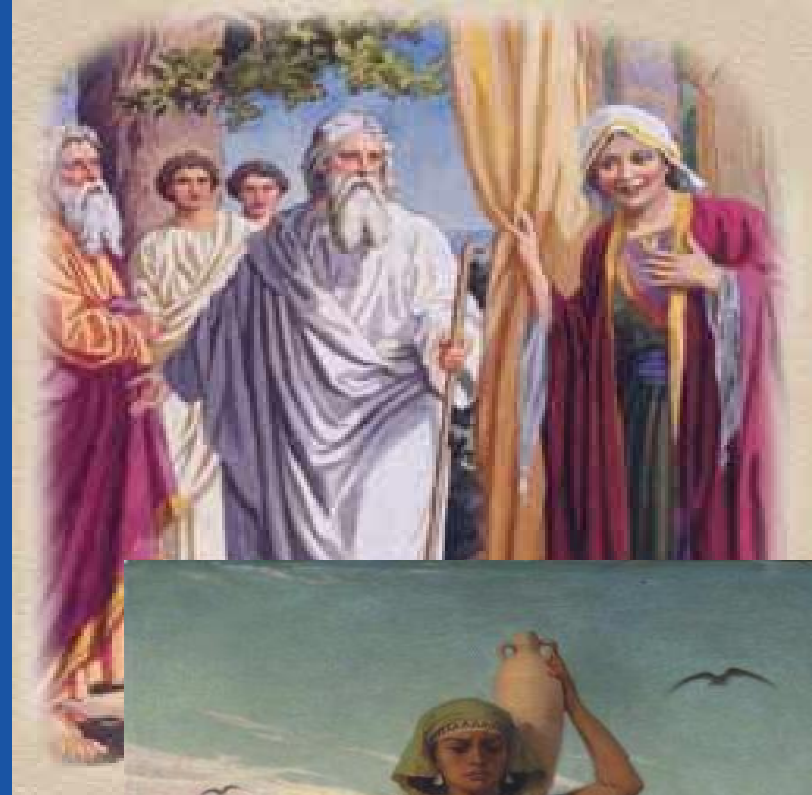


GENESIS 17

- Avraham is 99 years old
- 13 years between chapter 16 and start of chapter 17
- Ishmael about 13 years old
- Sarai still barren
- Clan still living in Canaan
- No contact with God for 13 years
- Abrahamic covenant remains intact



A NEW COVENANT



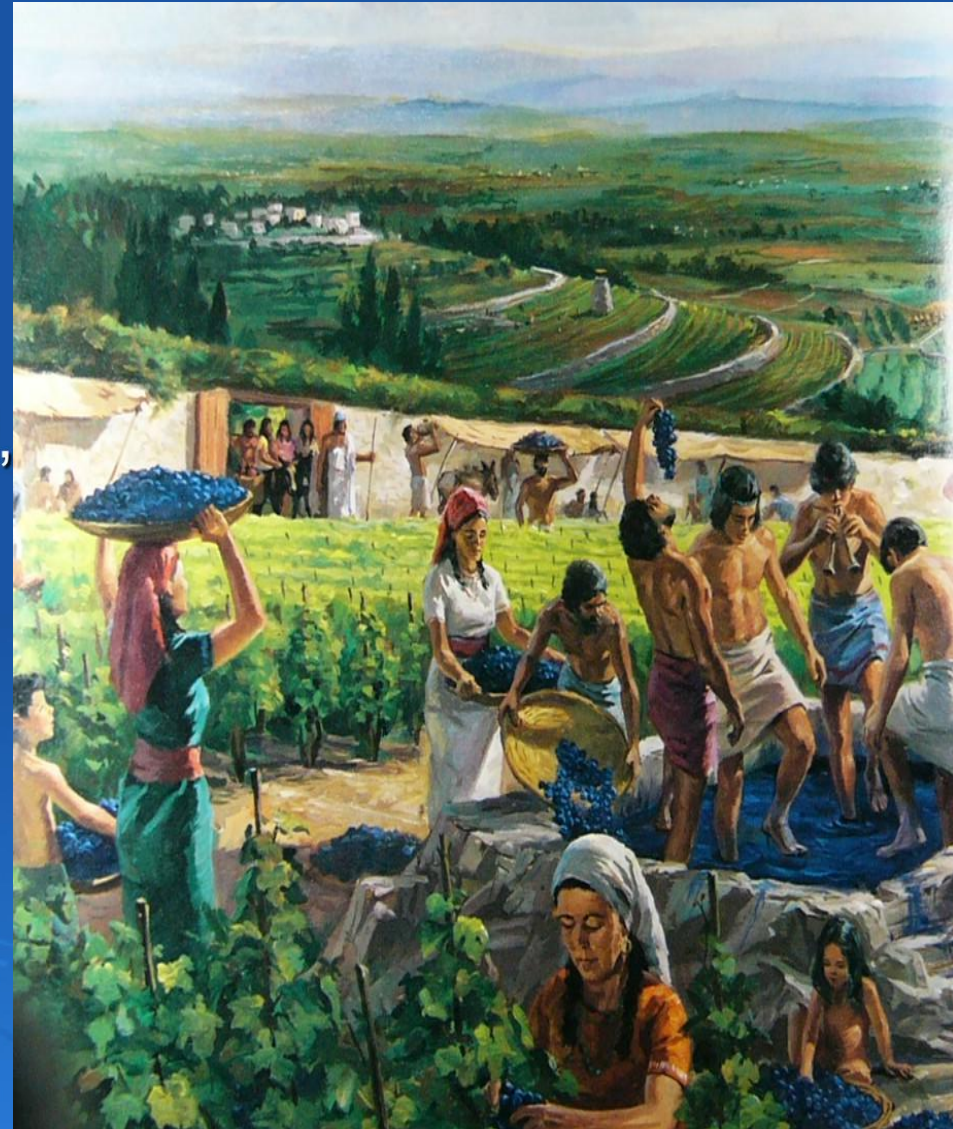
- Abraham to be the father of many nations
- Nations = *goyim*
- *Goyim* = nations or people that are NOT HEBREW
- But, in Abraham's day it meant "any nation"
- Abraham fathered BOTH Hebrews and non-Hebrews
- God changes Avram's name to "Avraham"
- Means "father of many"
- Hebrew = *Ipuru*
- "one who crossed over"?

