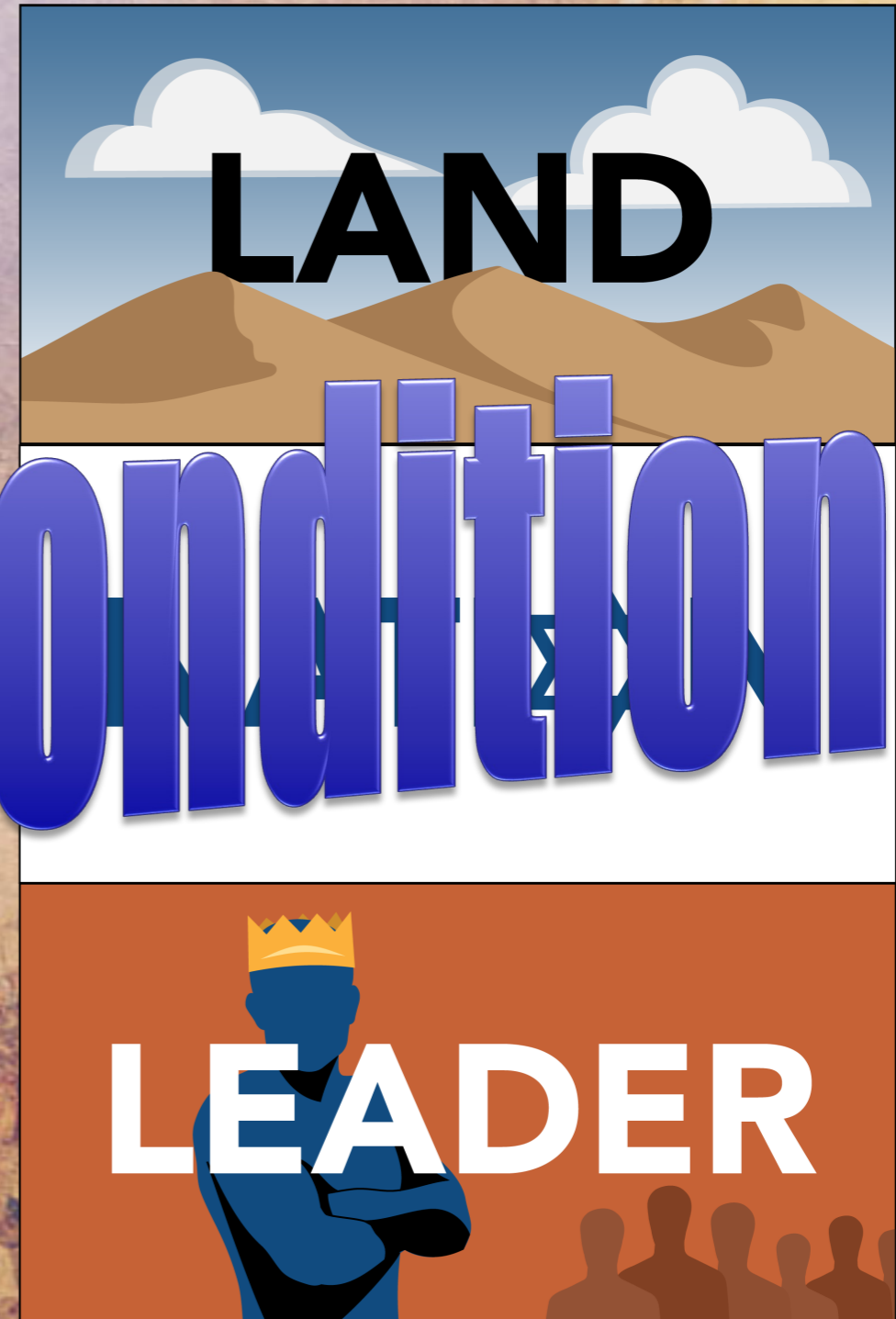
intervenes

He Spoke

the promises.

