

“THE NEW YOU” Sermon Series: Abram & Sarai Become Abraham & Sarah

The most fundamental question that human beings ask is... **“Who am I?”**

We often answer that question by stating our name, where we are from, the family we belong to, what we do for work, etc. **So who are you?**

- Name _____ Meaning _____
- Where are you from? _____
- What family do you belong to? _____
- What is your occupation? _____

But what happens when the answers to these questions fall short? When the meaning of your name actually doesn't describe you... When you don't really have a place you call home... When your family is gone or estranged... When what you do doesn't align with who you really are... What then...?

Who was Abram?

- His name meant “Excellent/Exalted Father”... **But he wasn't a father!**
- He was from Ur... but he became a nomad... God called him to leave!
- He was a descendant of Terah... but Terah dies on Abram's journey and he leaves the rest of his family behind when he left Ur (except Lot).
- He was a herdsman... but roaming in a land that couldn't sustain them!

Who was Sarai?

- Her name meant “Princess” ... but of what country? And she couldn't have felt much like a princess when Abram used her to spare his own life
- She was married to a man whose name means “Excellent/Exalted Father”, and she couldn't give him any children!
- No place of origin, no family, no occupation or skills recorded!

Who are Abram and Sarai? Nobody special... But God calls them, sends them, and gives them His promise! And they go! **They were people of faith!**

Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

This is quite a revelation, but one that would take time... & faith... to realize!

On this journey, Abram leaves his home and family, loses his father, arrives in a land that is in the midst of famine so he can't stay, has to separate from

Lot, has to deceive other kings to try to stay alive, still has no children, no land... So where is this great nation, this great blessing, & this great name?

Have we ever been in a similar place in our lives... Wondering what's gone wrong? Wondering where God and His blessings are... Wondering if He even knows what we are going through, who we are, or even **what our name is?**

Genesis 15:1-8 Despite Abram's circumstances, & despite everything he still didn't know, **“He believed the Lord, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”**

Are we willing to believe God, take Him at His Word, trust His plan, and depend on His love and presence in our lives, **even when we don't feel it?**

For Abram & Sarai, things didn't change overnight... promises were not fulfilled immediately! **They wrestled with God's words to them.** Years went by and all they could hold on to was the promises of their God!

At 99 years old, God appears to Abram once again... **Genesis 17:1-8.** Abram is given a **new name!** Rather than “Abram” (*Excellent/Exalted Father*) God gives him the name “Abraham” (*Father of a multitude*), & yet still no children!

Genesis 17:15-21... Sarai also gets a new name, **a name that means the same thing (princess)**... But still no child... No country... No nation...

Genesis 21:1-7... When a promise of God is finally realized, it often leads to **laughter**, because all that transpired between the promise made and the promise kept, could only be orchestrated and fulfilled by God Himself!

25 yrs passed between when Abram and Sarai left Ur and when they (with new names) finally received their promised son. And that was still just the beginning of God's promises to them being fulfilled!

Abraham & Sarah never **realized** the full fulfillment of God's promises... they died long before Israel became a nation, & even longer before the coming of the Messiah (the ultimate fulfillment and blessing to the multitudes).

The same is often true for us! All the circumstances of our lives may not indicate the full blessings of God... **God's promises may not be realized in their fullness in this life...** but as people of faith we trust in a God who is a promise maker & promise keeper!

God gave Abraham & Sarah new names to remind them of His promises, & the fulfillment of them. **We too have been given a new name... Christians!**

“THE NEW YOU” Sermon Series: Abram & Sarai Become Abraham & Sarah

The most fundamental question that human beings ask is... _____

We often answer that question by stating our name, where we are from, the family we belong to, what we do for work, etc. So who are _____

- Name _____ Meaning _____
- Where are you from? _____
- What family do you belong to? _____
- What is your occupation? _____

But what happens when the answers to these questions _____ When the meaning of your name actually doesn't describe you... When you don't really have a place you call home... When your family is gone or estranged... When what you do doesn't align with who you really are... What then...?

Who was _____

- His name meant “Excellent/Exalted Father”... But he wasn't _____
- He was from Ur... but he became a nomad... God called him to leave!
- He was a descendant of Terah... but Terah dies on Abram's journey and he leaves the rest of his family behind when he left Ur (except Lot).
- He was a herdsman... but roaming in a land that couldn't sustain them!

Who was _____

- Her name meant “Princess” ... but of what country? And she couldn't have felt much like a princess when Abram used her to spare his own life
- She was married to a man whose name means “Excellent/Exalted Father”, and she couldn't give him any children!
- No place of origin, no family, no occupation or skills recorded!

Who are Abram and Sarai? Nobody special... But God calls them, sends them, and gives them His promise! And they go! They were people _____

Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

This is quite a revelation, but one that would take time... & faith... to realize!

On this journey, Abram leaves his home and family, loses his father, arrives in a land that is in the midst of famine so he can't stay, has to separate from

Lot, has to deceive other kings to try to stay alive, still has no children, no land... So where is this great nation, this great blessing, & this great name?

Have we ever been in a similar place in our lives... Wondering what's gone wrong? Wondering where God and His blessings are... Wondering if He even knows what we are going through, who we are, or even what _____ is?

Genesis 15:1-8 Despite Abram's circumstances, & despite everything he still didn't know, **“He believed the Lord, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”**

Are we willing to believe God, take Him at His Word, trust His plan, and depend on His love and presence in our lives, even when we _____

For Abram & Sarai, things didn't change overnight... promises were not fulfilled immediately! They _____ with God's words to them. Years went by and all they could hold on to was the promises of their God!

At 99 years old, God appears to Abram once again... **Genesis 17:1-8.** Abram is given a _____ Rather than “Abram” (*Excellent/Exalted Father*) God gives him the name “Abraham” (*Father of a multitude*), & yet still no children!

Genesis 17:15-21... Sarai also gets a new name, a name that means the _____ (princess)... But still no child... No country... No nation...

Genesis 21:1-7... When a promise of God is finally realized, it often leads to _____ because all that transpired between the promise made and the promise kept, could only be orchestrated and fulfilled by God Himself!

_____ passed between when Abram and Sarai left Ur and when they (with new names) finally received their promised son. And that was still just the beginning of God's promises to them being fulfilled!

Abraham & Sarah never _____ the full fulfillment of God's promises... they died long before Israel became a nation, & even longer before the coming of the Messiah (the ultimate fulfillment and blessing to the multitudes).

The same is often true for us! All the circumstances of our lives may not indicate the full blessings of God... God's promises may not be realized _____ in this life... but as people of faith we trust in a God who is a promise maker & promise keeper!

God gave Abraham & Sarah new names to remind them of His promises, & the fulfillment of them. We too have been given a new name... _____