Vs. 6: GOD ADDS ANOTHER COVENANT... CONDITIONAL

- This meant Abraham and his descendants had certain obligations
- This NEW covenant was INDIVIDUAL-based
- Each person chose, and bore personal responsibility.....did NOT affect the others
- The New Covenant involved male circumcision

Vs. 8: LAND BELONGS TO THE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM FOREVER

- “Possess” *not* the same thing as “own”
- Possess = “occupy” as land tenants
- Even while Israel was in Egypt, the land belonged to Israel
- Israel NEVER lost ownership during exiles, they only lost possession of the land
- **ISRAEL HAS NEVER STOPPED OWNING THE LAND AS LAND TENANTS !!**



Vs. 7: “....and your offspring to come, as an everlasting covenant”

- This was a legal statement
- By the law of that era, without those words an owner COULD lose the land as it was handed down
- With those words, that meant the land stayed in the family indefinitely, without restriction
- In the 1st covenant, Abraham was a passive participant
- In the 2nd covenant, active participation was required....
Circumcision
- Circumcision was now required to be a part of
“the line of promise”

CIRCUMCISION

- Male circumcision was not a Hebrew invention
- Often part of a wedding ceremony
- Rite of passage into puberty for boys
- God employed it as a “loyalty oath”
- To be performed on 8th day after birth
- Closely tied to covenant making (division of animal flesh)
- A male Hebrew who was NOT circumcised was NOT part of God’s people!
- Paul emphasized “circumcised hearts”



B'rit Milah ceremony

BRIS

Vs. 12: IMPORTANT GOD-PRINCIPLE



- **PRINCIPLE:** One *did NOT* have to be part of Abraham's gene pool to be part of the covenant!
- A foreigner could join Israel
- Purchased slaves were automatically family members
- Does NOT apply to bond-servants (debts)
- Gentiles rely on this principle today, in order to be part of the Family of God through Israel's covenants

