

GENESIS

Why The Beginning Matters

STUDY 18
ISAAC AND HIS SONS
GENESIS 23-26



GENESIS 23

Purchase of the first piece of the Promised
Land

GENESIS 23

Sarah dies

Abraham land purchase

16vv

Sarah buried

GENESIS 23

Great Land

Great Nation

Great Blessing

Genesis 23:4 “I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight

ABRAHAM REJECTS FREE GIFT

Genesis 23:5–6 (ESV) The Hittites answered Abraham,
6 “Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God
among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our
tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb
to hinder you from burying your dead.”

REAL ESTATE PRICES

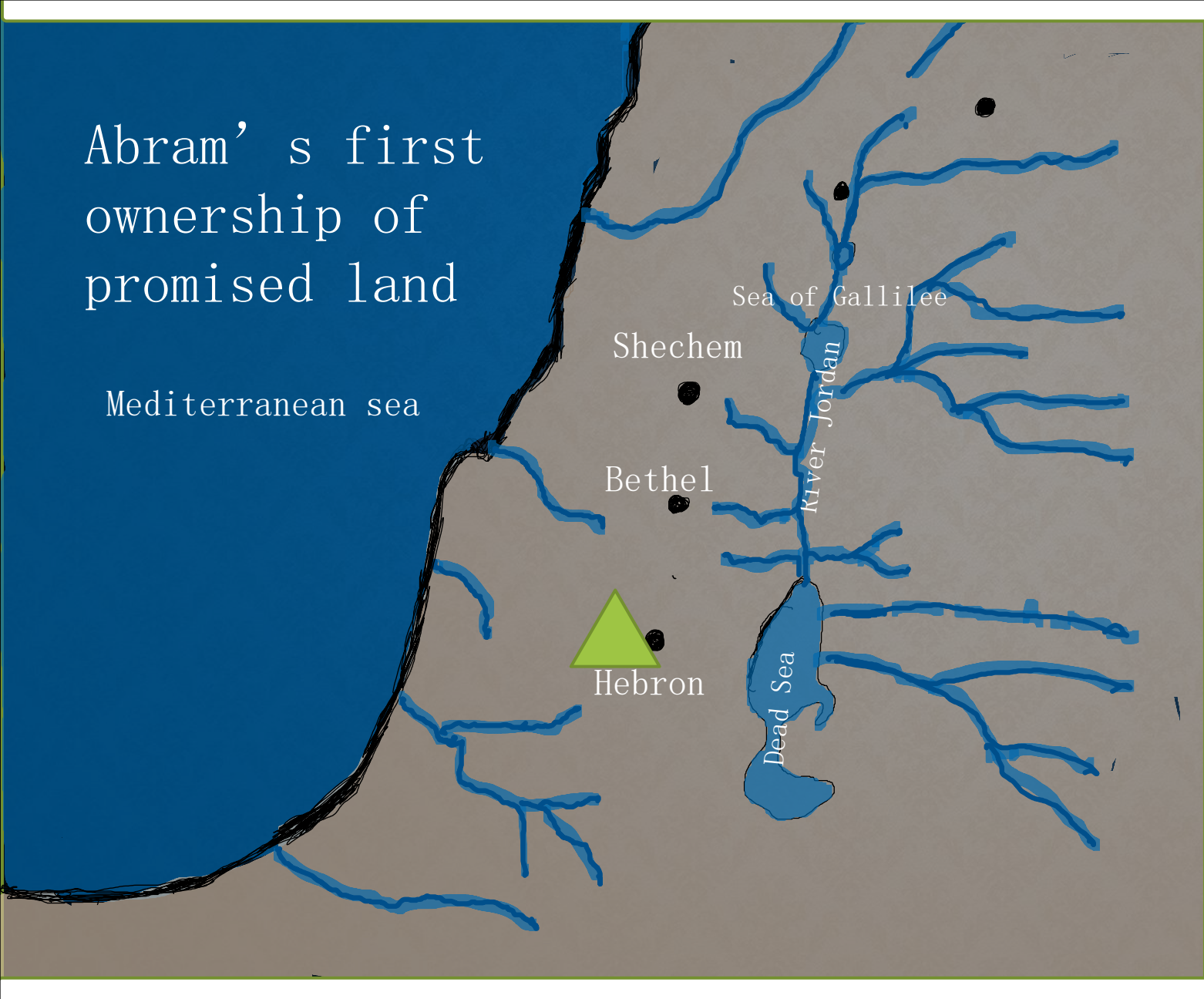
Person	Property	Cost
Jeremiah	Field	17 shekels
David	Temple site	50 Shekels
Abraham	Field - burial plot	400 shekels
Omri	Large Hill Samaria	6000 shekels

GIVEN BY ABIMELECH 25 YEARS AGO

Genesis 20:16 (ESV) To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated.

Abram's first ownership of promised land

Mediterranean sea



- Gen 23: 17 So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over 18 to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. 19 After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. 20 The field and the cave that is in it were made

Sarah's death notice 2 verses
Sale of land 16 verses

Source: Bible Places.com



COVENANT FORMULA

Election

Genesis 12



Live
Righteously



Genesis 13-22



Covenantal
promises

Burial land

MORAL COST

Hebrews 11:9–10 (ESV) By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.

GENESIS 24

A bride for Isaac

A bride and groom are running on a beach at dusk. The bride is on the left, wearing a white strapless wedding dress and holding a bouquet of flowers. She is leaning forward with her right arm extended towards the groom. The groom is on the right, wearing a dark suit and tie, also leaning forward. The background shows a beach and buildings in the distance under a twilight sky.

