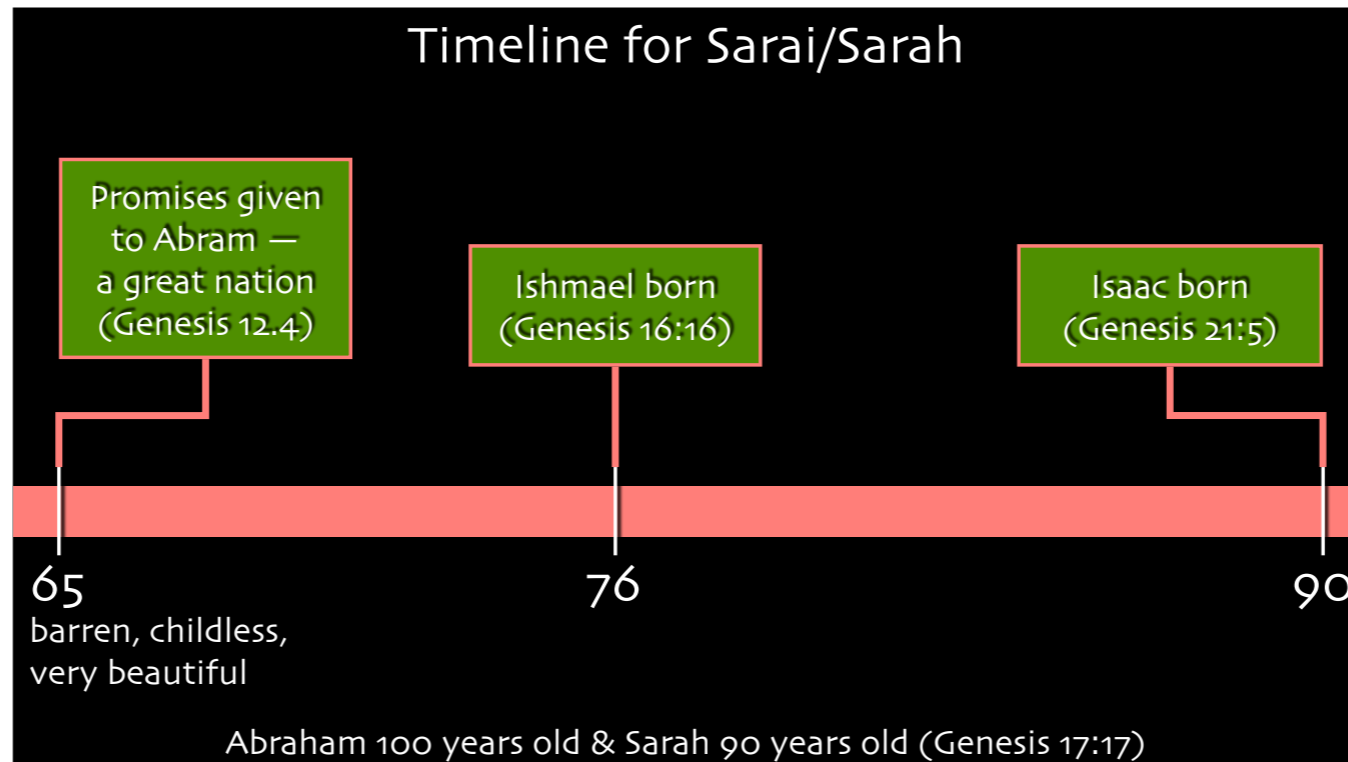


# Faith & Laughter

Sarah

Hebrews 11:11

• Genesis 12



- First things we learn about Sarai is that she is barren, childless, and very beautiful
- She is 65 when the promises are made to Abram: a great nation implies they would have to have a child.
- After 11 years, 76, there's still no child and she gives Hagar her servant to Abram to have a child through her.
- After 14 more years, 90, finally Isaac is born.

## Lessons from Sarah

## Lessons from Sarah

### 1. Children of the Promise

This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son."

Romans 9:8-9

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

Hebrews 11:11

- Children of Promise
  - Romans 9:8-9: the children of the promise are counted as offspring
  - Hebrews 11:11: she considered him faithful who had promised

## Lessons from Sarah

### 2. Pursing Righteousness

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

Isaiah 51:1-2

- Pursuing Righteousness

- Isaiah 51:1-3 “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. 2 Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. 3 For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

## Lessons from Sarah

### 3. Faith

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

Hebrews 11:11

- Faith
  - By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when past the age
- Sarah, Rahab, Women received back their dead by resurrection.

