



Genesis #8

Abraham: God Keeps His Word

w/c 5 July 2026

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." (CS Lewis)

Read Genesis 21:1–7 and Romans 4:16–25

We began our group of studies on Abram/Abraham by thinking through the promises God made to him. It's good then to end by reflecting on the promises that God has made to us. If you try searching the internet for "*God's promises*" you'll get responses listing almost any number you choose – from a handful up to 100 or even 365. Let's focus on five that seem to encompass it all:

Presence – God promises he will never leave his people or give up on them. There can be comfort in times of fear. See, for example, Hebrews 13:5 and Matthew 28:20

Peace – He offers peace to those who trust in Him and rest for the weary. See Matthew 11:28 and Isaiah 26:3

Provision – God promises to supply our needs and guide our journey. See Psalm 23:2–3 and Philippians 4:19

Pardon – That is forgiveness and grace. Believers are promised the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. See 1 John 1:9 and John 14:16

Perpetuity – This is not just for now, though it does start now... The new life is eternal. The promise is heaven! See Colossians 1:13–14 and Hebrews 10:10

Reflect on how each of these strands can shape our day-by-day life with Jesus. The promises we read of are not a question of hope, of maybe or of perhaps. Some are simple descriptions of how things will be others describe actions that have occurred. They are complete and don't need to happen again we can see in the verses from Colossians and Hebrews above.

And why this certainty? Because our faith is not transactional but rather relational. Jesus words after the Last Supper are full of pointers that what really matter is our being in relationship with God. See, for example John 14:23 where Jesus promises that he and the Father will come and make their home with the believers. This idea is perhaps best summarised by the thought that: *"And this is the way to have eternal life—by knowing you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth!"* (John 17:3 from The Living Bible. **Why is it vital that our future depends on our being in relationship with God rather than on the list of stuff we've done?**

Romans 4:18ff outlines how Abraham was able to access the promises God made to him. **How do these verses help us to pursue a path of believing "in hope"?** Paul reminds us that hope is one of the three eternal entities (1 Corinthians 13:13). **Why do we perhaps think so much less about that we about faith and love? How does his thought of God being a God of hope (Romans 15:13) help in this?**

Why is it important to understand that our faith has this continuous link back to Abraham which Paul identifies? The words of 4:22 may well be more familiar than the original in Genesis 15. **Why do think Paul highlights the faith of Abram (as he as then) at this point in his life?**

"God's promises are like the stars; the darker the night the brighter they shine."
(David Nicholas (US theologian))