INTRODUCTION

IT'S NOT ABOUT DATING AND HOW TO GET A WIFE

IT'S ABOUT HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES

1. Align our lives with His
calling

2. Feel for His hand in our lives

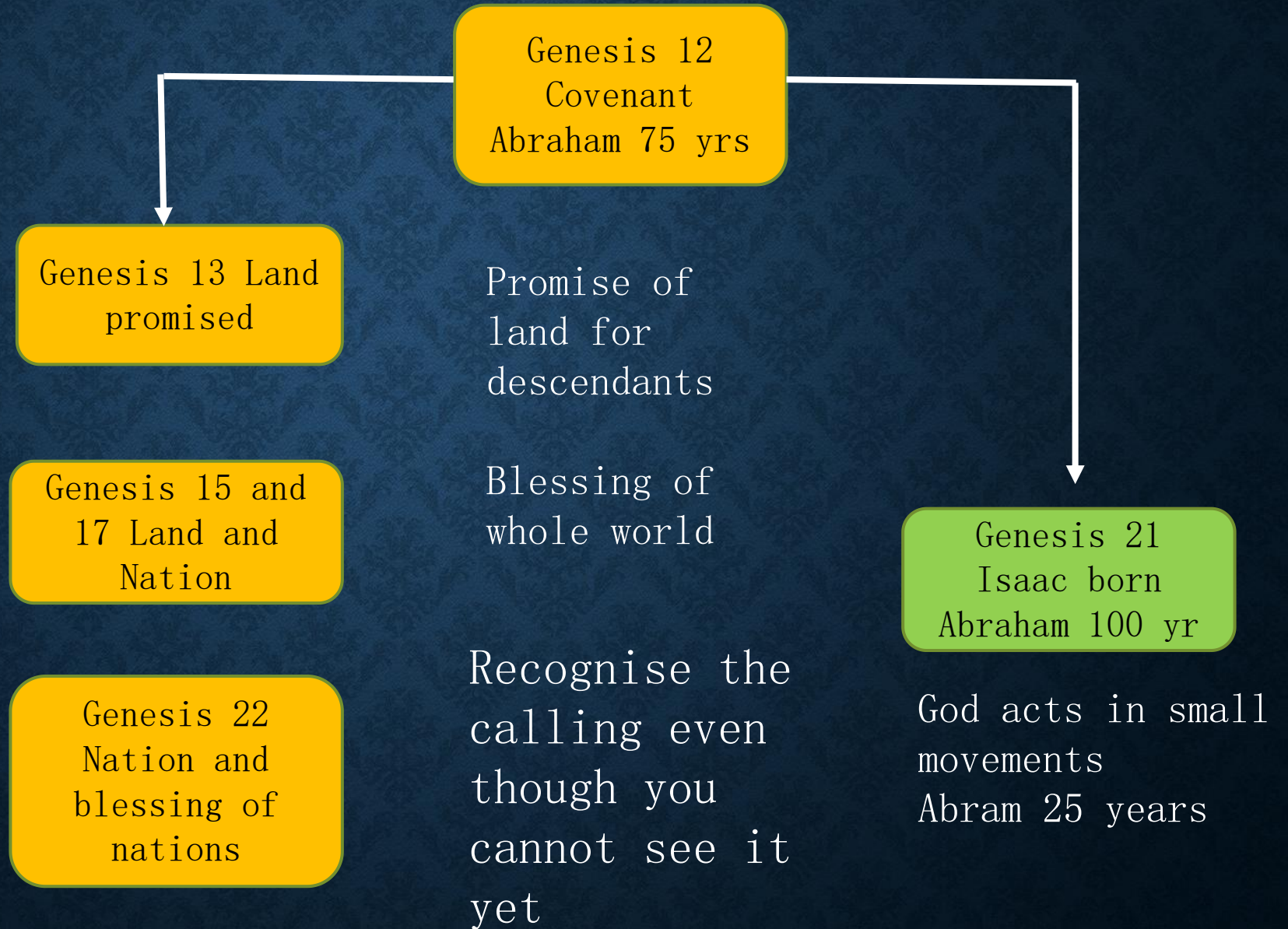
3. Trust in His purposes in our
lives

FOUR SCENES TO THIS NARRATIVE

Each one recognise Gods calling and is obedient to it

- 1) Canaan: Abraham and his servant (vv. 1 - 9)
- 2) Mesopotamia: the servant and Rebekah at the well (vv. 10 - 28)
- 3) Mesopotamia: the servant and Laban at the house (vv. 29 - 61)
- 4) Canaan: Isaac, Rebekah, and the servant (vv. 62 - 67)

God's Word
telling you
again and
again



ABRAHAM

LIVING WITHIN THE PURPOSES OF THE COVENANT

Gen 24: 1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. 2 And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, 3 that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, 4 but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”



Distance 400miles
Remoteness of location
Danger
Sacrifice
Rely on others
Difficult

PRAGMATISM IS THE ANTITHESIS OF ALL THAT IS SPIRIT-LED.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that
seems right to a man, but its end is
the way to death.

ABRAHAM

RICH EXPERIENCE OF GOD

Gen 24: 1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. 2 And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, 3 that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, 4 but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”

Genesis 24: 5 The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?” 6 Abraham said to him,

“See to it that you do not take my son back there

ALIGNS HIS LIFE WITH HIS CALLING

Genesis 24: 7 The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. 8 But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there."

WHY COULDN'T HE MARRY THE GIRL NEXT DOOR ?

The success of this enterprise depended on the separateness of the people of God, a necessary condition for developing a counter culture that would reflect their walk with God'

Joyce G Baldwin

The message of Genesis 12-50 p 99 The Bible speaks today series

Genesis 12: 3 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.”

Isaiah 49: (ESV) I will make you as a light for
the nations, that my salvation may reach to the
end of the earth.”

TRUST

who spoke to me and swore to me, To your offspring I will give this land,'

EXPERIENCE

The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land

OBEDIANCE

he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

A Life of faith always
involves placing it all on
the line

Genesis 24: 8 But if the woman is not willing
to follow you, then you will be free from
this oath of mine; only you must not take my
son back there.” 9 So the servant put his
hand under the thigh of Abraham his master
and swore to him concerning this matter.

CONTRAST WITH UNGODLY ESAU

Genesis 26:34–35 (ESV) When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, 35 and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

Marriage is obsolete

Pew Research 2013: 39%

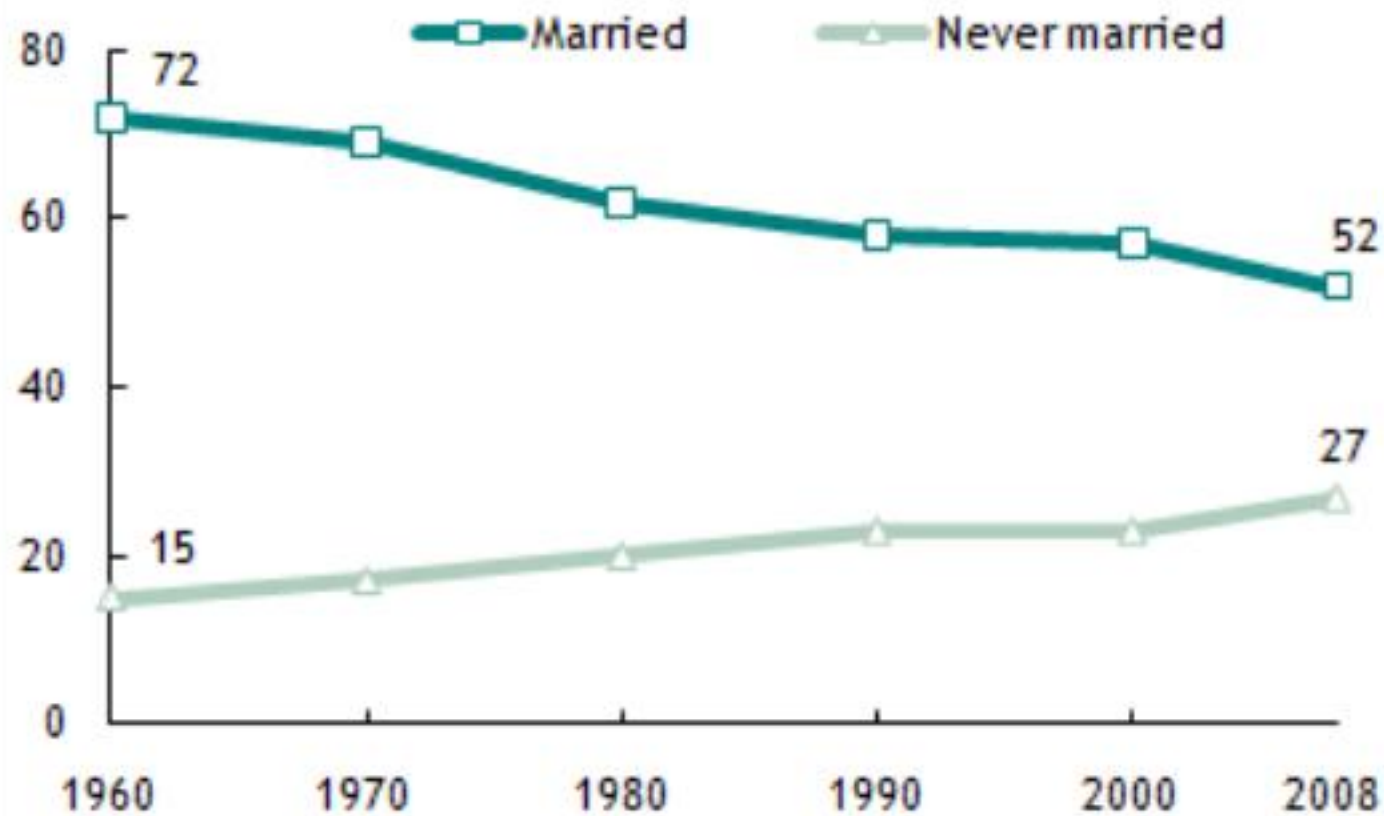


Source:

<https://www.themodernman.com/blog/is-marriage-obsolete.html>

Married vs. Never Married, 1960-2008

(%)



Note: Ages 18 and older.

Source: Pew Research Center calculations of Decennial Census and American Community Survey data

"A riveting read
of dopamine, you
—DANIEL



THE M
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How a Sing
Love, Sex, a
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DANIEL
AND M

Dopamine



Dopamine is the chemical of desire that always asks for more—more stuff, more stimulation, and more surprises. , it's not the *having* that matters. It's getting something—anything—that's new.