## Lessons from Sarah

### 4. Laughter

And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."

Genesis 21:6

- Laughter
  - Genesis 21:6: God has made laughter for me

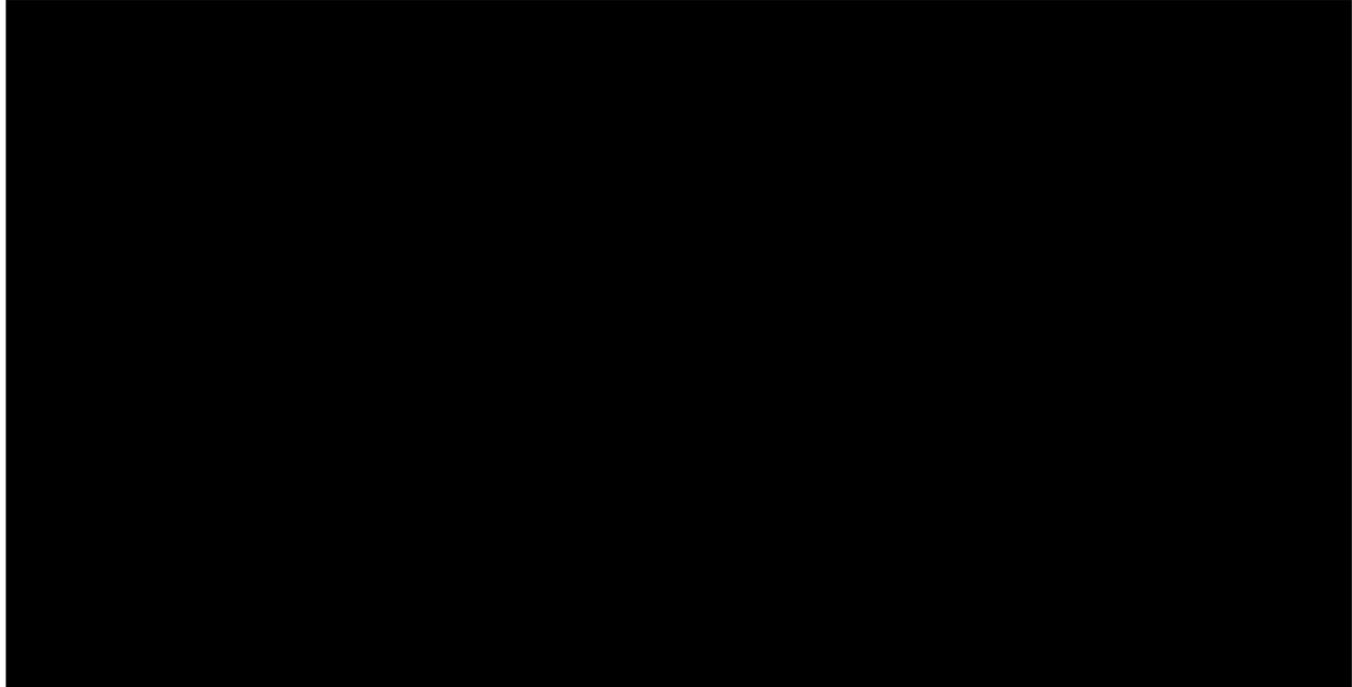
## Lessons from Sarah

1. Children of the Promise
2. Pursing Righteousness
3. Faith
4. Laughter

• 4 lessons



## Children of the Promise



- Children of the Promise

## Children of the Promise

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Hebrews 11:11

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## Children of the Promise.....>Hope in God

