

Carriers of Promises

Genesis 12:1-3 - *Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

1. Abraham and Sarah

One of the earliest revelations of God in the Bible is of Him as a God of promise.

- a) When God wants to do something in the earth, He always starts with a promise.
- b) He then chooses someone to reveal His promise

Genesis 18:17 - *¹⁷ And the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing*

(Amos 3:7, John 15:15)

- c) Finally, God looks for someone to carry His promise

God is looking for someone that will **believe, receive, conceive and release** the promise. Here that person was Sarah. She was going to carry more than a son, she was going to carry a promise.

The promise was, naturally speaking, impossible. Abraham and Sarah couldn’t offer anything of themselves to make it happen. However, they co-operated with God by simply believing.

Faith is simply agreeing with the promise – regardless of how unqualified we are, how impossible it seems, what our circumstances look like, or how we feel.

James 2:23 ... *“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.*

The fulfillment of the promises of God require only our faith. When we believe then we conceive the promise:

Hebrews 11:11-12 - *By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.*

As I mentioned before, Sara carried more than a son: she carried a promise. We are here today (the Gentile church) because of this promise:

Galatians 3:26, 28-29 - *²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

God is still looking for people today who can believe His promises and who can carry them (like Sarah carried) to the world around us, people pregnant with the blessings of God.

Let us look at another couple in the NT:

2. Zacharias and Elizabeth

Luke 1:5-25

Zacharias had powerful encounter in the Temple and God revealed Himself again to him as a God of promise. Zacharias and Elizabeth were barren and advanced in years but Elizabeth's womb was going to be conceive

- a) Elizabeth was going to be personally blessed, as she was going to carry a son. However, she was going to carry more than a son, she was going to carry the fulfillment of a promise to the people of Israel.

Their son John, was going to fulfil the promise that God had made regarding sending Elijah again *"to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, to make ready a people for the Lord"*.

God's promises come to us but they're not just for us: we are carriers, stewards of those blessings for others also. Just like with Abraham and Sarah, God had others in mind.

In V.20 we read how Zacharias doubted the words of the angel. As mentioned before, we need to co-operate with the promises of God by simply believing them. Zacharias was made temporarily mute, so he wouldn't abort the promise with his words. **Proverbs 18:21** – *life and death are in the power of the tongue*. We need to speak in line with the promise or say nothing at all.

3. Mary

Luke 1:28-38

Abraham and Sarah, Zacharias and Elizabeth, why not 'Mary and Joseph'? Because this promise was even more extreme. The previous two involved the seed of a man, but not this one. This promise was at a completely different level of impossibility: a virgin was going to conceive in that state.

Mary was chosen to carry God's ultimate promise, one revealed in every book of the OT: Jesus, the saviour. Once again, God appointed someone to be a carrier of a promise.

God's promises are always overwhelming and bigger than us. Mary also had to believe.

V.45 - *Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.*"

The promises of God are not automatic: their fulfillment is always dependant on our 'believing'. We need to co-operate with God by agreeing with the promise and saying like Mary: **v.38** – *"be it unto me according to your word"*

Closing thoughts

God used people to be carriers of His promises. Like Sarah, Elizabeth or Mary, we are now the carriers of His promises. We have also received promises:

1 Peter 1:4, 8

⁴by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

We don't need to live lives of spiritual bareness, but we can be fruitful by carrying God's promises to this generation.

Verse 8: *For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

God is still looking for people who will dare carry His promises, people who come into agreement with Him and believe the impossible.