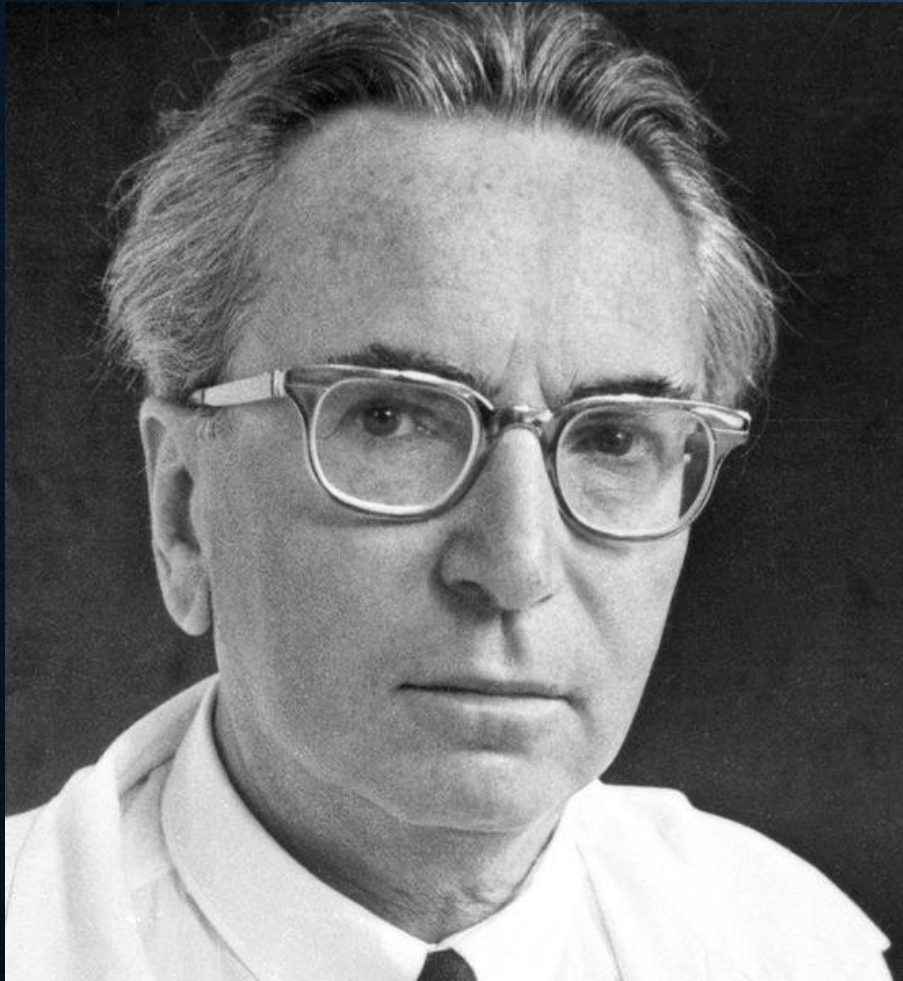


Source Caroline Culler at Wikipedia

"That carousel can take you around and around on a fun trip as many times as you like, but it will always leave you where you began. Each time the music stops and your feet are back on the ground, you must make a choice: take one more whirl, or cross that bridge to another, more enduring kind of love. In that realm, attachment, your love is driven not just by a dopamine buzz, but by deciding to appreciate someone in the here and now, day after day. "

Daniel Z Liebermann

PSYCHOLOGIST VICTOR FRANKL



“happiness cannot be pursued; it must ensue. One must have a reason to ‘be happy.’”

It is the very pursuit of happiness that thwarts happiness.

Good things happen

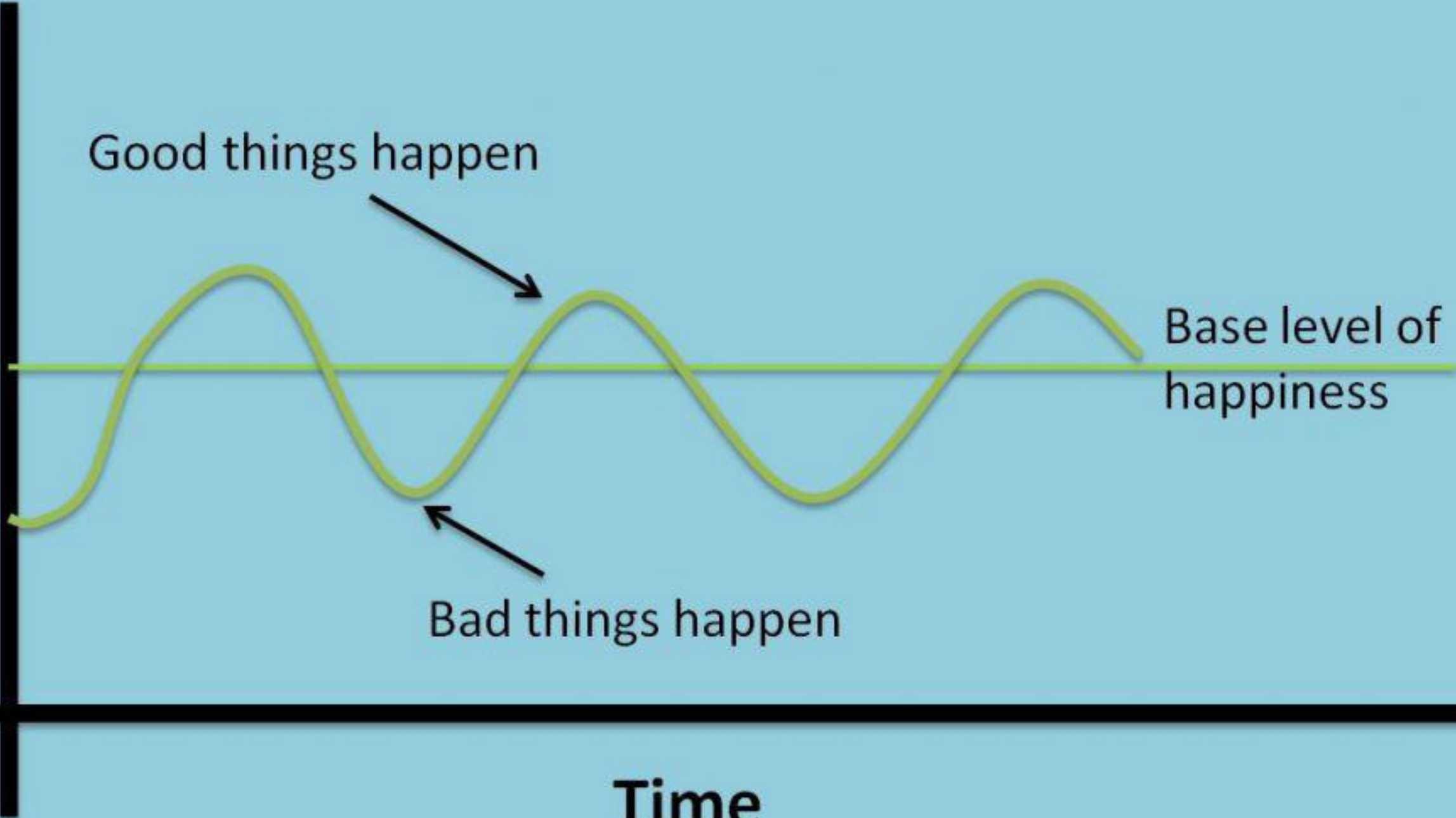


Bad things happen



Base level of happiness

Time



Solomon 700 wives 300 concubines



LOOK AT THE SEQUENCE

Genesis 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming.

Genesis 24: 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Love is a decision, it is a judgment, it is a promise. If love were only a feeling, there would be no basis for the promise to love each other forever. A feeling comes and it may go. How can I judge that it will stay forever, when my act does not involve judgment and decision.

Eric Fromm (The Art of Loving)

Social Psychologist, Psycho-analyst, Philosopher

A man in a blue suit and a woman in a white dress are holding hands and smiling at each other in a park. The background is a soft-focus view of trees and a bright sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is romantic and joyful.

