



שַׁעֲרֵי הַלְוִי לְנֹגֵדֵי חַמִּיד

TUJ Torah Study

# Characters of Genesis

Text, Myth & Midrash

## Torah Study: The Characters of Genesis

Torah Portion: B'reishit

Genesis\* 1:1 – 6:8 (\*Heb B'rei-shit)

**Chapter 1**

- 1 When God began to create<sup>a</sup> heaven and earth —
- 2 the earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep and a wind from<sup>b</sup> God sweeping over the water—
- 3 God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.
- 4 God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.
- 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, a first day.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Others* “In the beginning God created.”

<sup>b</sup>*Others* “the spirit of.”

<sup>c</sup>*Others* “one day.”

- 6 God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the water, that it may separate water from water.”
- 7 God made the expanse, and it separated the water which was below the expanse from the water which was above the expanse. And it was so.
- 8 God called the expanse Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.
- 9 God said, “Let the water below the sky be gathered into one area, that the dry land may appear.” And it was so.
- 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering of waters He called Seas. And God saw that this was good.
- 11 And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation: seed-bearing plants, fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so.
- 12 The earth brought forth vegetation: seed-bearing plants of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that this was good.
- 13 And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.
- 14 God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate day from night; they shall serve as signs for the set times—the days and the years;
- 15 and they shall serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth.” And it was so.

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**16** God made the two great lights, the greater light to dominate the day and the lesser light to dominate the night, and the stars.

**17** And God set them in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth,

**18** to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that this was good.

**19** And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

**20** God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and birds that fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.”

**21** God created the great sea monsters, and all the living creatures of every kind that creep, which the waters brought forth in swarms, and all the winged birds of every kind. And God saw that this was good.

**22** God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile and increase, fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.”

**23** And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

**24** God said, “Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: cattle, creeping things, and wild beasts of every kind.” And it was so.

**25** God made wild beasts of every kind and cattle of every kind, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. And God saw that this was good.

**26** And God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. They shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the whole earth, and all the creeping things that creep on earth.”

**27** And God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**28** God blessed them and God said to them, “Be fertile and increase, fill the earth and master it; and rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and all the living things that creep on earth.”

**29** God said, “See, I give you every seed-bearing plant that is upon all the earth, and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit; they shall be yours for food.

**30** And to all the animals on land, to all the birds of the sky, and to everything that creeps on earth, in which there is the breath of life, [I give] all the green plants for food.” And it was so.

**31** And God saw all that He had made, and found it very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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**Chapter 2**

- 1 The heaven and the earth were finished, and all their array.
- 2 On the seventh day God finished the work that He had been doing, and He ceased<sup>a</sup> on the seventh day from all the work that He had done.
- 3 And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because on it God ceased from all the work of creation that He had done.

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<sup>a</sup> *or* “rested”

- 4 Such is the story of heaven and earth when they were created.  
When the ETERNAL God made earth and heaven—
- 5 when no shrub of the field was yet on earth and no grasses of the field had yet sprouted, because the ETERNAL God had not sent rain upon the earth and there was no man to till the soil,
- 6 but a flow would well up from the ground and water the whole surface of the earth—
- 7 the ETERNAL God formed man<sup>b</sup> from the dust of the earth.<sup>c</sup> He blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.

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**Torah Portion: Noah**

Genesis\* 6:9 – 11:32 (\*Heb B'reis-shit)

**Chapter 6 (end of Portion B'reishit)**

- 1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,
- 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were pretty; and they took as wives all those whom they chose.
- 3 And the Eternal said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for he also is flesh; yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.
- 4 There were Nefilim in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them, the same became mighty men of old, men of renown.
- 5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- 6 And the Eternal repented that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.
- 7 And the Eternal said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the birds of the air; for I repent that I have made them.
- 8 And Noah found grace in the eyes of the Eternal.
  
- 9 These are the generations of Noah; Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.
- 10 And Noah fathered three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.
- 12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth.
- 13 And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.
- 14 Make an ark of gopher wood; rooms shall you make in the ark, and shall pitch it inside and outside with pitch.
- 15 And this is the fashion by which you shall make it; The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

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16. A window shall you make in the ark, and to a cubit shall you finish it above; and the door of the ark shall you set in its side; with lower, second, and third stories shall you make it.
17. And, behold, I, myself, bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, where there is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.
18. But with you will I establish my covenant; and you shall come into the ark, you, and your sons, and your wife, and your sons' wives with you.
19. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shall you bring into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.
20. Of birds after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every sort shall come to you, to keep them alive.
21. And take to you of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to you; and it shall be for food for you, and for them.
22. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