Abram
Sarai

Unconditional



God restates and expands the promise in chapter 15

15:7 The Lord said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." **15:8** But Abram said, "O Sovereign Lord, by what can I know that I am to possess it?"

15:9 The Lord said to him, "Take for me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Bernie

BLOOD

Bernie vows to keep his conditions
& Julio vows to keep his conditions

Julio

BLOOD

God restates and expands the promise in chapter 15

15:7 The Lord said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." **15:8** But Abram said, "O Sovereign Lord, by what shall I know that I am to possess it?"

15:9 The Lord said to him, "Take for me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Abram

Abram vows to keep his conditions
& God vows to keep his conditions

God

God restates and expands the promise in chapter 15

Zzzz

Abram

BLOOD

There are NO "human" conditions
& God vows to keep his conditions

God

BLOOD

God restates and expands the promise in chapter 15

1 5

1 2

3 = 1 5

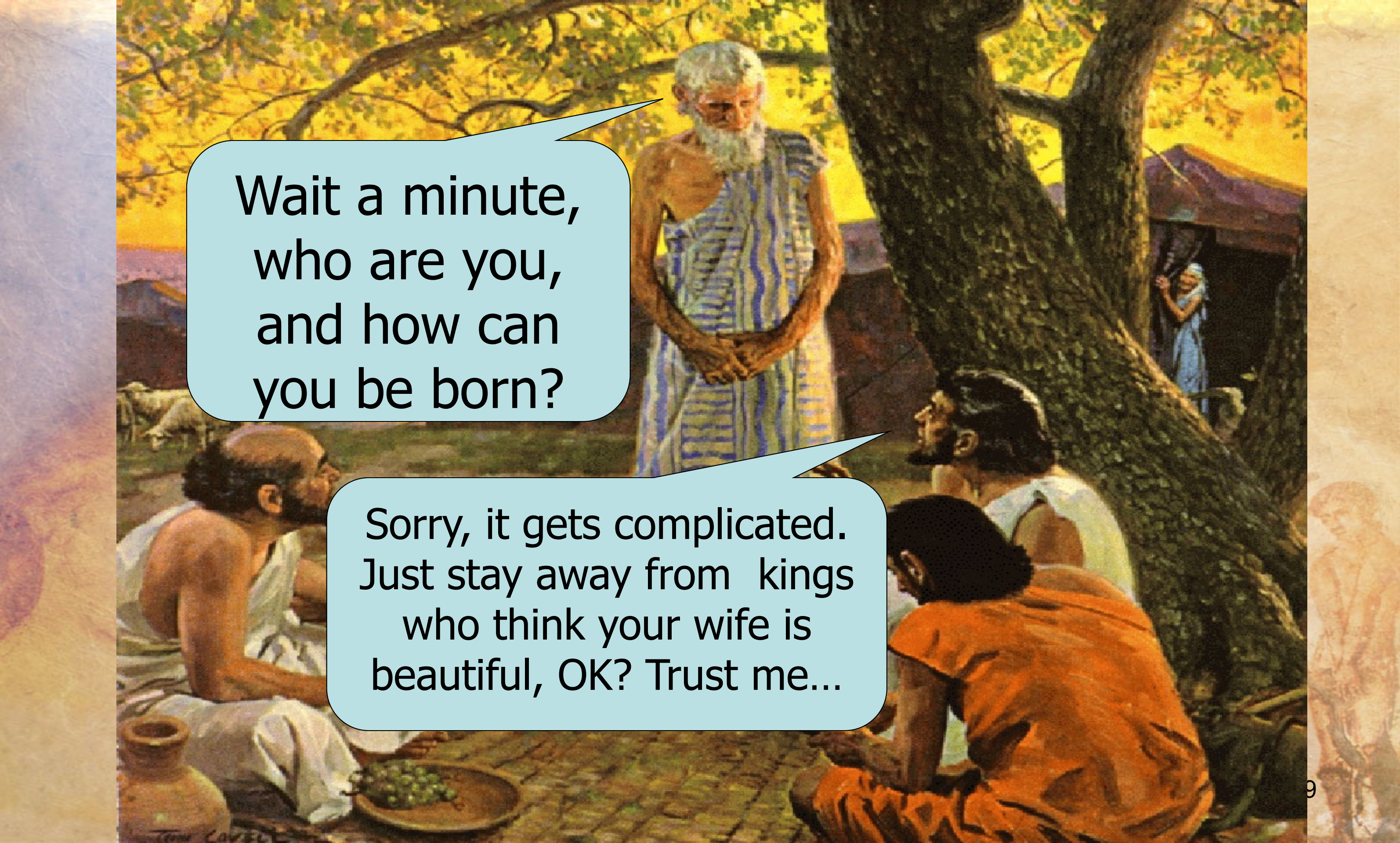
- God restates and expands the promise, 15:1-21
- God's promise to Abraham conflicts... 16:1-15
- God commands a sign of the promise, 17:1-27

