

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 12]

BIBLE PROPHECY AND THE MIDDLE EAST - CONTINUED

Reading: **Genesis 17:1 - 8**

Introduction

- 4000 years ago the Middle East region was totally different from today re: peoples and borders.
- The land we refer to today as **'Israel'** was then called **'Canaan'** and occupied by the Canaanites.
- In [Genesis 11/12] the true God chose Abram and told him to go to the land of Canaan.
- This was a land God was giving him and his descendants.
At this time Abraham was 75 and his wife 10 years younger and they had no children.
- It is here that we encounter the great **'Abrahamic Covenant.'**

1 Key Points Of The Abrahamic Covenant

- [Genesis 12:7]. God promises Abraham and his descendants a land of their own.
- [Genesis 15:18]. God sets the boundary of this **'Promised Land.'**
- [Genesis 13:14ff]. God promises multiplicity of seed to this childless couple.
- [Genesis 17:6] God promises kings and nations to come from Abraham.
- [Genesis 22:17] Abraham's seed would possess the **'gate'** of their enemies. (Sea gate of Suez).
- [Genesis 17:7] This was to be an everlasting covenant.
- [Genesis 15:13/14] Abraham's off spring would spend 400 years as captives in Egypt.

2 How Would This Covenant Be Fulfilled?

- How was an aged childless couple going to see this covenant fulfilled?
- [Genesis 15:1 - 4]. Abraham suggested his R.H. man servant, Eliezar of Damascus be heir, but God said **'no.'**

- [Genesis 16] Sarah offers her Egyptian maid servant, Hagar, to Abraham as a **'surrogate.'**
- Abraham foolishly listened and heeded Sarah and Ishmael was born.
- This was not problem solved. It only produced family discord.
- God rejected Ishmael as the heir and prophesied re him. [Genesis 16:12].
- Ishmael would **NOT** own the land and since then his descendants have been contesting the will.
- Many of the Arab peoples claim to be descended from Abraham through Ishmael.
- Muslims believe Mohammad to be a descendant of Ishmael.
- Accordingly they claim the land to be theirs and not Israel's.
- [Genesis 17:18/19] God stated the child (Isaac)of Abraham and Sarah would be the heir.
- Jehovah miraculously rejuvenated Sarah's body to conceive and bear the child of promise. [Genesis 18:14].
- Jehovah went on record stating that Isaac was the heir. [Genesis 17:21]
- Today's Arabs and Muslims contest that will claiming Ishmael is the heir.
- This original will was around centuries before Islam and the Quran.

3 The Covenant Invested In Jacob

- [Genesis 28:13] and [Genesis 35:10 - 12].
- The promised passed unto Isaac's son, Jacob and then his sons/grandsons.
- The Jews are descendants from only two of the 12 tribes, namely Judah and Benjamin.

4 The On-Going Family Feud

- Today's on-going trouble in the Middle East is therefore a family feud spanning centuries.
- The descendants of Ismael vs the descendants of Isaac.
- This feud will culminate in a great end time Armageddon conflict with sides already being taken.
- NB. The Jews have been historically dispossessed of the land but that's no argument for them not owning it.

5 The God Of The Covenant

- [Genesis 17:8] ***"And I (Jehovah) will be their God."***
- It is Jehovah, not Allah.
- There are those who claim Allah and Jehovah are the same God.
- Sura 23:19: ***'never did Allah take unto himself a son.'***
- The God of the Bible has a Son. [Matthew 3:17].
- This feud is also over who the only true God is.

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