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FINDING
JOY

“When it was time for Elizabeth’s baby to be born, she gave birth to a son. **58** And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced with her. **59** When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. **60** But Elizabeth said, ‘No! His name is John!’ **61** ‘What?’ they exclaimed. ‘There is no one in all your family by that name.’ **62** So they used gestures

Luke 1:57–80 (NLT)

to ask the baby's father what he wanted to name him. **63** He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, 'His name is John.' **64** Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God. **65** Awe fell upon the whole neighborhood, and the news of what had happened spread throughout the Judean hills. **66** Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, 'What will this child turn out to be?' For the hand of the Lord was surely upon

Luke 1:57–80 (NLT)

him in a special way. **67** Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy: **68** “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. **69** He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, **70** just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago. **71** Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us. **72** He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant— **73**

Luke 1:57–80 (NLT)

the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham. **74** We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear, **75** in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live. **76** ‘And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. **77** You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. **78** Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break

Luke 1:57–80 (NLT)

upon us, **79** to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.’ **80** John grew up and became strong in spirit. And he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.”

Luke 1:57–80 (NLT)

God is Worthy of Our Praise!



Nehemiah 8:10 (NLT) — “And Nehemiah continued, ‘Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don’t be dejected and sad, **for the joy of the LORD is your strength!**’”



**JOY is the
Hallmark
of God's
People!**

Luke 2:10–11 (NLT) — “...but the angel reassured them. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you good news that will bring **great joy to all people**. **11** The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!’”



FINDING
JOY

How Can You Find Joy When You've Lost It?



**START
PRAISING
GOD!!!**

Luke 1:67–68 (NLT) — “Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy: **68** ‘**Praise the Lord**, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people.’”

**Luke 1:68 (NLT) — “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has visited and redeemed his people.”**

The background is a vibrant stained glass design. A large, central blue circle with a starry, night-sky texture is the focal point. Inside this circle, the word "FINDING" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font, and the word "JOY" is written in a large, stylized, yellow font with a slight shadow. The circle is surrounded by a pattern of colorful, radiating segments in shades of purple, magenta, blue, and yellow, creating a sunburst or starburst effect.

FINDING JOY

1. He Came to Us



God “came to us”:

- “visited”
- Idea of going with a desire to do something.

