

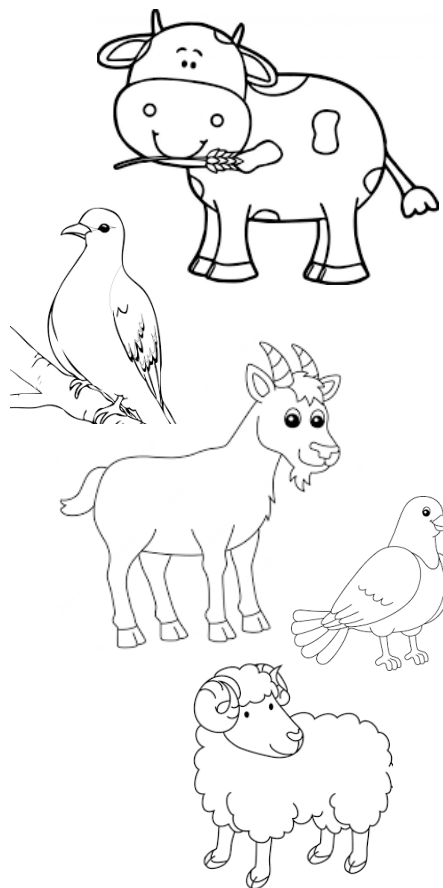
GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

God Appears to Abram

One day the Lord appeared to Abram in a vision and said "Do not be afraid, Abram. I will shield you from danger and give you a great reward". Abram answered, "But what good will your reward do to me, since I have no children?" Then the Lord took Abram outside and said "Look up at the sky and try to count the stars, you will have as many descendants". Then the Lord said "I will give you this land as your own." Abram replied, "Lord, how can I know that it will be mine?"

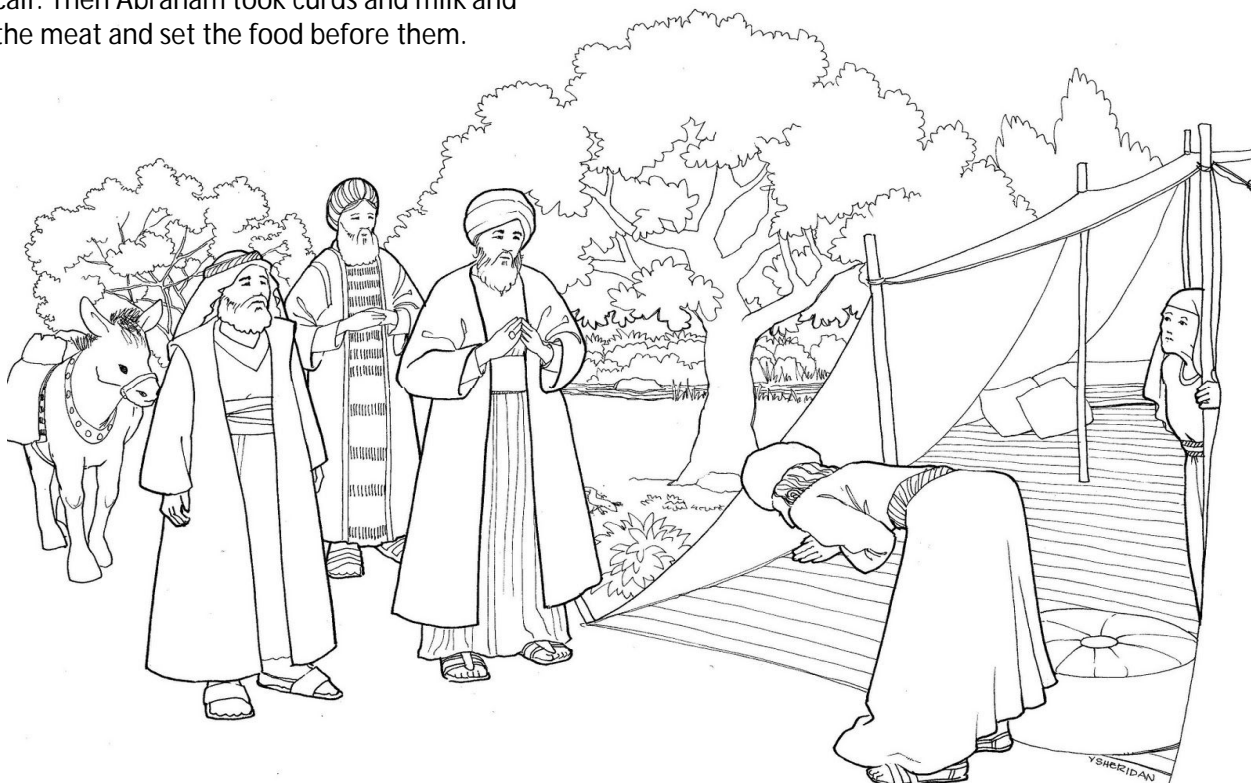
God told him to bring a COW, a GOAT, a RAM, a PIGEON and a DOVE for sacrifice. Abram did what God had told him. He cut the animals in two and placed the animals and birds opposite each other. Abram kept watch over the sacrifice. At sunset, Abram fell into a deep sleep. When it grew dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch suddenly appeared and passed between the offering. Then the Lord made a covenant with Abram saying, "I promise to give your descendants all this land" (In those days when two men made an agreement, they killed and cut animals in two and made their promise, after walking between the lines and meeting each other).

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God appeared to Abram and repeated the promise He had made. God changed his name. He said: "Your name shall be ABRAHAM for you will be the FATHER OF MANY PEOPLE. And your wife's name will be SARAH. I will bless her and give you a son by her" Abraham wondered how this could happen, since he and Sarah were very old. Yet Abraham BELIEVED THAT GOD WOULD KEEP HIS PROMISE



The Mysterious Visitors

One hot afternoon, Abraham was resting in the shade of his tent, he saw three strangers coming towards him. He went to greet them and invited them to rest and eat with him in his tent. Abraham told Sarah to prepare a meal for them. Sarah with the help of the servants baked fresh bread and roasted a calf. Then Abraham took curds and milk and the meat and set the food before them.





The Messengers Share the Good News

After the meal was over, the men explained why they had come. They had come with good news: “Your wife Sarah will give birth to a son”. Now Sarah was standing at the door listening. When she heard the news, she laughed to herself because she found it difficult to believe that she would get a baby in her old age. The strangers asked Abraham why his wife Sarah had laughed. “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”, they said. The strangers also told Abraham that God was going to destroy the city because of the people’s wickedness, but he would save his nephew Lot and his family

God Keeps His Promise

After a year, Sarah gave birth to a son. Abraham was then a hundred years old. They name him **ISAAC**. Abraham and Sarah were both very happy. God had kept His Promise. The years passed and Isaac grew tall and strong.

R E M E M B E R

God makes a friendship pact not only with Abraham but through him, with all his descendants. Abraham at first doubts God’s promise, yet he is led to believe that God will keep His Promise. God indeed kept His promise by granting him a son through whom the promise will be carried on. Whenever we are baptized, God makes us also sharers in that promise of continued friendship.



LEARN NEW WORDS !

- **Shield** – to protect
- **Descendants** – A person’s children, their children’s children, and all the people who live after them who are related to them
- **Covenant** – God’s Promise to Man
- **Sacrifice** – giving up something for someone you love or value
- **Wickedness** – very bad