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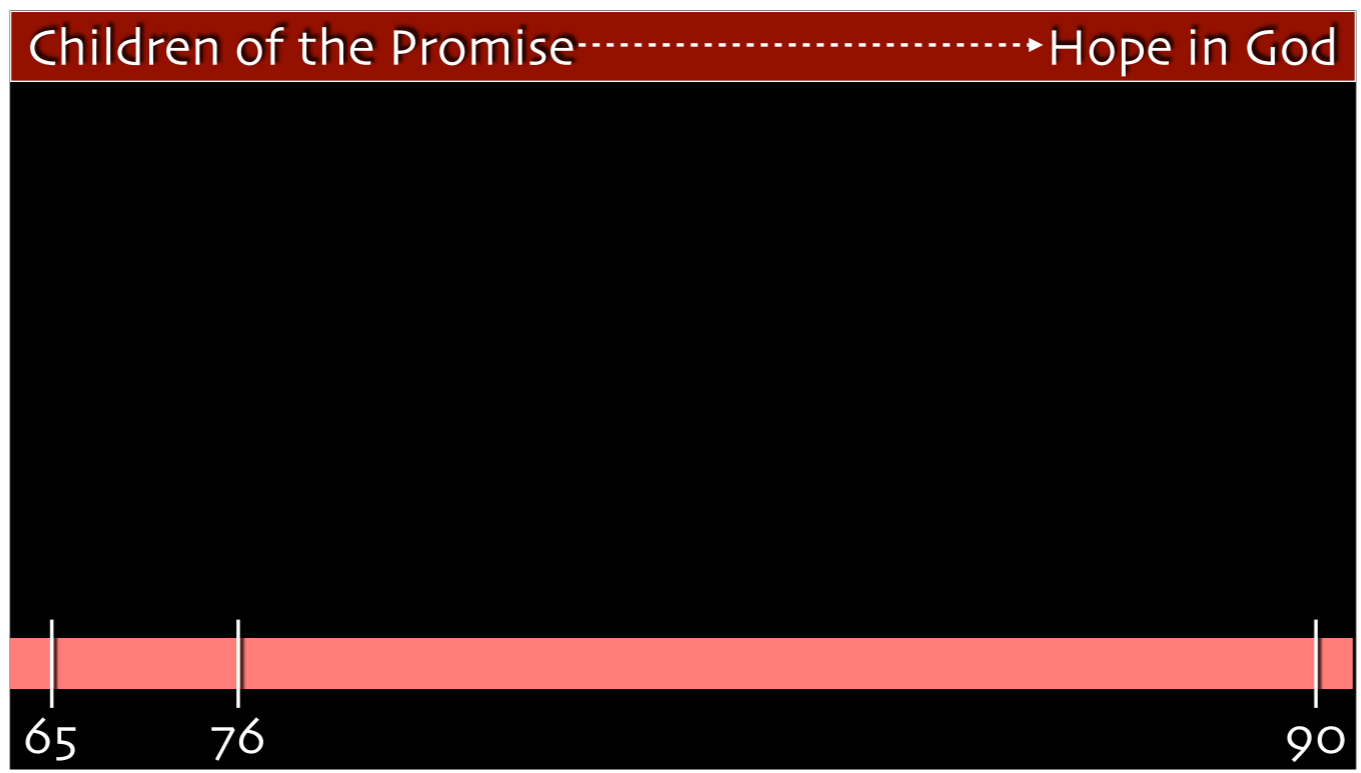
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Hebrews 11:11

