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## SARAH AND ABRAHAM REACH THE HIGH GROUND

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS  
NUMBER 96  
HEBREWS 11:11

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Little Rock, Arkansas

HEBREWS 11:11 "Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised."

PHILIPPIANS 1:21 "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."  
This covers the principle of God's plan for us whereby God is glorified "For me to live is Christ" means positional truth. It means occupation with Christ. This always begins with salvation and then goes from day to day as we walk with Christ and are occupied with him. God's hand is reaching down to give all we will reach up and take. God has provided saving grace, living grace, super grace, dying grace and surpassing grace. The road God provides is a grace road all the way. God has paved the road for us with the amazing grace of his love and provision.

Let us get a corrected translation of verses 8-10.

### Verse 8

"By means of doctrine resident in the soul, when Abraham was called he obeyed by going out to a place which he was about to receive for an inheritance and he went out not knowing where he was going."

### Verse 9

"By means of doctrine resident in the soul, he lived as a temporary resident with reference to the land, as if it were a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, joint heirs of the same promise."

### Verse 10

"For he himself kept waiting with anticipation for a city having foundation, whose architect and contractor is the God."

In verses 11 and 12 we have the super grace of Abraham and Sarah. You will notice how these verses begin. This verse begins with "through faith." Verse 1 begins with "Now faith." Then verses 4 and 5 and 7, 8 and 9 have "By faith." But don't let this throw you off. It is exactly the same instrumental of pistis and it means "By means of doctrine resident in the soul." The word translated "also" is from kai and should be translated "even." So we have "even Sarah." This means even a woman can reach super grace. It is more difficult for a woman to reach super grace because basically she is designed to be a responder. She has more distractions than a man who is not a responder. So the words "Even Sarah" brings this problem out into the open for us. It really says, "Even Sarah herself" and this refers to a right woman, right man relationship. Abraham was making great spiritual advances and this phrase suggests that Abraham was pulling her along with him and she too was beginning to reach super grace as she walked in his steps and reflected his glory. Abraham reflected the glory of God and she reflected this same glory in part by association with Abraham.

Women learn doctrine better under two conditions--

1. When they get under the right pastor-teacher and begin to take in doctrine seriously.
2. When they have their right man who brings balance and completion to their lives.

When these two conditions prevail, the woman quite often out-strips the man in learning and applying doctrine. So this term "even Sarah herself" indicates that she did finally reach super grace on her own. Abraham reached it long before she did. For quite a while she lived under the principle of blessing by association. When Sarah became pregnant at age 89 and gave birth to Isaac at age 90 she was living under the principle of blessing by association with Abraham. It took Sarah longer to get to super grace but she finally made it. Sarah was a rebel type woman. She had suffered under the frustration that for all her married life she had been barren and unable to have a child of her own. "Sarah" in Greek means princess.

#### A Male Child A Necessity

In the Semitic society of her day, every woman was confidently expected to be able to bear a male heir. But though she was beautiful and brilliant, she was barren. This led her to abject frustration. All the other women envied her of her beauty and her brains. But there was always this major problem facing her. She failed to fulfill the motherhood function and bear a male heir for Abraham. As a result of this, she became very bitter. While this experience elevated Abraham into super grace, it simply compounded her bitterness. It turned her into a female vixen. So spiritual advancement came very hard for her. (We do not have time to discuss in detail the Ishmael incident when she called in the Egyptian handmaiden and had this child born in her tent.) But the Holy Spirit tells us here that she finally reached the high ground. So we have "By means of doctrine resident in the soul even Sara herself." We have this intensive pronoun autos, means she attained this herself. Sarah had lived a long life, but she would live 37 years after Isaac was born and she would finally die at age 127. She died "young and beautiful" and when she was 90, God touched her and she looked like a woman of 30. Sarah died around 1980 B.C. Isaiah is the only prophet who named Sarah after her death and he did so in Isaiah 51:1-2. Paul mentioned the deadness of Sarah's womb in Romans 4:19 and mentions the promises she received in Romans 9:9. The Apostle Peter eulogized Sarah and her submission to her husband in 1 Peter 3:6. He talks about her submission to her right man and this became the basis of her spiritual advance.

Women who are tied up with an apostate man really need to give doctrine a very prominent place in their lives. But when the husband is a doctrine man, quite often he can lead his wife to the high ground of super grace.