THE DECISION ALIGNS WITH OUR CALLING

IT'S ABOUT HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES

1. Align our lives with His
calling

2. Feel for His hand in our lives

3. Trust in His purposes in our
lives

UTILISING CULTURE AND WISDOM

Genesis 24: 10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. 11 And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water.

PRAYING AND ACTING BY FAITH

Genesis 24:12 And he said, “O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. 13 Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. 14 Let the young woman to whom I shall say, ‘Please let down your jar that I may drink,’ and who shall say, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels’—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.”

Photo from
<https://zippyfacts.com/how-long-can-a-camel-go-without-water/>

83 buckets of water at 3
gallons each and each camel 25
gallons



GODLY WISDOM

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EXCELLENT WIFE

PROVERBS 31: 17 She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. 18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. 19 She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. 20 She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EXCELLENT WIFE

PROVERBS 31: 25 Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EXCELLENT WIFE

PROVERBS 31: 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. 16 The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known.

DISCERNING THE HAND OF GOD GODLY CHARACTERISTICS

19 When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.” 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels. 21 The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the LORD had prospered his journey or not.

SENSING GOD'S HAND HE MAKES A MOVE

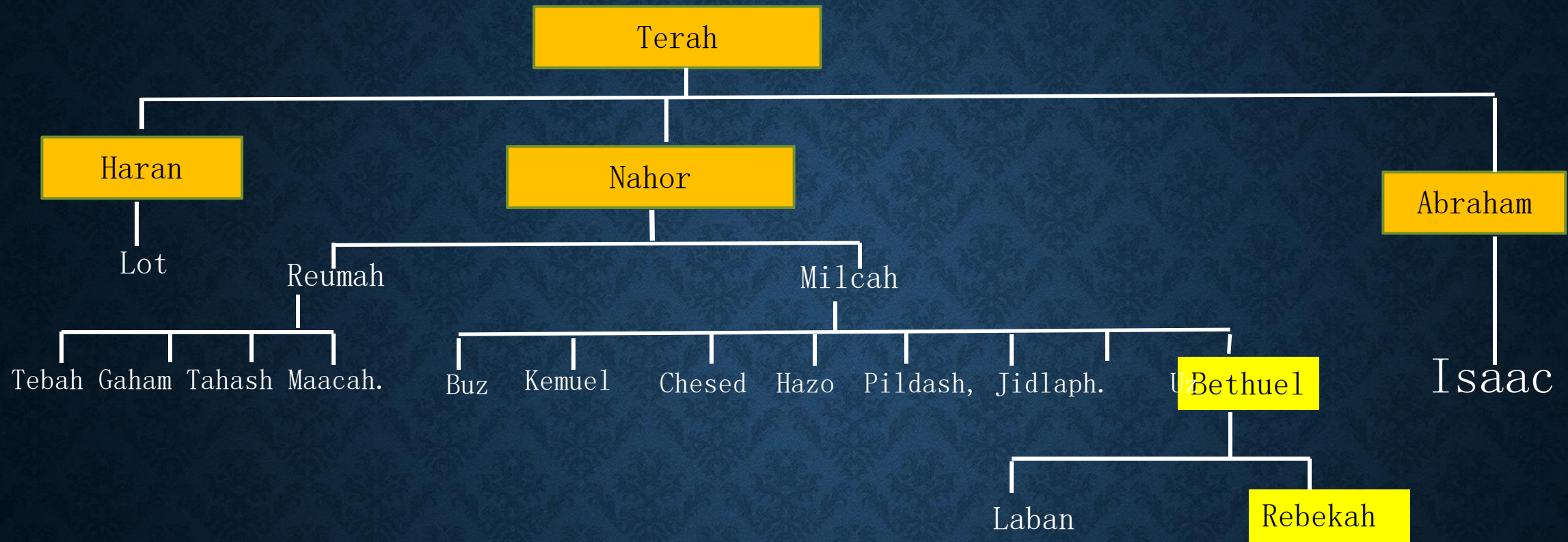
22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, 23 and said, "Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"

GOD ANSWERS

24 She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” 25 She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night.”

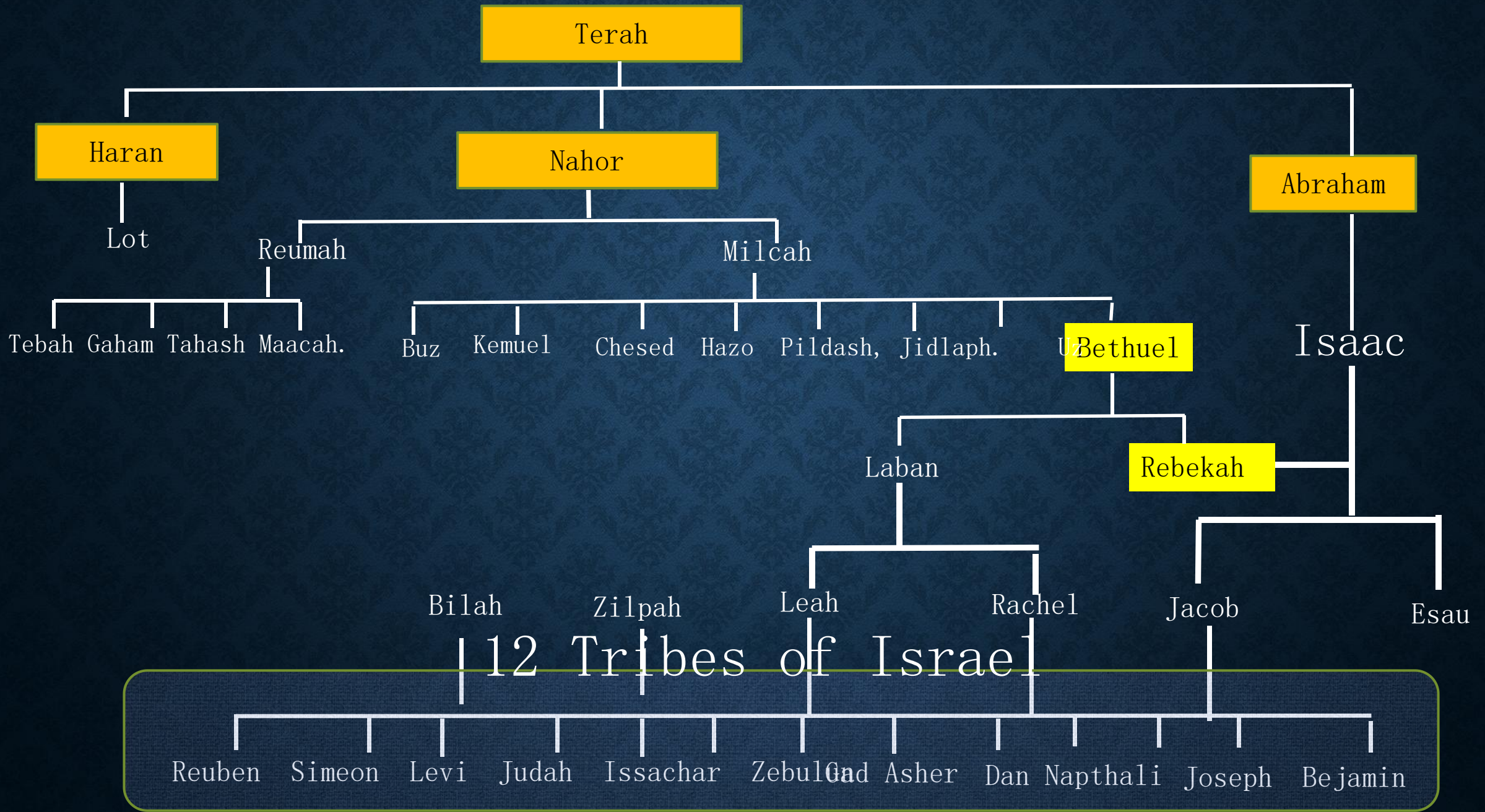
CONFIRMING THE HAND OF GOD

26 The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD 27
and said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my
master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast
love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for
me, the LORD has led me in the way to the house of
my master’s kinsmen



GENESIS 22:20-24

Genesis 22: 20 Now after these things it was told to Abraham, “Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: 21 Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, 22 Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.” 23 Bethuel fathered Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham’s brother. 24 Moreover, his concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.