For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands

1 Peter 3:5

- 1 Peter 3:5: For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands



- The story of the promise is one that needs to be viewed over time. 25 years

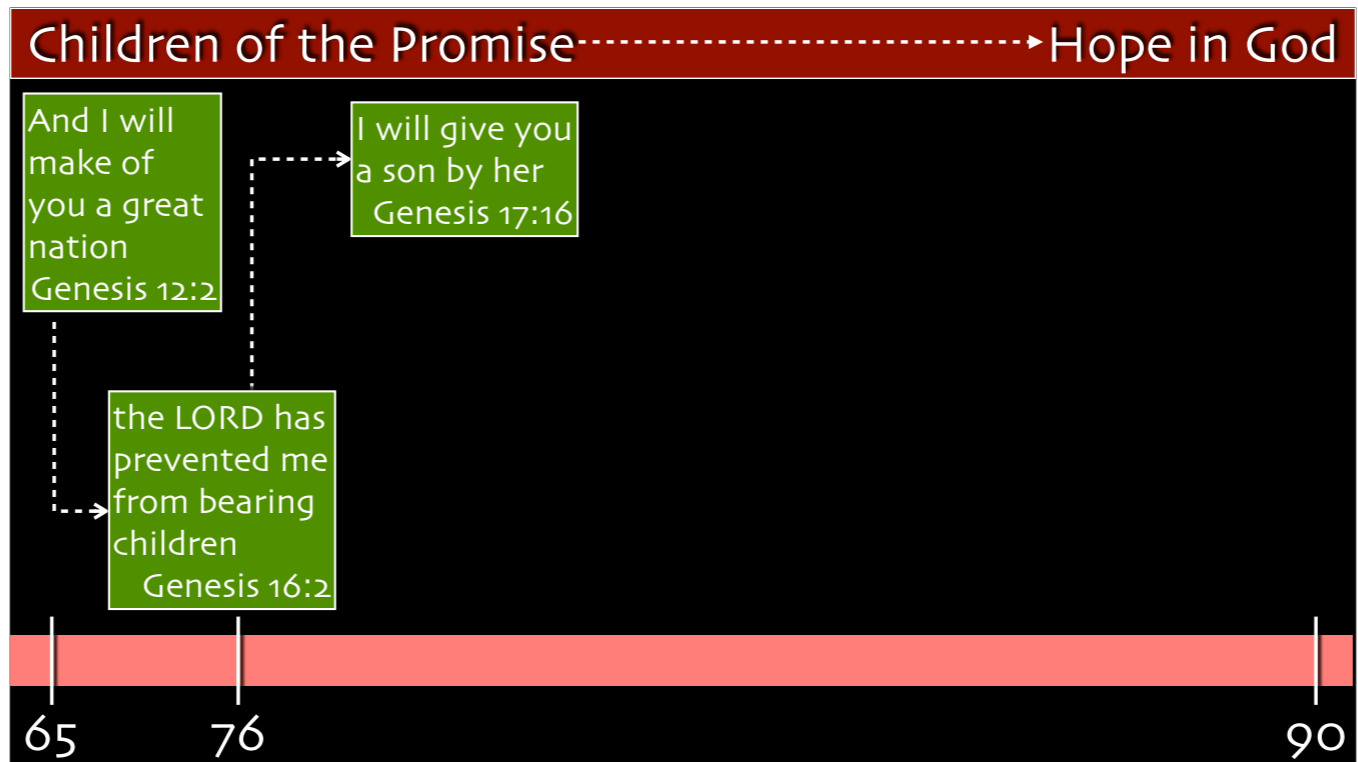
Children of the Promise.....> Hope in God



- Genesis 12:2 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.

