

The Barren Womb & The Covenant Keeping God

Introduction

A brief lesson in reproductive biology

God's instruction regarding reproduction

“Be fruitful and multiply

The barren womb: A curse from God

Why was a barren womb considered a curse from God on the individual woman?

Gen 1.28: And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

Gen 9.1: And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Ps 127.3-4 Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb is *his* reward. As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them:

The barren womb: A cause of grief, embarrassment & agony

I Samuel 1.10-11 Hannah in bitterness of soul

Gen 30.1 Rachel's agonizing plea to Jacob: "Give me children or I die"

A word on bigamy.

It was never God's plan from the beginning for a man to have more than one wife and this practice has consistently led to fighting, tormenting and tears

The barren womb: God's glorious opportunity

God's promise to Abraham Genesis 12.1-3

God's covenant with Abraham Genesis 15.18

God changes Abram's name Genesis 17.1-7 Adonai; another Christophany

God's visitation with Abraham Genesis 18.1-3 & 9-11

A further Christophany (Jesus & two angels)

Gen 19.1 Two angels came to Sodom

God's fulfilled promise to Abraham Genesis 21.1-4

The barren womb: No barrier to God

Abraham & Sarah	Isaac
Isaac & Rebekah	Jacob
Jacob & Rachel	Joseph
Manoah (wife not named)	Samson
Elkanah & Hannah	Samuel (Probably Israel's greatest judge alongside Deborah)
Boaz & Ruth	Obed – Jesse – David – Solomon Jesus
Zecharias & Elizabeth	John the Baptist
Mary	A fruitful womb, but a barren people

Conclusion

Abraham meets Jesus, everything changed & he was never the same again

In the original Hebrew language of the Torah, the name Abram literally means “**exalted father.**” The name Abraham, however, contains another unused root word, which roughly means “multitude.” Abraham translated literally, then, means “**father of a multitude.**”

Take note of this: the changing of Abraham's name is a sign from God. By changing his name, the Lord not only confirmed that he would fully carry out the promise that he made to Abraham. He, as well, made Abraham the typological father of faith for all the saints (Jude 3). From the flesh of Abraham, a multitude did come, the Jewish people.

But Abraham is not only the father of a single ethnic nation, he is the spiritual “father of a multitude.” And this faithful multitude, comprised of both Jews and Gentiles, is too large to number (Rev 7:9). Through him, **all the nations of the world** are blessed (Gen 22:18).