

The Promise of a King: Waiting on Abraham's Son

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Advent: Waiting For A Son / Ge 18:1–33; Ge 25:19–28

The OT trains us to look for a Priestly-King

- How many of ways have you tried to be the solution to the problem you created only to dig yourself in deeper?
- How many of you have been caught, only to lie about it, but have to stack more lies on top until all of that collapses and you're left wrecked under the weight of what you built?
- Or, maybe you're not the person who runs away from what you've done, but you work endlessly trying to make things right?

1. Why “Waiting on a Son”?

- a. This year’s Advent series is called “Waiting on a Son” because the Bible anticipates the supernatural provision of a Son who will be the true prophet, priest, and king with three boys being given to three barren women who grow up as leaders of Israel.
- b. Jesus is a gracious king whose law is mercy and scepter is justice, and He is the gift of God to the world.

2. First, we need to see our need for a king.

- a. God promised a king to Abraham thorough his barren wife.

Genesis 17:4–7 ESV

⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Genesis 17:15–16 ESV

¹⁵ And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

- b. God promised a king because Adam failed in his rule.

Genesis 3:15 “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

- c. Why was this given?
 - i. Adam failed in his exercising of dominion, but the creative intent of God was not lost in man. So, instead of using our powers for leadership to exercise godly dominion.

3. Second, we have to admit that we are terrible at picking kings.

Genesis 17:18 ESV

¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!”

Who is Ishmael?

We always require outside intervention—a friend to help, a family member to address, etc.—but ultimately, we require the outside intervention of God to heal and restore what we’ve broken.

Abraham wrecks two women’s life and sets a historic conflict into motion between the lines of Isaac and Ishmael that still finds its way into the headlines today through his “help.”

What is God’s response to Abraham’s plea?

Genesis 17:19 ESV

¹⁹ God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

4. God trained his people that the true King would be supernaturally provided.

Romans 4:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶ That is why [the promise] depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

So, God used what was typological dead (barren womb) to bring forth life (a promised child) to teach us that God’s action is paramount in our deliverance!

Five Supernatural Conceptions

There are five supernatural conceptions within the Old Testament, three regarding the kingly line of Abraham, our subject today, one regarding a priestly foreshadow, and one foreshadowing a prophet.

1. **Sarah (Genesis 17-18, 21):** God promises Abraham that Sarah, who was barren and advanced in age, would bear a son. This promise is reaffirmed by three visitors (interpreted as divine or angelic beings) in Genesis 18. Isaac is born as the fulfillment of this promise.
2. **Rebekah (Genesis 25:21-26):** While not directly involving an angelic visitation, Isaac prays to the Lord on behalf of his wife Rebekah, who was barren. God answers his prayer, and Rebekah conceives. She gives birth to twins, Esau and Jacob.
3. **Rachel (Genesis 30:22-24):** Rachel was barren for a long time while her sister Leah bore children. God remembers Rachel, hears her, and opens her womb. She gives birth to Joseph and later Benjamin, though the latter's birth leads to her death.
4. **Manoah’s Wife (Judges 13):** An angel of the Lord appears to Manoah’s wife, who was barren, and tells her that she will bear a son who will begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. This son is Samson.
5. **Hannah (1 Samuel 1):** Hannah, who is deeply distressed by her barrenness, prays to the Lord at the temple in Shiloh. Though there’s no angelic visitation, her prayer is answered by God, and she gives birth to Samuel, who becomes one of Israel's greatest prophets and leaders.

In each one of these conceptions, God is teaching his people to anticipate a supernatural conception of a king by taking what is dead (barren womb) to bring forth life (child) to teach us that God's action is paramount in our deliverance! Grace not works.

a. **Supernatural Provision of Isaac**

God fulfills his promise and gives Isaac:

Genesis 21:1–2, 5 (ESV)

¹ The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. ² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. . . ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

b. **The Lineage Continues through Isaac and Jacob**

But to reinforce the point, each of the patriarchs of Israel are able unable to have children with one of their wives. For each patriarch, it is the woman who is unable to have children through whom God works.

Genesis 25:21 ESV

²¹ And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Genesis 30:22–24 ESV

²² Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. ²³ She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." ²⁴ And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

5. **Jesus Christ, the Promised King**

a. **Supernaturally Given Son**

Luke 1:30–35 ESV

³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

- Let's first see that Jesus is the king promised to Israel. (Luke 1:32)
- Let's see that this Jesus will be given to a woman who should not ordinarily be able to have a baby (Luke 1:34).
- Let's see that this Jesus will be given by direct, supernatural action of God.

b. **Offspring of Abraham**

We have seen how God works *in spite of* our efforts to bring about deliverance. The blessing of Abraham has always been about God's purpose and not our expectations.

Galatians 3:16 ESV

¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

Jesus is the long awaited Son from Abraham's line through whom God would bless the nations.

And what is this king's reign like?

Isaiah 9:6-7 ESV

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Advent is the opportune time to see again for the first time that you cannot work your way out of your problems, and you cannot crown a king over your own heart.

There is one true King; His name is Jesus; and his announcement in this season before his Second Advent is what it has been since then: Repent and believe in him because the Kingdom of God is at hand.