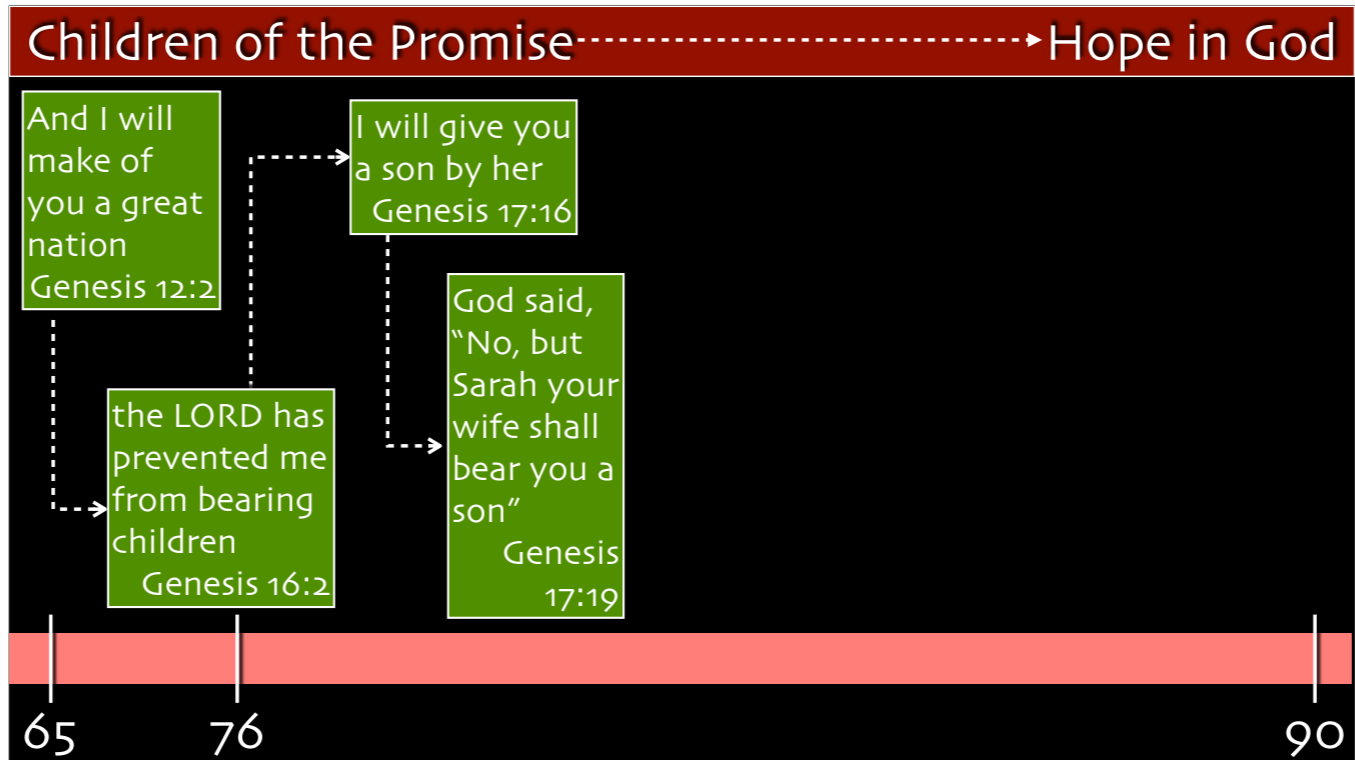


- Genesis 16:2 And Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
- How is this hoping in God?
- It really might be true that Jehovah had prevented her.
  - Later (20:18) it explicitly states that Jehovah had done this in the house of Abimelech.
  - Is Sarai blaming God at this point? Or is this just a statement of fact?
    - Go with statement of fact.... (thinking the best of Sarai)



- Sarah is now 89
- Genesis 17:16 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.
  - Sarah is finally explicitly mentioned in the promise.

