

## **Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; 18:1-15; 21:1-7**

### **The Covenant**

**17** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty;<sup>a</sup> walk before me faithfully and be blameless. **2** Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

**3** Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4** “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5** No longer will you be called Abram<sup>b</sup>; your name will be Abraham,<sup>c</sup> for I have made you a father of many nations. **6** I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

**15** God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. **16** I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

### **The Three Visitors**

**18** The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. **2** Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

**3** He said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord,<sup>a</sup> do not pass your servant by. **4** Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. **5** Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.”

“Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.”

**6** So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs<sup>b</sup> of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”

**7** Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. **8** He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

**9** “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

“There, in the tent,” he said.

**10** Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. **11** Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. **12** So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

**13** Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ **14** Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

**15** Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.”

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

## The Birth of Isaac

**21** Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. **2** Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. **3** Abraham gave the name Isaac<sup>a</sup> to the son Sarah bore him. **4** When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. **5** Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

**6** Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” **7** And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”