Abraham's response to his name change,
"Father of many nations"?

Laughter = Isaac

(English)

(Hebrew)

A painting depicting a scene in a rural setting. An elderly man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a blue and white striped tunic, stands in the center. He is looking down at a group of younger men who are sitting on the ground. One man in the foreground is wearing an orange tunic and is looking towards the elderly man. Another man in a white tunic is sitting next to him. In the background, there are trees with yellow leaves, suggesting autumn, and a woman in a blue dress is visible near a tent. The overall atmosphere is one of a significant conversation or teaching.

Wait a minute,
who are you,
and how can
you be born?

Sorry, it gets complicated.
Just stay away from kings
who think your wife is
beautiful, OK? Trust me...



Well that's so silly to think a woman my age could be a mother?! Isaac, Isaac, Isaac!!

God's preservation of Sara, 20:1-18

God
supernaturally

intervenes

He Spoke

the promises.

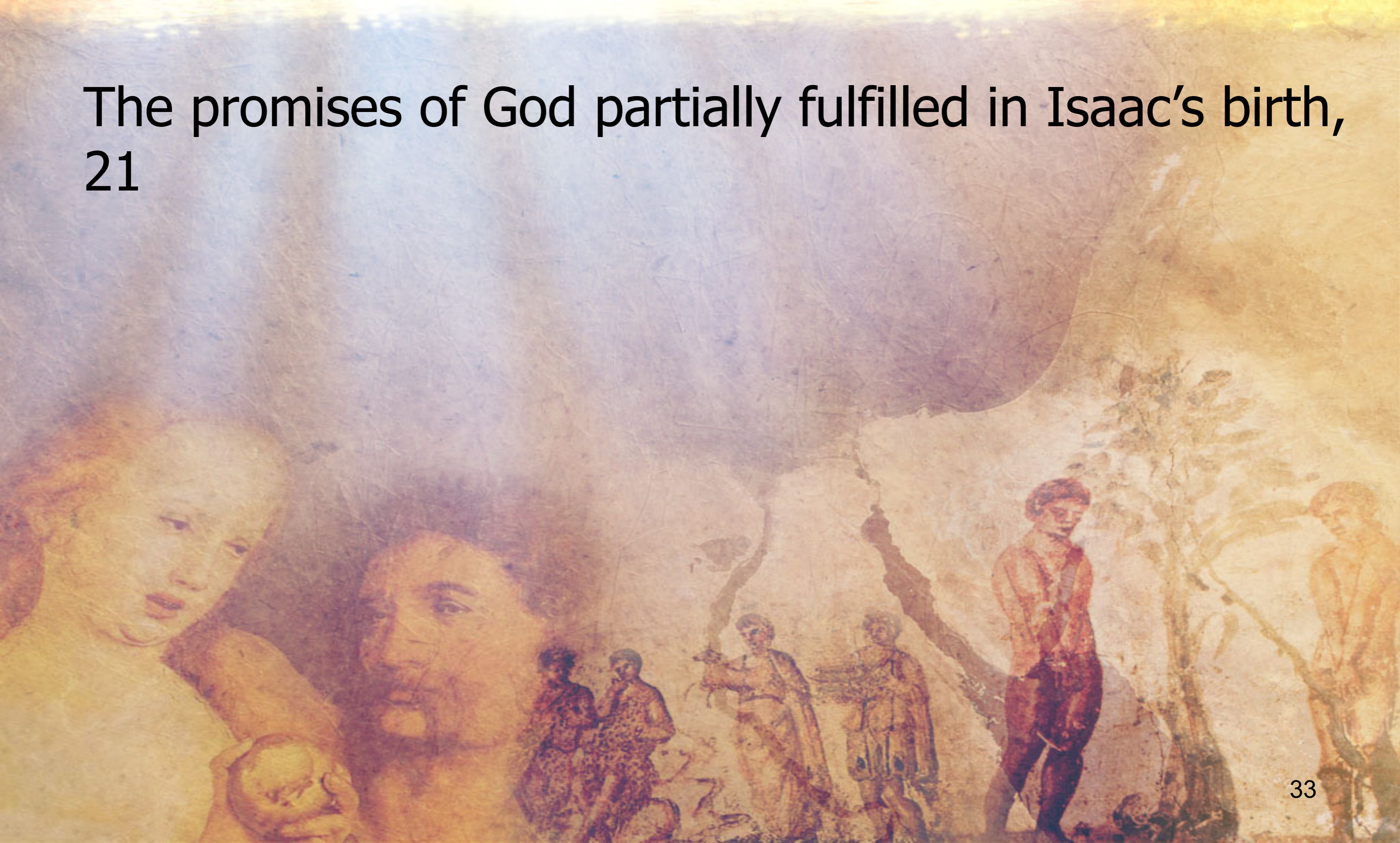
Still
Unconditional

LEADER

Processing
time

If you were God,
What would you
do with Abraham
right now?

The promises of God partially fulfilled in Isaac's birth,
21



God confirms Abraham's faith in the promises, 22

Traditionally:

- ~~1) Do you love your boy more than God?~~
- ~~2) Just how "obedient" will you be?~~

In Reality:

Do you believe that I will keep my promises?



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, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