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FINDING
JOY

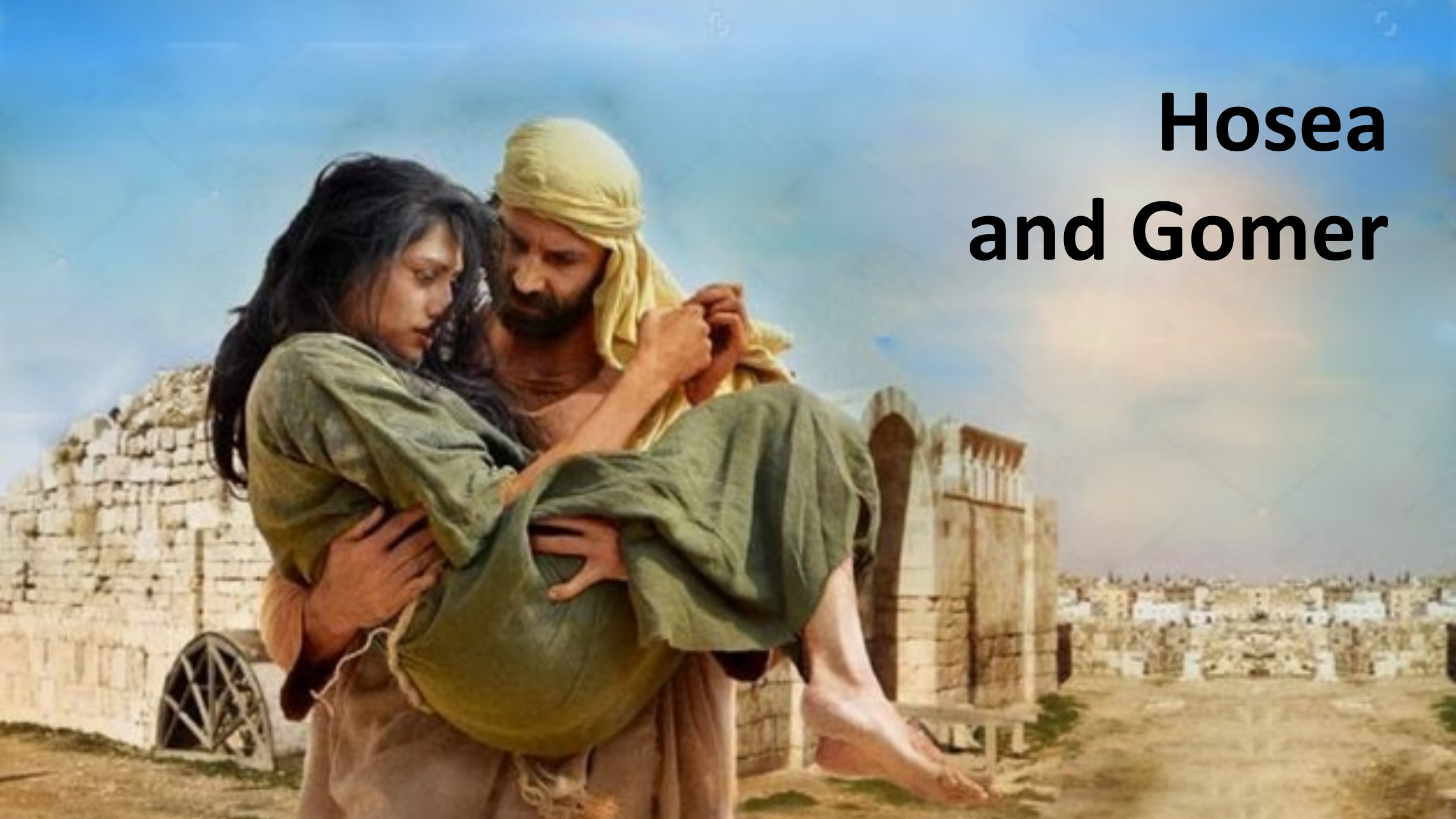
2. He Redeemed Us

Luke 1:68 (NLT) — “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited **and redeemed his people.**”

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV) — “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’)”

Job 19:25 (NKJV) — “For I know that **my Redeemer lives**, And He shall stand at last on the earth...”