God works back in time to secure His
promises.. God lays the background to
His promises

LABAN

29 Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. 30 As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. 31 He said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels."

SERVANT RELATES HIS PROCESS WAITS FOR CONFIRMATION

Genesis 24:48-49 Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. 49 Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left.”

He is not presumptuous

LABAN AND BETHUEL CONFIRMS

Genesis 24: 50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said,
“The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you
bad or good. 51 Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and
go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the
LORD has spoken

Genesis 3: 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your
eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good
and evil.”

REBEKAH-RECOGNITION OF THE CALL AND OBEDIENCE

57 They said, “Let us call the young woman and ask her.” 58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will go.”

REBECCA'S CHOICE

- Much like that of Abraham's decision 50 years earlier
- To leave and go to an unknown land on a promise
- Hearing about this God and His blessings
- To be part of a new nation
- Cannot see the future makes a choice by faith with a man she had only met 24 hours earlier

CONFIRMATIONS OF OTHERS

Genesis 24: 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!”

DECISION MAKING

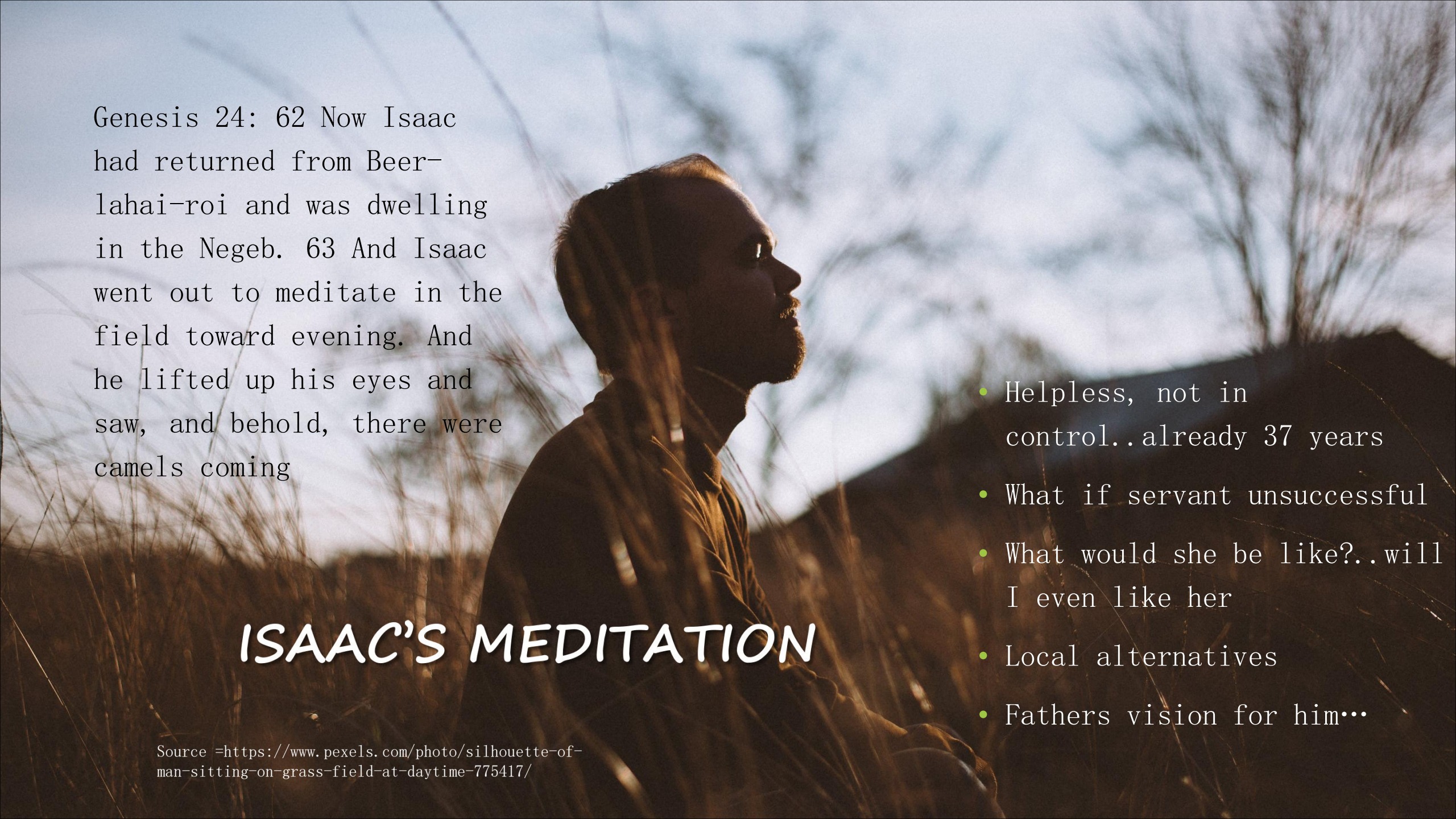
1. The decision fits into the overall direction of God's call in our lives rejecting other alternatives
2. Committed the endeavour to God in prayer
3. Established certain criteria in wisdom and commensurate with the call
4. Stepped out in faith
5. Look for confirmatory signs and response

IT'S ABOUT HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES

1. Align our lives with His
calling

2. Feel for His hand in our lives

3. Trust in His purposes in our
lives



Genesis 24: 62 Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb. 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming

ISAAC'S MEDITATION

- Helpless, not in control..already 37 years
- What if servant unsuccessful
- What would she be like?..will I even like her
- Local alternatives
- Fathers vision for him...

**ALMOST A HALL MARK MOMENT
GOD TAKES A LONG TIME BUT HE IS NEVER LATE**

Genesis 24:63-64 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening.

And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming.

64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel

GOD WORKS THROUGH THE SEEMINGLY PRECARIOUS EFFORTS OF MAN—WHAT IF?

- Abraham's mandate
- The servants wisdom and faithfulness
- Laban and Bethuel's consent
- Rebekah's faith
- Isaac's patience and trust





<http://moodnudes.com/back-of-a-tapestry/>



Source Steve Barker
<https://unsplash.com/s/photos/tapestry>

THE CONVICTION OF THE CALL

Genesis 24: 7 The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

ABRAM FINAL TEST

Gen 25: 7 These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years. 8 Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people

