



THE STUDY OF

GENESIS

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED
THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH."

Bless My Mess

Genesis 17:15-27

v.15-16 What's in a name?

- Sarai (שַׂרַי, "my princess") → Sarah (שָׂרָה, "princess without restriction")
- “Contentious” to “Princess”?
- the Hebrew letter "He" (ה), 5th, symbolizing grace

- Mesopotamia (**world**) to Canaan (**promise**)
- **Identity** in the Lord before it's obvious
- He **transforms** our potential and purpose when we become transformed **by His Grace**

(See Rom 14:16-25; Hebrews 11:11; 1 Peter 3:1-6)

v.17-18 Laughing Lessons

Isaac (יִצְחָק, "he laughs") 3 moments of laughter:

Abraham's astonished joy/doubt? (Gen. 17:17), Sarah's initial unbelief (Gen. 18:9-15), and later Sarah's joy at his birth (Gen. 21:6-7)

v.19-27 Ishmael vs. Isaac

Abraham initially asked God to bless his human solution rather than trust God's perfect plan (Romans 9:6-9)

v.19-27 Abraham's Obedience

Decisive, Diligent, and Daring faith
shown through immediate action

(James 2:17-18; Heb. 11:8-10)

Bless my mess or Your will be done?

(Matt. 6:10; Luke 22:42)

Can you trust God's plan over your own
and obey immediately?

(Gen 50:20; Prov. 3:5-7; Isa. 55:8-9; Jer.
29:11; Rom 14:16-25; 8:28)

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV)

Resources/ bibliography:

1. Sailhamer, John H. The Pentateuch as Narrative: A Biblical-Theological Commentary.
2. https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-17.cfm
3. <https://www.preceptaustin.org/genesis-17-commentary#17:15>
4. Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Obedient, “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991), 71–72.
5. Tremper Longman III, “Genesis,” in The Baker Illustrated Bible Background Commentary, ed. J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2020), 98-101.

Abraham's Chronology:

Age 75 (Gen. 12:1-5; 13:16) (Sarai = 65).

- Father a great nation (the Jews)
- Possess a specific land
- Be blessed above all nations
- Through them, all nations would be blessed
- Gospel to Abraham (Gal. 3:8)

Land Covenant - “unconditional”
geographical boundaries (Gen. 12:7;
13:14-15; 15:18-21), temporary exile as
a “conditional” part of the covenant
(Deut. 30:1-10)

Age 86 (Gen. 16:16) Abe and Hagar had
Ishmael,

Age 99 (Gen. 17:1, 17:17) changed his name to Abraham, reiterated the covenant and added that Kings would come from his line, and circumcision as a sign

Age 100 (Gen. 21:5) Abraham fathers Isaac with Sarah

Gen. 22 Gospel type, God speaks and swore He would fulfill these promises by Himself, 1st Love and Lamb

Age 137 (**Gen. 23:1**) Abraham's wife Sarah dies

Age 140 (**Gen. 25:20**) Abraham's son Isaac marries Rebekah

Age 175 (**Gen. 25:7**)₂₂ Abraham dies