Hosea and Gomer



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FINDING
JOY

3. He Raised Up a Horn of Salvation for Us

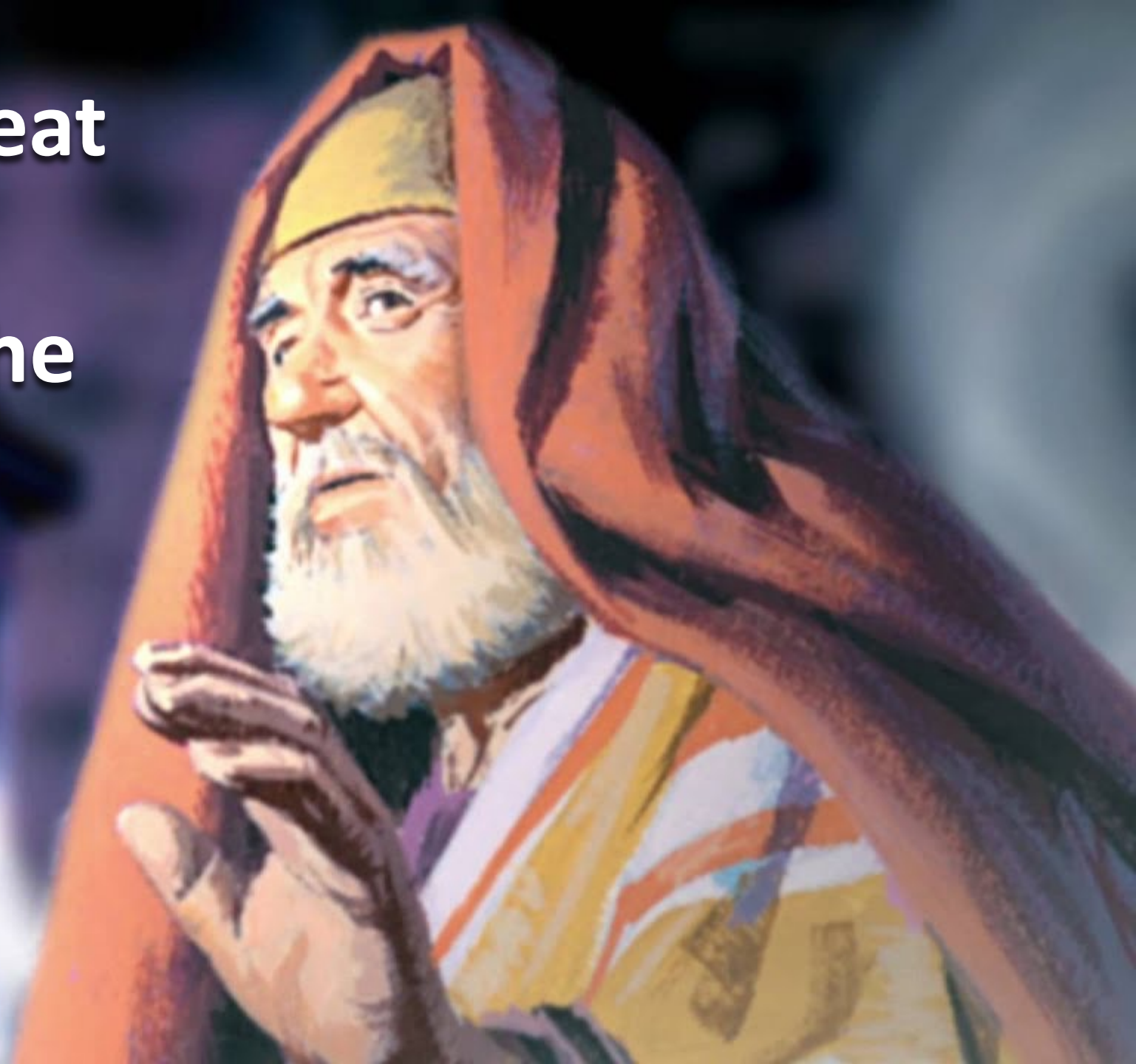
Luke 1:69 (NKJV) — “And **has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David ”**



**Animal Horns are Weapons, Symbols of Strength,
and Ornaments of Beauty**

Luke 1:68-69 (NKJV) — “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited **and redeemed his people**. And **has raised up a horn of salvation for us** In the house of His servant David...”

**Zechariah Had Great
Confidence in the
God Who Made the
Promises!**





FINDING
JOY

4. He Keeps His Promises

Luke 1:70–75 (NLT) — “...**just as he promised** through his holy prophets long ago. **71** Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us. **72** He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant— **73** the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham. **74** We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear, **75** in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live.”



Who are these “enemies”?



Who are these “enemies”?

- It’s US!
- Our biggest enemies are **SIN** and **SELF**



Praising God BY FAITH is the Key to Joy!

Romans 1:17 (NLT) — “This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, **‘It is through faith that a righteous person has life.’**”

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) — “For we walk **by faith**, not by sight.”

“So **the promise is received by faith**. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham’s. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. **17** That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, “I have made you the father of many nations.” **This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing. 18** Even when there was no

Romans 4:16-22 (NLT)

reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” **19 And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb.** **20** Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. **21 He was fully convinced that God is**

Romans 4:16-22 (NLT)

able to do whatever he promises. 22 And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous."

Romans 4:16-22 (NLT)



Some of You are in the Heat of Battles Right Now



HOLD ON TO THE PROMISES GOD GAVE YOU!!!



GOD IS FAITHFUL

In the Past... Today... and Tomorrow!

Luke 1:72 (NLT) — “He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant...”



Which Holy Covenant?

- Oath He swore to Abraham
- Passed to US as well

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FINDING
JOY

We Praise God by SERVING Him

Luke 1:74–75 (NLT) — “We have been rescued from our enemies **so we can serve God without fear, 75** in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live.”



**FINDING
JOY**

We Praise God Because He:

- Has **VISITED** us
- Has **REDEEMED** us
- Has **RAISED UP A HORN** of Salvation for us
- Keeps His **PROMISES**
- Has **EXTENDED** to us the privilege of **SERVING** Him

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