### Chapter 7

1. And the Eternal said to Noah, Come you and all your house into the ark; for you have I seen righteous before me in this generation.
2. Of every clean beast you shall take to you seven pairs, the male and his female; and of beasts that are not clean one pair, the male and his female.
3. Of birds also of the air by seven pairs, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.
4. For in another seven days I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.
5. And Noah did according to all that the Eternal commanded him.
6. And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.
7. And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.
8. Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of birds, and of every thing that creeps upon the earth,
9. There went in two and two to Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.
10. And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.
11. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.
12. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

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13. In the same day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;
14. They, and every beast after its kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort.
15. And they went to Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, where there is the breath of life.
16. And those who went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him; and the Eternal closed him in.
17. And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it was lifted up above the earth.
18. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.
19. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.
20. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.
21. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of bird, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth, and every man;
22. All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.
23. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the bird of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth; and Noah only remained alive, and those who were with him in the ark.
24. And the waters prevailed upon the earth a hundred and fifty days.

### Chapter 8

1. And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark; and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided;
2. The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;
3. And the waters returned from off the earth continually; and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.
4. And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat. \
5. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.
6. And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made;

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7. And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth.
8. Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground;
9. But the dove found no rest for the sole of its foot, and she returned to him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth; then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her into the ark.
10. And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark;
11. And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off; so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.
12. And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which did not return back to him any more.
13. And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.
14. And in the second month, on the twenty seventh day of the month, was the earth dried.
15. And God spoke to Noah, saying,
16. Go out from the ark, you, and your wife, and your sons, and your sons' wives with you.
17. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you, of all flesh, both of bird, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.
18. And Noah went out, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him;
19. Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, and whatever creeps upon the earth, after their kinds, went out of the ark.
20. And Noah built an altar to the Eternal; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.
21. And the Eternal smelled the pleasing odor; and the Eternal said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing, as I have done.
22. While the earth remains, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

### Chapter 9

1. And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.
2. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every bird of the air, upon all that moves upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; to

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your hand are they delivered.

3. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

4. But flesh with its life, which is its blood, you shall not eat.

5. And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.

6. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God he made man.

7. And you, be fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply in it.

8. And God spoke to Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

9. And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;

10. And with every living creature that is with you, of the bird, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

11. And I will establish my covenant with you; nor shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; nor shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

12. And God said, This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for everlasting generations;

13. I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between me and the earth.

14. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud;

15. And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

17. And God said to Noah, This is the sign of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

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**Torah Portion: Lech Lecha**

Genesis\* 12:1 – 17:27 (\*Heb B'reis-shit)

**Chapter 11 (end of Portion Noah)**

24. And Nahor lived twenty nine years, and fathered Terah;
25. And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah a hundred and nineteen years, and fathered sons and daughters.
26. And Terah lived seventy years, and fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.
27. Now these are the generations of Terah; Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot.
28. And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans.
29. And Abram and Nahor took wives; the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.
30. But Sarai was barren; she had no child.
31. And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldeans, to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran, and lived there.
32. And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran.

**Chapter 12**

1. And the Eternal had said to Abram, Get out from your country, and from your family, and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you;
2. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing;
3. And I will bless those who bless you, and curse him who curses you; and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.
4. So Abram departed, as the Eternal had spoken to him; and Lot went with him; and Abram was seventy five years old when he departed from Haran.
5. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go to the land of Canaan; and to the land of Canaan they came.
6. And Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, to the terebinth of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

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7. And the Eternal appeared to Abram, and said, To your seed will I give this land; and there he built an altar to the Eternal, who appeared to him.
8. And he moved from there to a mountain in the east of Beth-El, and pitched his tent, having Beth-El on the west, and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Eternal, and called upon the name of the Eternal.
9. And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the Negev.
  
10. And there was a famine in the land; and Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was severe in the land.
11. And it came to pass, when he came near to enter to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that you are a pretty woman to look upon;
12. Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see you, that they shall say, This is his wife; and they will kill me, but you they will keep alive.
13. Say, I beg you, that you are my sister; that it may be well with me for your sake; and my soul shall live because of you.
14. And it came to pass, that, when Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw the woman that she was very pretty.
15. The princes of Pharaoh also saw her, and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken to Pharaoh's palace.
16. And he treated Abram well for her sake; and he had sheep, and oxen, and male asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and female asses, and camels.
17. And the Eternal plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.
18. And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?
19. Why did you say, She is my sister? so I might have taken her for my wife; now therefore behold your wife, take her, and go your way.
20. And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

### Chapter 13

1. And Abram went up from Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the Negev.
2. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.
3. And he went on his journeys from the Negev to Beth-El, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-El and Hai;

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4. To the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first; and there Abram called on the name of the Eternal.
5. And Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.
6. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might live together; for their possessions were great, so that they could not live together.
7. And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle; and the Canaanite and the Perizzite lived then in the land.
8. And Abram said to Lot, Let there be no strife, I beg you, between me and you, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brothers.
9. Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself, I beg you, from me; if you will take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if you depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.
10. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and saw the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, before the Eternal destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, like the garden of the Eternal, like the land of Egypt, as you come to Zoar.
11. Then Lot chose for himself the valley of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed east, and they separated themselves, one from the other.
  