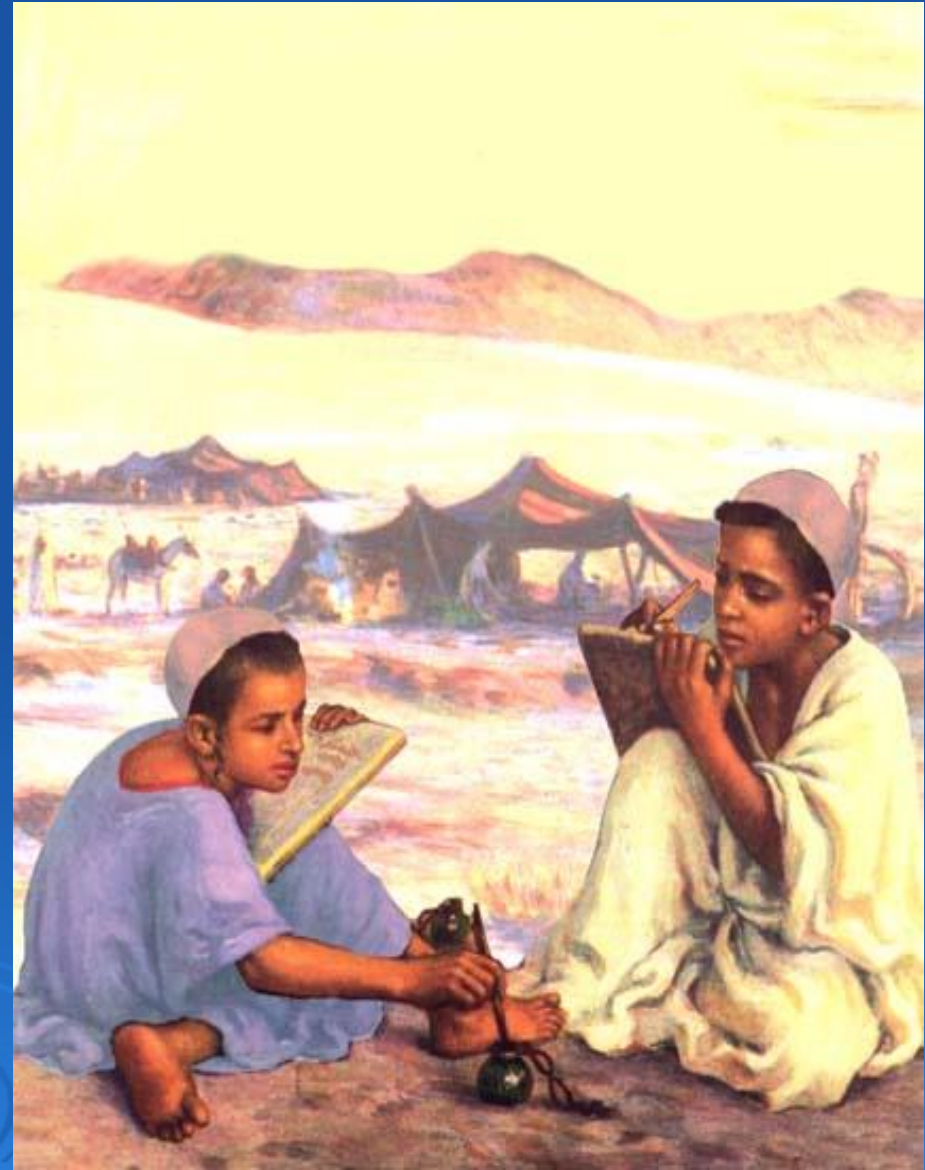
ISHMAEL: THE BASIS FOR CONFLICT

- YHWH tells Abraham that Sarai will give him a son
- Sarah near 90 years old!
- **Vs 18: “If only Ishmael could live in your presence!”**
- Abraham considered Ishmael his firstborn son
- V19: God says NO! to Ishmael being the heir to the covenant



YHWH REJECTS ISHMAEL AS THE HEIR OF THE COVENANT

- Heir was to be Isaac, son of Sarai
- A division, separation, and election took place here
- Isaac, grandfather of the Israelites
- Ishmael, grandfather of the Arabs
- Islam is a religion NOT a race
- Islam is the RELIGION of the Arabs
- Ishmael was BLESSED, not cursed
- Ishmael promised an equal number of tribes as Isaac (12)



GENESIS 18: IN THE HILLS OF HEBRON



Hebron, City of the Patriarchs Acrylic on canvas by Baruch Nachshon

“And the Lord appeared....”