#### The Birth Of Isaac

The next word we have is "received" and this is an aorist, active, indicative of lambano. This is a constative aorist and contemplates the action of the verb in its entirety. It takes all that went into this amazing experience she had when she was 89 and gathers it into one whole. She was sexually dead at age 89, but when God revived the sexual power of Abraham, he did the same for Sarah. She was ten years younger than her husband Abraham. Her sexual revival also included the revival of her youthful beauty. All the way through the Bible she is described as a beautiful woman. She was so beautiful that when she and Abraham went to Egypt she caught the eye of Pharaoh and also the King of Gerar. The indicative mood of this word "received" means the actual historical reality of this incident. She received "power" from dunamis and it means inherent power to become pregnant and have a son.

Next we have the words "to conceive seed," and that is an inaccurate translation. We have the words eis katabole sperma and it should read, "She received inherent ability for the deposit of a seed."

The other side of the story is Abraham's side and we will go to Genesis 17 for that.

In the first eight verses of Genesis 17, we have the anticipation of super grace. Abraham is pressing toward the high ground. Abraham is 99 and sexually dead as this chapter opens. Sarah was 89 and sexually dead.

GENESIS 17:1 "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." The word translated "was" is from the Hebrew kal imperfect of hajah and it means he came to be 99 years of age. At the end of the preceding chapter, Genesis 16, we left him at age 86. Thirteen years have gone by between these two chapters. The words "The Lord appeared" are from the word raah and it means "Jehovah himself appeared." The next phrase "I am the Almighty God" is from ani El Shadaw and it really means "I am the powerful God of many breasts." It means God is the supply of many blessings, many super grace blessings. It really means God supplies our needs through the milk of the Word of God. It is a picture of the adequacy of God. God is adequate to meet your needs and mine. So it really says, "I am the omnipotent God of many breasts."

The next word is a highpael of halak and this is a command to keep advancing to the high ground. "Be thou perfect" is a kal imperative of hajah and it means "to become." Perfect is from tamim and it means mature, complete.

So this verse says, "And it came to pass that Abraham was 99 years old and Jehovah himself appeared to Abraham and said, I am the omnipotent God of many breasts. Keep advancing under my supervision and become mature."

GENESIS 17:2 "And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly." This is the confirmation of this super grace blessing. "I will give" is the kal imperfect of nathan. Then we have the hiphil imperfect of rabah and it means God will be the source of this multiplication. God said this to him when he was 99 and sexually dead. So it means God's covenant promises to Abraham with the result that God will cause to multiply Abraham to the maximum and this means a complete restoration of his sexual power to match his super grace.

#### A New Race

The reason this emphasis was sexual was that Abraham was to begin a new race. At 99 Abraham was Semitic and a Chaldean. He was not a Jew yet. There were no Jews at that time. The last race God has built in human history is the Jewish race. So this says, "I will cause to multiply you to the maximum."

GENESIS 17:3 "And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,"

This is Abraham's great grace experience. "Fell on his face" is a kal perfect of naphal. This was the way they recognized authority in Ur of Chaldea. He prostrated himself. He recognized the authority of God's person and he recognized the authority of God's word. We read, "Then God talked" and this is the piel imperfect of dabar and this is intensive. It was a very serious and intensive conversation.

GENESIS 17:4 "As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations." "As for Me" is not a good translation. "Ani" and that means "I." "Behold, my covenant is with you" is a kal perfect of hajah and it means "You have become a father of many nations."

1. He is called "The Father of us all" in Romans 4:11 and 16. This is a reference to the fact that he is a pattern for salvation for all people.
2. He is called "The Father of circumcision" in Romans 4:12. He is the originator of the Jewish race and it technically began officially when Abraham was circumcised at 99 years of age.
3. He is called "The Father of many nations" in Genesis 17:4 and Romans 4:17. This is Abraham's progeny through Keturah, Abraham's second wife. We read of this in Genesis 25:1-4.

GENESIS 17:5 "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee." God is going to tell Abraham "Consequently your name shall never again be called Abram." Abram means the father of high and windy places. It actually is the father of nothing. That's what Abraham had been all his life up to this time. (They would say to Abraham, "Is Sarah pregnant yet? Are you ever going to have a son? What is your chance for having some boys? Abraham would always have to say "No" to these questions.) So he was "The father of nothing" and in that day and time this was considered to be a disgrace.