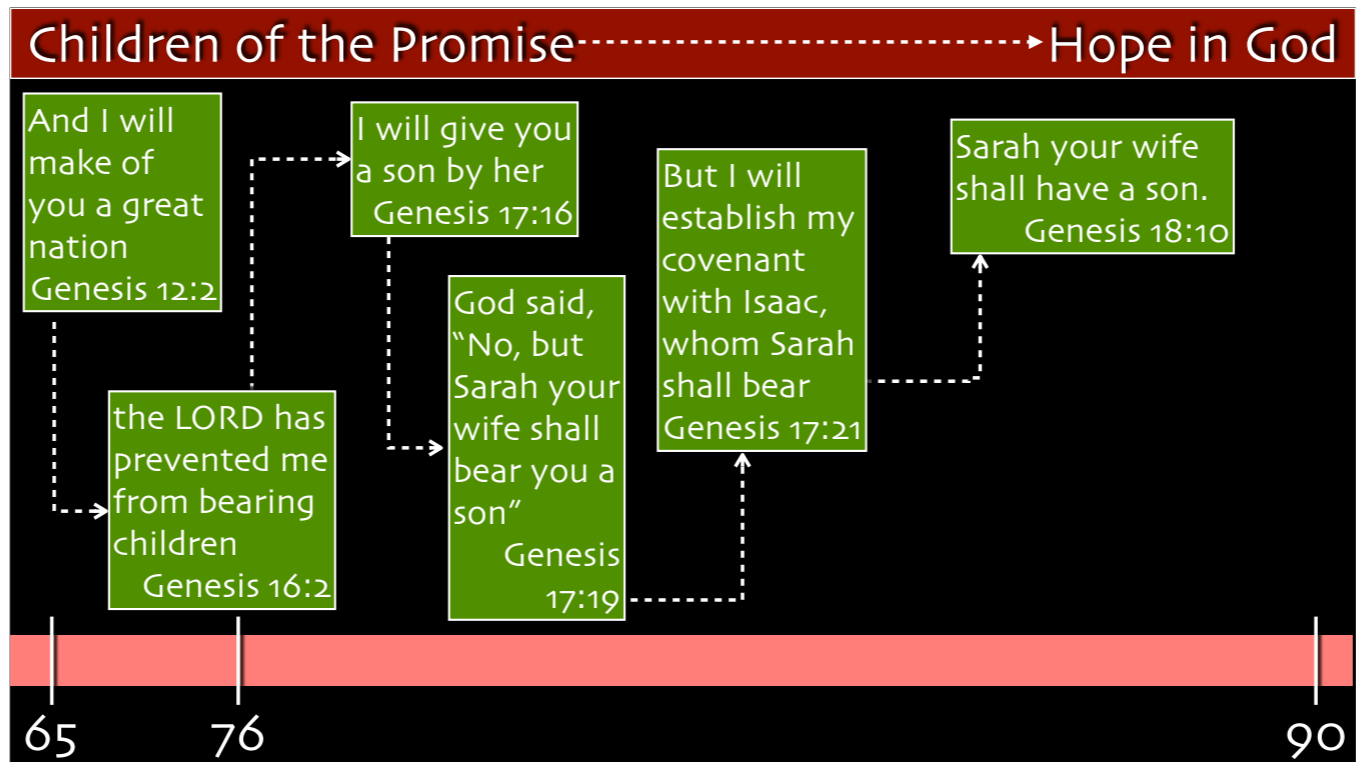




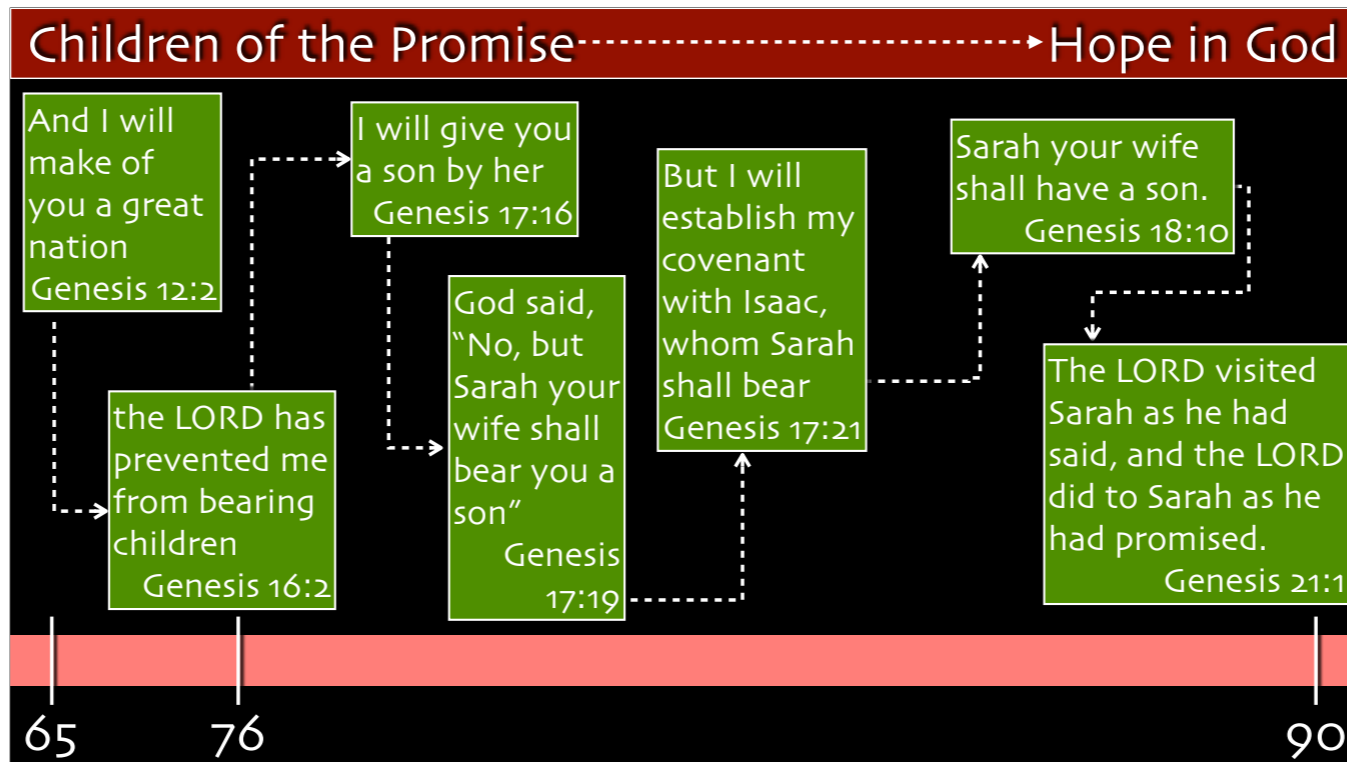
- Abraham suggests Ishmael as son
  - Even Abraham is struggling with this promise and how long it's taking.
  - He'd previously suggested his servant as an heir, Eliezer.
  - Now Ishmael
- Genesis 17:19 God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him."