LIVING A LIFE BASED ON A PROMISE

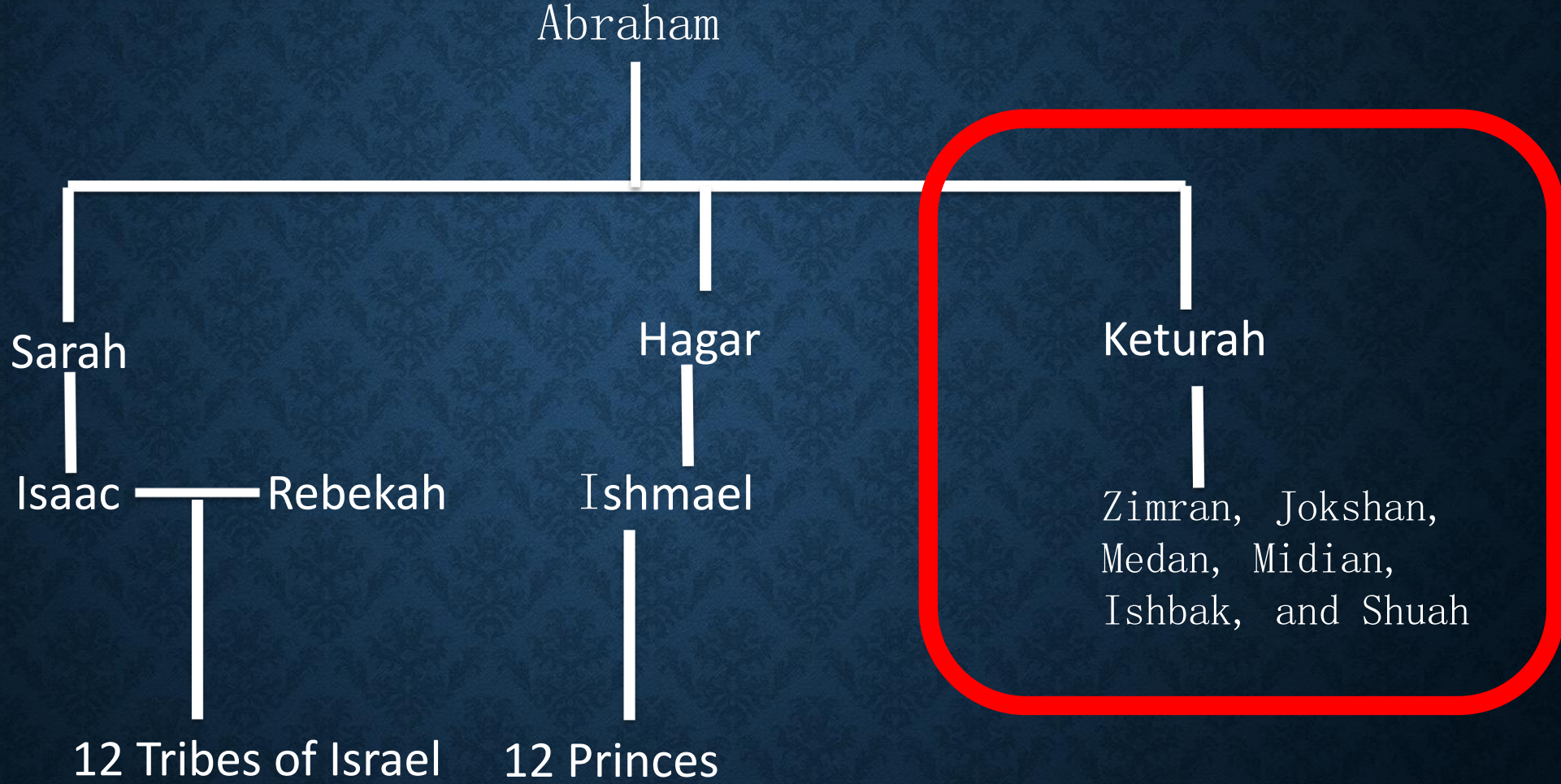
Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God