12. Abram lived in the land of Canaan, and Lot lived in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.
13. But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinners before the Eternal.
14. And the Eternal said to Abram, after Lot was separated from him, Lift up now your eyes, and look from the place where you are to the north, and to the south, and to the east, and to the west;
15. For all the land which you see, to you will I give it, and to your seed forever.
16. And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can count the dust of the earth, then shall your seed also be counted.
17. Arise, walk through the land in its length and in its breadth; for I will give it to you.
18. Then Abram removed his tent, and came and lived in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar to the Eternal.

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**Chapter 15**

1. After these things the word of the Eternal came to Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram; I am your shield, and your reward will be great.
2. And Abram said, Eternal God, what will you give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

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3. And Abram said, Behold, to me you have given no seed; and, lo, one born in my house is my heir.
4. And, behold, the word of the Eternal came to him, saying, This shall not be your heir; but he who shall come forth from your own bowels shall be your heir.
5. And he brought him outside, and said, Look now toward heaven, and count the stars, if you are able to count them; and he said to him, So shall your seed be.
6. And he believed in the Eternal; and he counted it to him for righteousness.
7. And he said to him, I am the Eternal who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.
8. And he said, Eternal God, how shall I know that I shall inherit it?
9. And he said to him, Bring me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.
10. And he took to him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each half against the other; but the birds divided he not.
11. And when the eagle came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
12. And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, a fear of great darkness fell upon him.
13. And he said to Abram, Know for a certainty that your seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;
14. And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge; and afterward shall they come out with great wealth.
15. And you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.
16. But in the fourth generation they shall come here again; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.
17. And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.
18. In the same day the Eternal made a covenant with Abram, saying, To your seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates;
19. The Kenites, and the Kenazites, and the Kadmonites,
20. And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaim,
21. And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

**Chapter 16**

1. Now Sarai Abram's wife bore him no children; and she had a maid servant, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.
2. And Sarai said to Abram, Behold now, the Eternal has prevented me from bearing; I beg you,

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go in to my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

3. And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

4. And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

5. And Sarai said to Abram, My wrong be upon you; I have given my maid to your bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes; the Eternal judge between me and you.

6. But Abram said to Sarai, Behold, your maid is in your hand; do to her as it pleases you. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

7. And the angel of the Eternal found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

8. And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, where did you come from? and where will you go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.

9. And the angel of the Eternal said to her, Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hands.

10. And the angel of the Eternal said to her, I will multiply your seed exceedingly, that it shall not be counted for multitude.

11. And the angel of the Eternal said to her, Behold, you are with child, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Ishmael; because the Eternal has heard your affliction.

12. And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall live in the presence of all his brothers.

13. And she called the name of the Eternal who spoke to her, You, God see me; for she said, Have I also here looked after him who sees me?

14. Therefore the well was called Beerlahairoi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

15. And Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram called his son's name, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

16. And Abram was eighty six years old, when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

**Chapter 17**

1. And when Abram was ninety nine years old, the Eternal appeared to Abram, and said to him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be perfect.

2. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.

3. And Abram fell on his face; and God talked with him, saying,

4. As for me, behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

5. Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a

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father of many nations have I made you.

**6.** And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come out of you.

**7.** And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your seed after you in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God to you, and to your seed after you.

**8.** And I will give to you, and to your seed after you, the land where you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

**9.** And God said to Abraham, You shall keep my covenant therefore, you, and your seed after you in their generations.

**10.** This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your seed after you; Every male child among you shall be circumcised.

**11.** And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

**12.** And he who is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every male child in your generations, he who is born in the house, or bought with money from any stranger, who is not of your seed.

**13.** He who is born in your house, and he who is bought with your money, must be circumcised; and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

**14.** And the uncircumcised male child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.

**15.** And God said to Abraham, As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

**16.** And I will bless her, and give you a son also of her; and I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

**17.** Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born to him who is a hundred years old? and shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear?

**18.** And Abraham said to God, O that Ishmael might live in your presence!

**19.** And God said, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son indeed; and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

**20.** And as for Ishmael, I have heard you; Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he father, and I will make him a great nation.

**21.** But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time in the next year.

**22.** And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

**23.** And Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all who were born in his house, and all who were

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bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house; and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the same day, as God had said to him.

**24.** And Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

**25.** And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

**26.** In the same day was Abraham circumcised, and Ishmael his son.

**27.** And all the men of his house, born in the house, and bought with money from the stranger, were circumcised with him.