Abraham



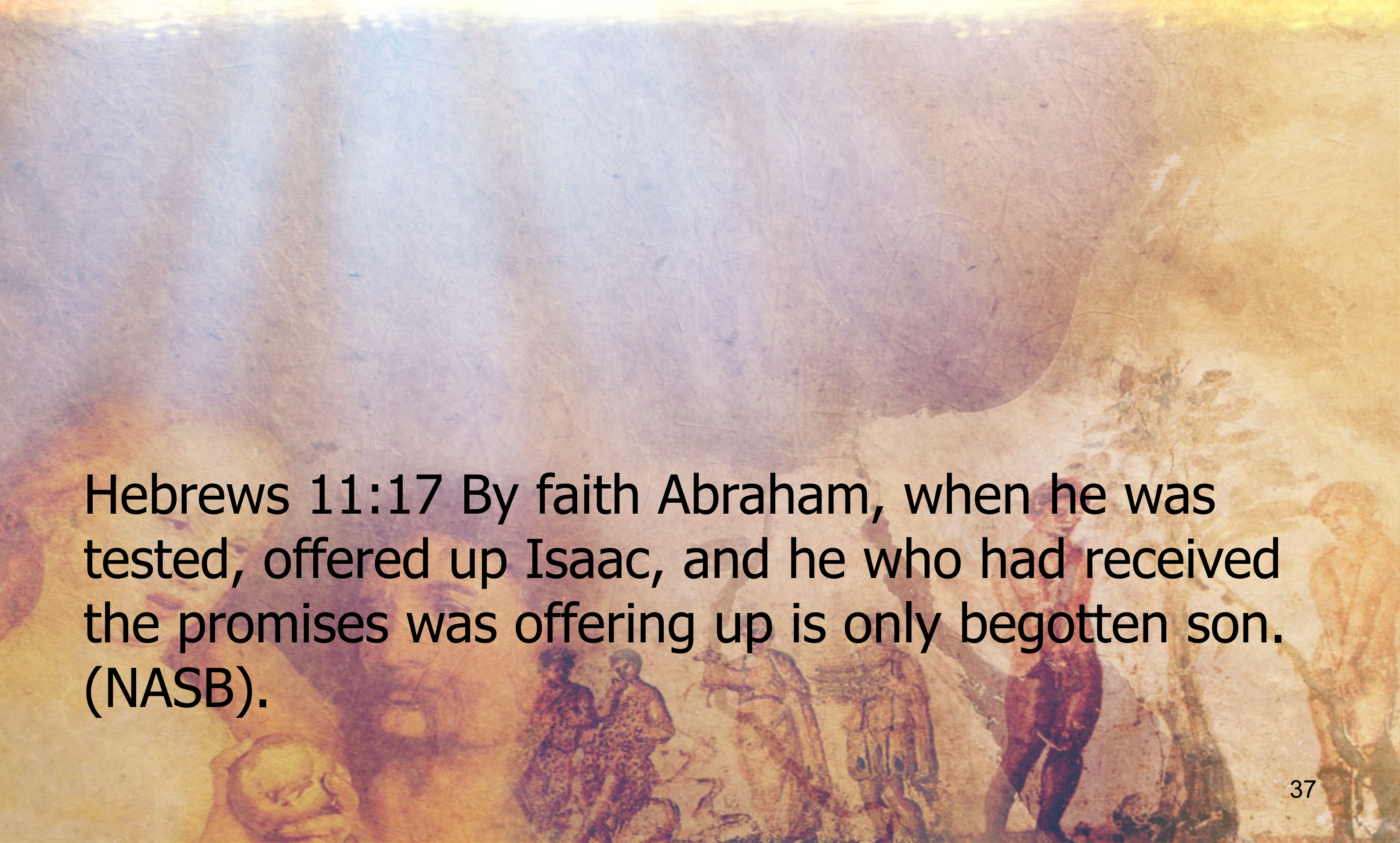
Isaac



Jerusalem Moriah

Beersheba





Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son. (NASB).

The Transition of the Promises to Isaac



f



the father of Rebekah.^x Milcah bore these eight sons to Abraham's brother Nahor.^y 24 His concubine,^z whose name was Reumah, also had sons: Tebah, Gaham, Tahash and Maacah.

The Death of Sarah

23 Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old. ²She died at Kiriath Arba^a (that is, Hebron)^b in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her.^c

³Then Abraham rose from beside his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites.^w ^dHe said, ⁴"I am an alien and a stranger^e among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead.^f"

⁵The Hittites replied to Abraham, ^o"Sir, listen to us. You are a mighty prince^g among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will refuse you his tomb for burying your dead."

me for the full price as a burial site among you."

¹⁰Ephron the Hittite was sitting among his people and he replied to Abraham in the hearing of all the Hittitesⁱ who had come to the gate^k of his city. ¹¹"No, my lord," he said. "Listen to me; I give^x^l you the field, and I give^x you the cave that is in it. I give^x it to you in the presence of my people. Bury your dead."

¹²Again Abraham bowed down before the people of the land ¹³and he said to Ephron in their hearing, "Listen to me, if you will. I will pay the price of the field. Accept it from me so I can bury my dead there."

¹⁴Ephron answered Abraham, ¹⁵"Listen to me, my lord; the land is worth four hundred shekels^y of silver,^m but what is that between me and you? Bury your dead."

¹⁶Abraham agreed to Ephron's terms and weighed out for him the price he had named in the hearing of the Hittites: four



TOM LOVELL

What does this say about the fulfillment of the promises?

- 1) Swindled
- 2) Admits he is "alien & stranger"



Hebrews 11:13-14

All these people were still living by faith when they died.

They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.

And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

Hebrews 11:39-40

39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.

40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they *receive the promises*.



So, what was Abraham in Gen 22?

“Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? . . . **22**”

And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and **15:6** he was called God’s friend.”

James 2:21-23