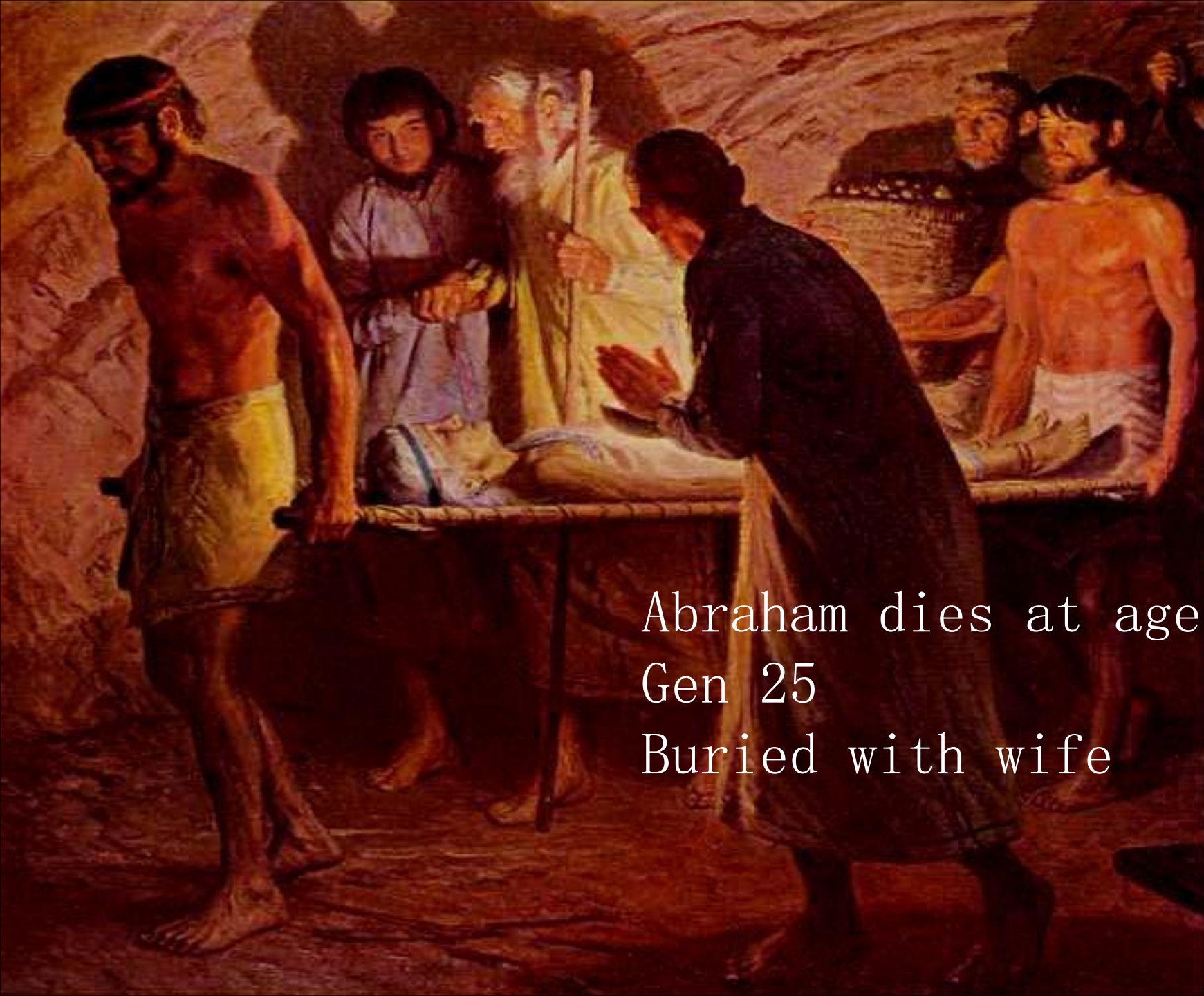
THE LIFE OF FAITH

Heb 11: 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth

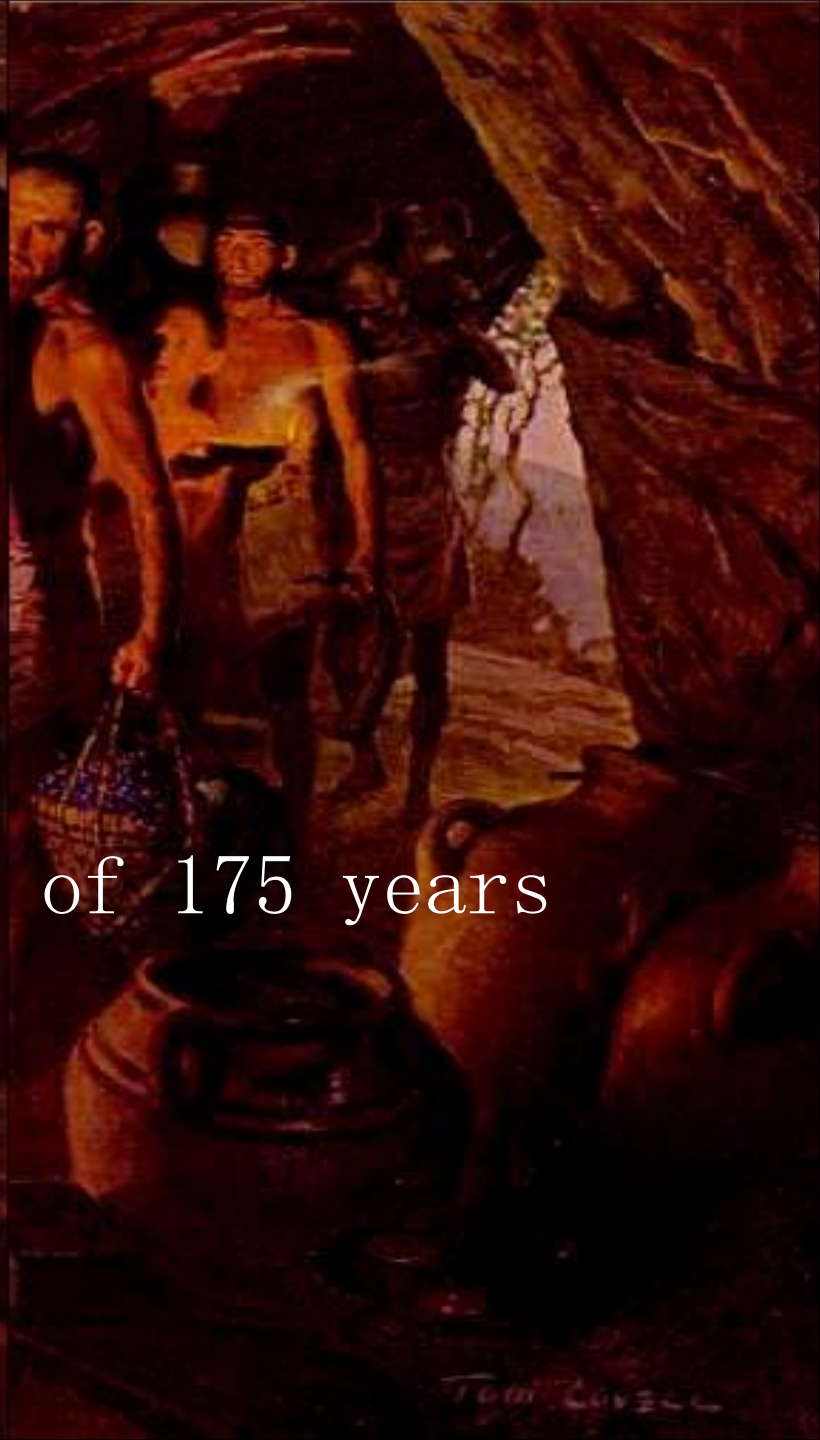
GENESIS 25

GENESIS 25





Abraham dies at age of 175 years
Gen 25
Buried with wife



Tom Lovell

Genesis 25:19–21 19 These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac, 20 and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. 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 25:26 ∙∙∙. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

DESPITE GOD'S PROMISES HE WAITED 20 YEARS

Divine Sovereignty does not mean human passivity

Great Land

Great Nation

Great Blessing

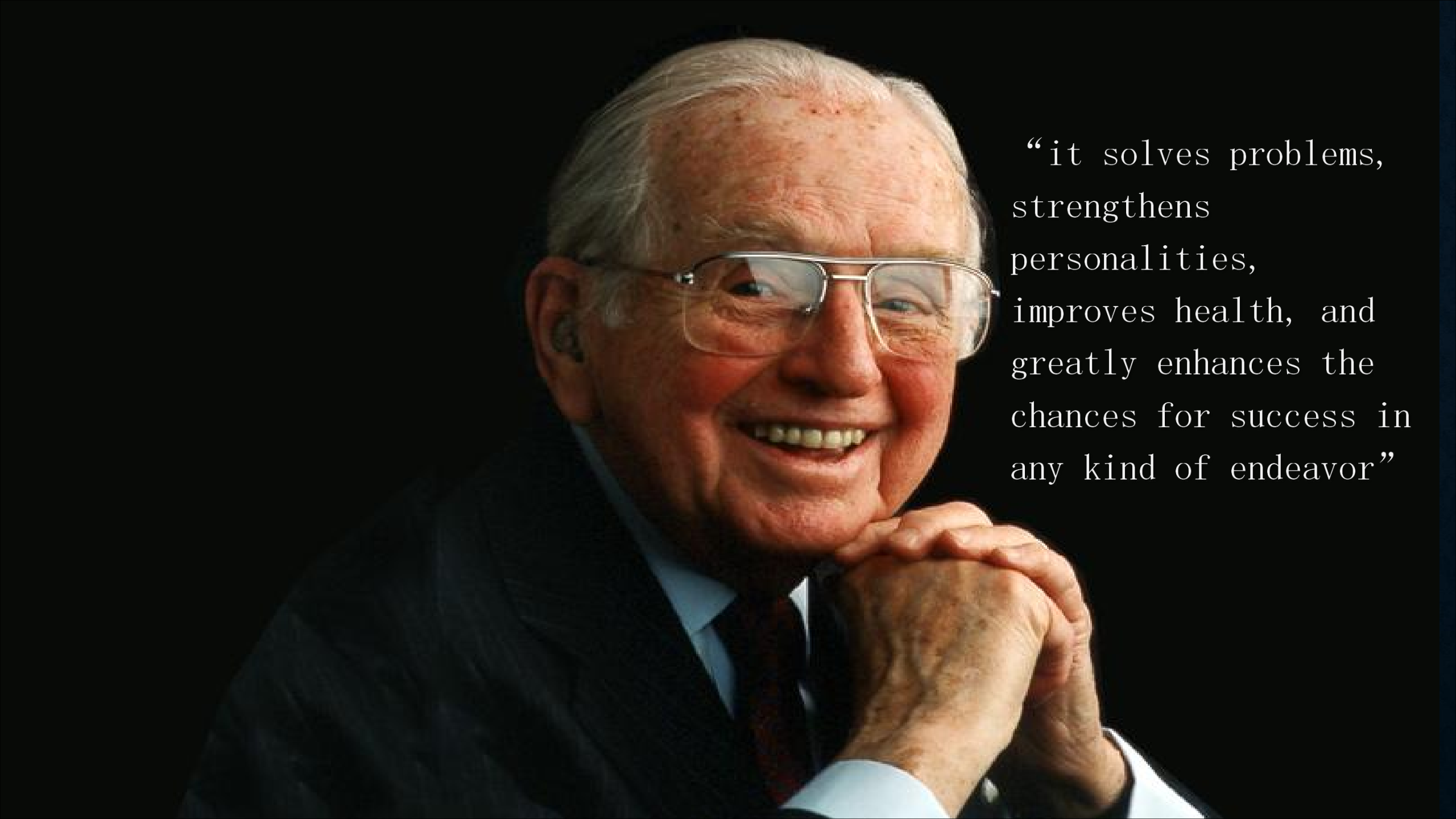
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Genesis 25:26 ... Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them

- God's Sovereignty does not imply human passivity
- Recipients of God's promises does not necessarily have a smooth time.. they can get severe trials
- Importance of persistent prayer.. 20 years
- God works his promises through our choices

