

ABRAM GETS A NEW NAME

Old Testament Lesson #12

Thirteen years passed after the birth of Ishmael to Hagar, and Abram's wife, Sarai, was still childless. God appeared to Abram again and changed his name from Abram ("lofty father") to Abraham ("a father of many nations"). God told him that he would be the father of many nations, that kings would come from him, that God would be his God as well as the God of his children, and that he and his children would inherit the land of Canaan "as an everlasting possession."

God made a covenant with Abraham, and the sign of the covenant was that Abraham, his male descendants and male servants were to be circumcised. Any uncircumcised male was to be cut off from God's people because he had broken the covenant.

God also changed Sarai's name. She was now to be called Sarah ("princess"). God promised to bless her and give her a son. She was to become "the mother of nations," and kings were to come from her as well.

Abraham was delighted, amazed that people as old as himself and Sarah could have a son. (He would be 100 years old and Sarah 90 when the baby was born!) He was also concerned for his son Ishmael and asked God if he could be blessed as well.

God agreed but told Abraham that Sarah's son, Isaac (I-zak) ("laughter"), was the one with whom God would establish his covenant. It was to be "everlasting" for Isaac and his descendants. God promised that Isaac would be born "by this time next year."

On that same day, Abraham took Ishmael (13 years old) and all the males in his house and circumcised them. Abraham was circumcised that day as well.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The numerous offspring promised to Abraham were not limited to the Jewish people. They also include those Gentiles who embrace the "hope of Israel" (Acts 28:20). Jesus told the Jewish leaders of his day that they were not the children of Abraham because they did not act faithfully or do the things Abraham did (John 8:39).
- Paul wrote in Galatians 3:29 that the people who were baptized and lived a life of faith were "Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
- Circumcision became a law to the Jews (Leviticus 12:3). Although it involved cutting off flesh, it was really a sign reminding them that they should cut off their sins and become "circumcised in heart" (Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:29).
- The apostle Paul said that anyone who accepts Christ, is baptized and tries to live a godly life, is counted as being circumcised (Colossians 2:11-12), and therefore, joined to the covenant God made with Abraham (see Galatians 3:29).

Abram Gets a New Name

- I. God changed the names of Abram and Sarai.
 - A. Abram was called Abraham because he would be the father of many nations.
 - B. All of Abraham's male descendants were to be circumcised.
 - C. Sarai was to be called Sarah.
 - D. God still promised her a son.
- II. Abraham believed God's promise.
 - A. He was happy that he and Sarah would bear a child at such an old age.
 - B. Abraham asked God to bless his son Ishmael.
 - C. God said he would establish his covenant with the new son, to be called Isaac.
 - D. The baby would be born the following year.
 - E. Abraham and Ishmael and the males in their house were circumcised.

ANSWER KEY:

hat, far, lamb, Abraham, race, hair, star, Sarah

Your, wife, Sarah, will, bear, you, son, you, will, call, him, Isaac, will, establish, covenant, him, everlasting, covenant, descendants, after, him

Thirteen more years passed. Sarai was still childless. God appeared to Abram. He changed Abram's name to one that means "a father of many nations." Sarai's name was changed to one that means "princess." She would be "the mother of nations."

Write the words that fit the definitions. Transfer the letters to the boxes.

Worn on head to keep warm

5 1

A contest of speed

10 9

Opposite of near

6 3

This grows on your head

12 11 10

A baby sheep

4 7 2

Part of a constellation

8 11 10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

8	9	10	11	12	

God told Abraham about something that would happen "by this time next year." What was it?

" a

9 + 9 = 3 + 2 = 8 + 8 = 6 + 5 = 12 ÷ 2 = 6 + 6 =

 , and .

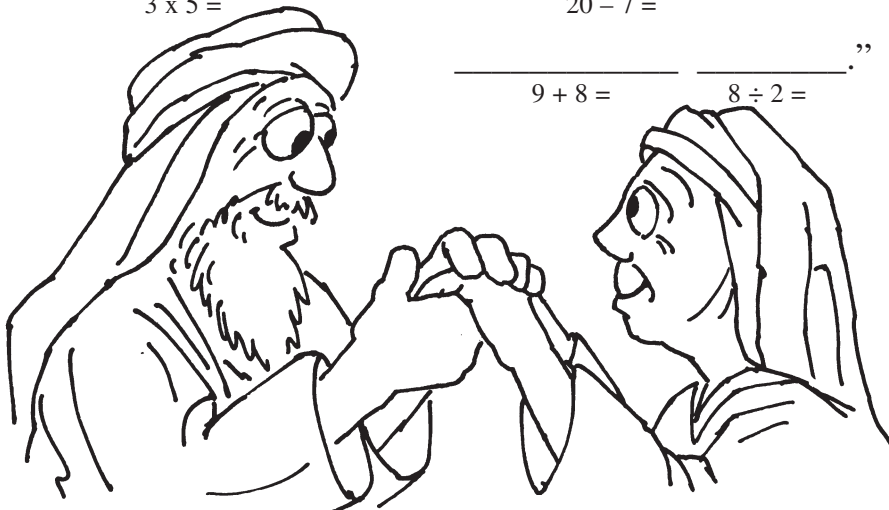
14 - 7 = 6 x 2 = 9 + 2 = 4 x 2 = 2 + 2 = 14 - 5 =

I my with as an

15 - 4 = 5 x 2 = 8 + 5 = 2 x 2 =

 for his

3 x 5 = 20 - 7 = 7 x 2 =



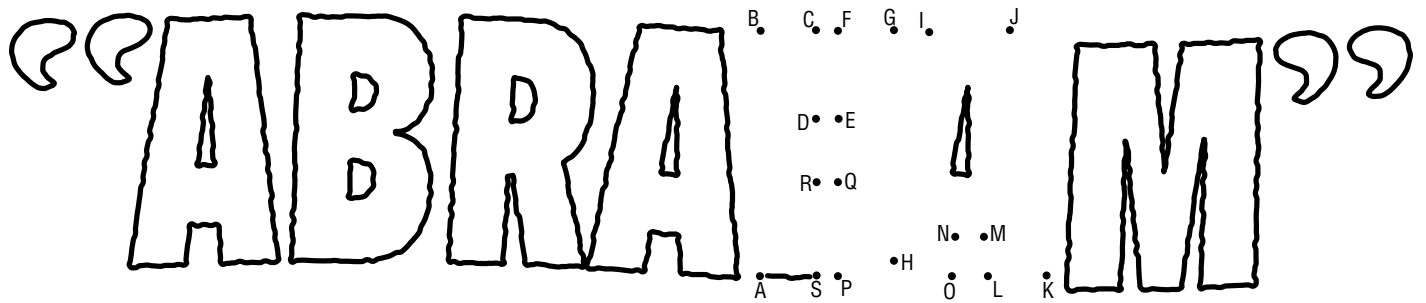
Solve the problems, then use the code to fill in the blanks.

4 = him	11 = will
18 = Your	9 = Isaac
5 = wife	10 = establish
17 = after	13 = covenant
6 = bear	14 = descendants
12 = you	15 = everlasting
7 = son	16 = Sarah
8 = call	

Name _____

When God promised a son to Abram and Sarai, God changed Abram's name.

Connect the dots to find his new name. Then color the picture.



Name _____