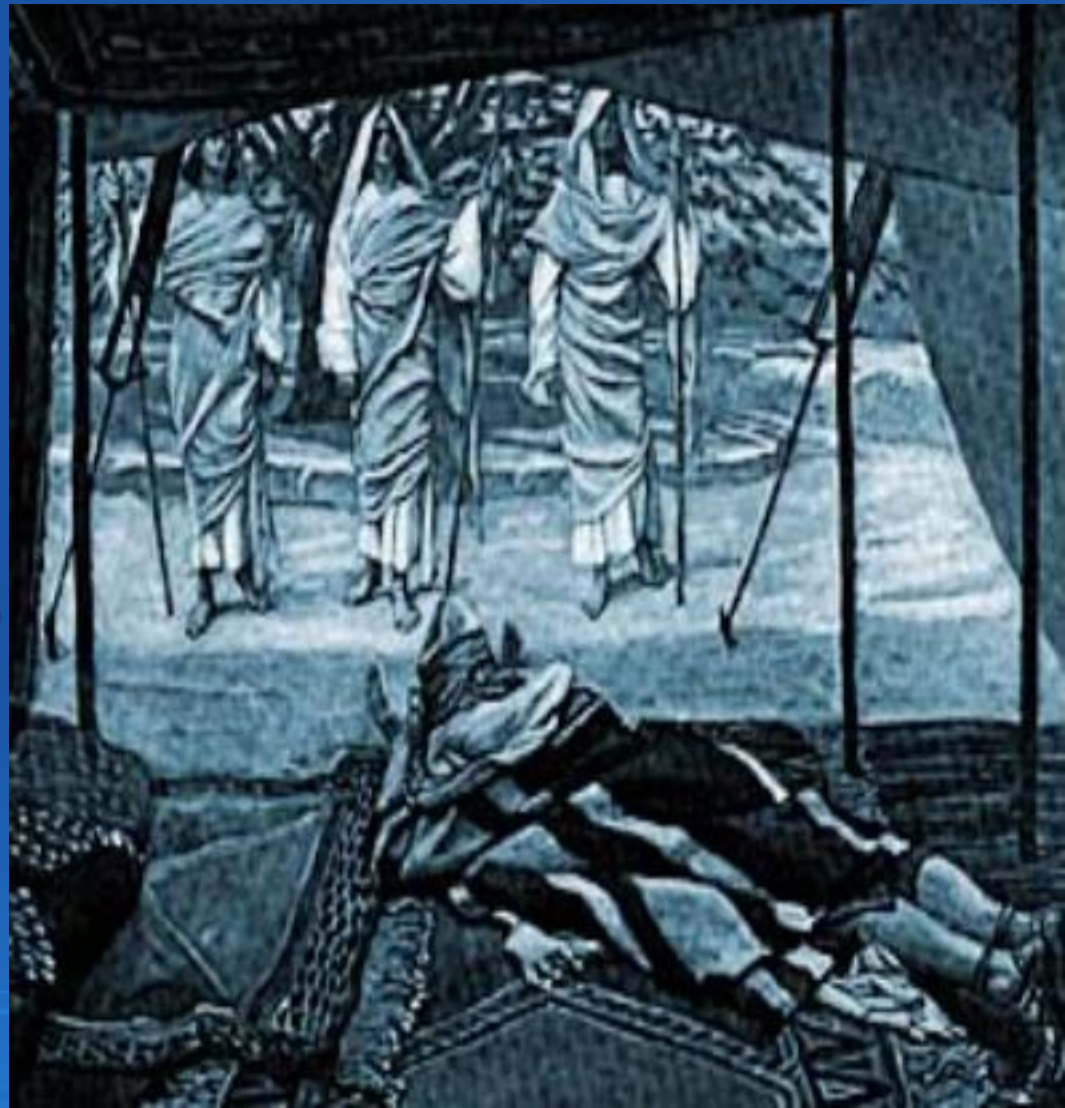
- Adonai = lord, master
- The word “adonai” is NOT used here!
- The word is Y-H-W-H
Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh
- Yehoveh
- Using “adonai” is a Tradition to avoid using the word “God” or “Yehoveh”
- Jews will write “G_d”
- Jews feel it is taking His name in vein to even pronounce it

St. Paul advised that
we be sensitive to things
that offend others

- I do NOT feel it is taking God's name in vein to pronounce it
- However, I CAN easily respect the Jewish belief that it does, and honor it in their presence
- Many names for God will be used because this is a CLASS

3 MEN APPEAR TO ABRAHAM

- There is no doubt this was a manifestation of God because He is identified as **YHWH**
- Could this have been Jesus?
- Nowhere in the Bible is Jesus ever called **YHWH**, which is the name of The Father
- **Adonai** is a plural
- **Enosh** = HUMAN men



TYPICAL MIDDLE EASTERN HOSPITALITY

- All this hurrying and bowing is customary
- Sarah is instructed to bring food, and these 3 individuals eat the food!
- How is it that we have God and Angels eating?
- Something supernatural is happening
- They knew of Sarah's barrenness
- They had authority