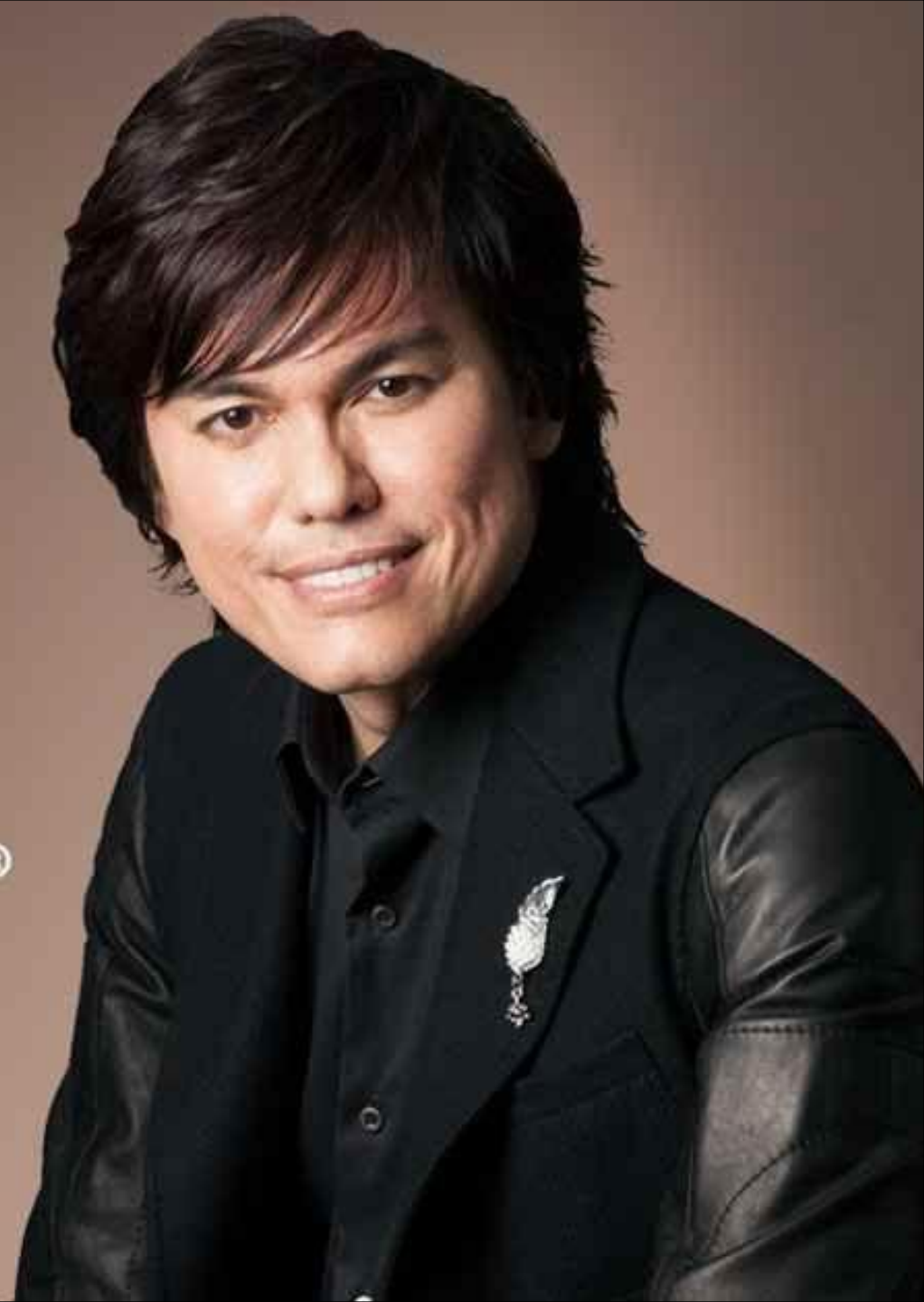
A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a dark tie. His hands are clasped together in front of his chin. The background is dark and out of focus.

Dr Norman Vincent Peale



“it solves problems,
strengthens
personalities,
improves health, and
greatly enhances the
chances for success in
any kind of endeavor”

Joseph.
I prince
ministries®



- *The key of the house of David I will lay on his [Jesus'] shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open.*
- *The visual image that God has given us is the key of David. God wants you to know that Jesus will use this key to open doors of blessings and provision for you this year. Not only can you expect good things to happen to you and your family, but you can also expect to be protected*

Overturn Primogeniture

Genesis 25:22–23 (ESV) The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. 23 And the LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.”

Romans 9:11–13 … though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

GOD'S CHOICES

Wise vs Foolish



Barren woman



Younger brother



UNMISTAKABLE PROOF OF HIS POWER

1 Corinthians 1:27–29 (ESV) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

HEB FOR HEEL YAAQOB..JACOB

He takes by the
heel

The surplanter
- selfish, self
orientated person



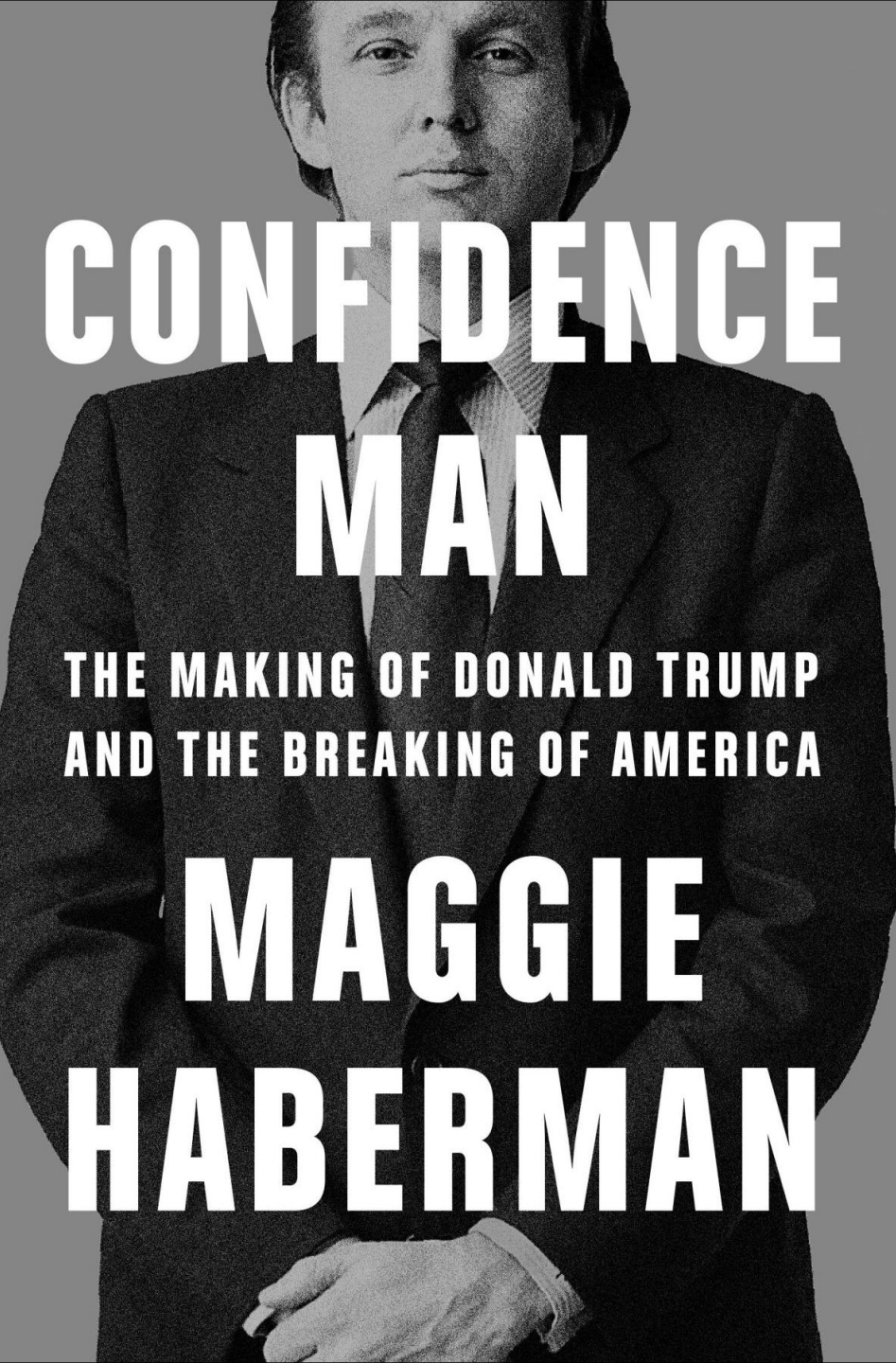
ESAU UNDERSTOOD

Genesis 27:36 Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.”

COMPARE THE

Genesis 6:9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

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CONFIDENCE MAN

THE MAKING OF DONALD TRUMP
AND THE BREAKING OF AMERICA

MAGGIE HABERMAN

JACOB'S STORY - TRANSFORMATION



Genesis 32:27-28 And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” 28 Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,

THE TWINS



- Impetuous
- Illdisciplined
- Short sighted
no EQ
- Scheming
- Sophisticated
- Manipulative
- Morally corrupt



ESAU'S CHOICE—SHORT SIGHTED

Genesis 25:31-34 Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright now.” 32 Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” 33 Jacob said, “Swear to me now.” So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

ESAU'S FAULTS..LESSONS



Hebrews 12:15-17 (ESV) See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; 16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. 17 For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

Focus on immediate gratification—things go wrong.