GENESIS 17:6 "And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee." "And I will cause you to be prolific to the maximum" is the hiphil stem of parah. God caused this to happen. "I will give" not make, from the kal perfect of nathan. God is the one who gave Abraham this power to sire a large family.

GENESIS 17:7 "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee." Now we have a mention of the new nation. "I will establish" is the kal perfect of qum. "Thy seed" is a technical name for the new race, this is the new Jewish race. The source of this one new race is Isaac and Jacob and through Keturah there will be many other Gentile Nations. Please notice that this is an everlasting covenant. Abraham is to be a monument to the grace of God forever.

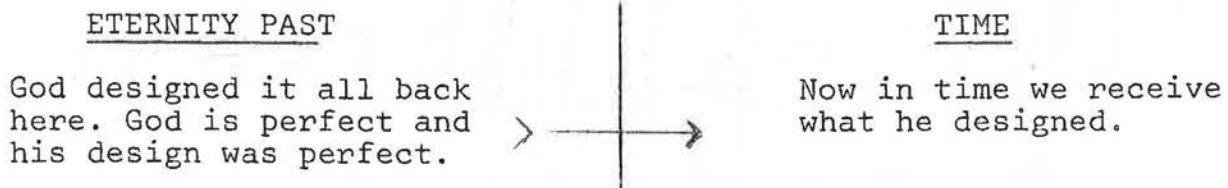
GENESIS 17:8 "And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." This verse says, "I have given you a land for your residence." This is a permanent promise. It is to be theirs forever. He is going to be their God.

Now the ritual anticipation of seizing and holding the high ground is given in verses 9-14.

GENESIS 17:9 "And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations." "And God said unto Abraham, as for you, you shall guard my covenant, you and your progeny after you in their specific generation. This Abrahamic covenant is to be guarded.

1. The Abrahamic Covenant, which we have recently studied in detail, can only be guarded with Bible Doctrine. This is by seizing and holding the high ground of super grace.
2. Abraham's positive faith response to doctrine will become evident from his circumcision. The fact that he had reached the high ground will be demonstrated by a ritual. (Just like baptism is a ritual to demonstrate the new birth.)
3. The sign of all this is circumcision. Circumcision represents faithfulness to the Word of God as well as a mark to perpetuate his racial heritage. God put this mark on the part of his body that stood for sexual prosperity.
4. Circumcision became a ritual with both a physical and a spiritual connotation to Israel. Thus circumcision became a practice for the nation and later it spread to all the rest of the world.
5. In Genesis 17:5 and 6 the promise of super grace prosperity is repeated to Abraham at the time of his sexual death.
6. However, he was circumcised in his sexual dead experience, as per Genesis 17:26. When God explained the meaning of this to Abraham he said, "Cut!" Abraham didn't try to second guess God. He believed absolutely.
7. The meaning of Abraham's hopeless condition is that it gave him a chance to trust hope in God. He did it when everything seemed hopeless. The solution to his hopeless condition existed long before Abraham existed. The solution existed in eternity past.

Here is a diagram that may explain this idea.



Now this is what Abraham believed when he said to God, "Cut!" Abraham demonstrated that eternity had caught up with time. In this act of faith, Abraham demonstrated that he was possibly the greatest faith man of all time.

God's Amazing Provision

In eternity past God provided for you, he provided when there was no such thing called "time." Anything God wants you to have, you will have and he has no difficulty providing it for you. Every act of circumcision in the world is a monument to the grace of God.

Abraham was saved in uncircumcision.

Abraham advanced to the high ground in uncircumcision.

Abraham held the high ground in circumcision. Doctrine in the soul means ability to cling to the high ground.

...of the ... ground ...

The ... of the ... ground ...

- 1. See of faithfulness Christ
- 2. Goals tested faithfulness H's
- 3. Will conquer 1-9
- 4. Perfect form of God's related to the
- 5. faithfulness in provision + blessing
- 6. faithful in the times of
- 7. faithfulness 1 cor. 10:13
- 8. faithful to the believer - Heb 10:23
- 9. faithful also to carnal believers 2 Tim 2:13
- 10. faithfulness will not allow
- 11. Latin to denigrate you
- 12. faithfulness of God to love
- 13. no to super Grace
- 14. faithfulness leads us to
- 15. Abundantly