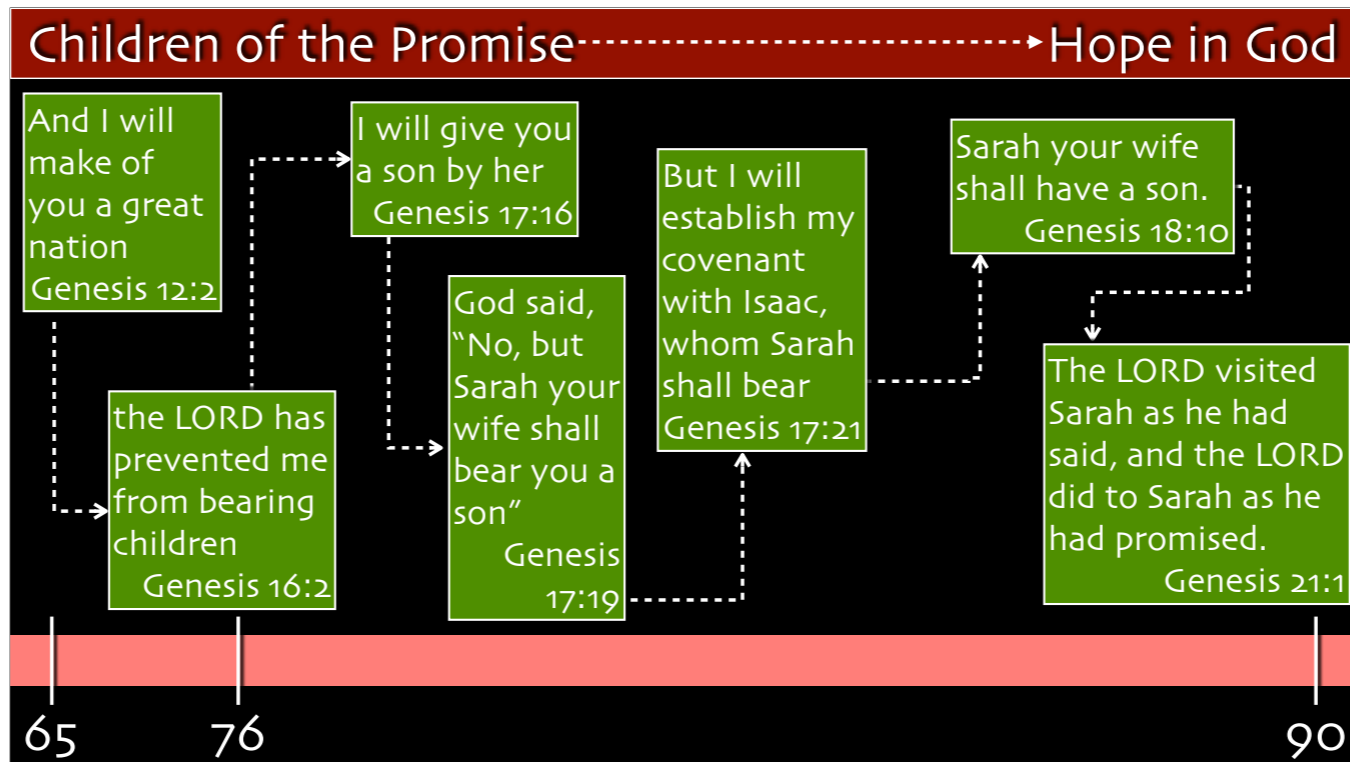
- Genesis 17:21 But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year."



- Genesis 18:10 The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.



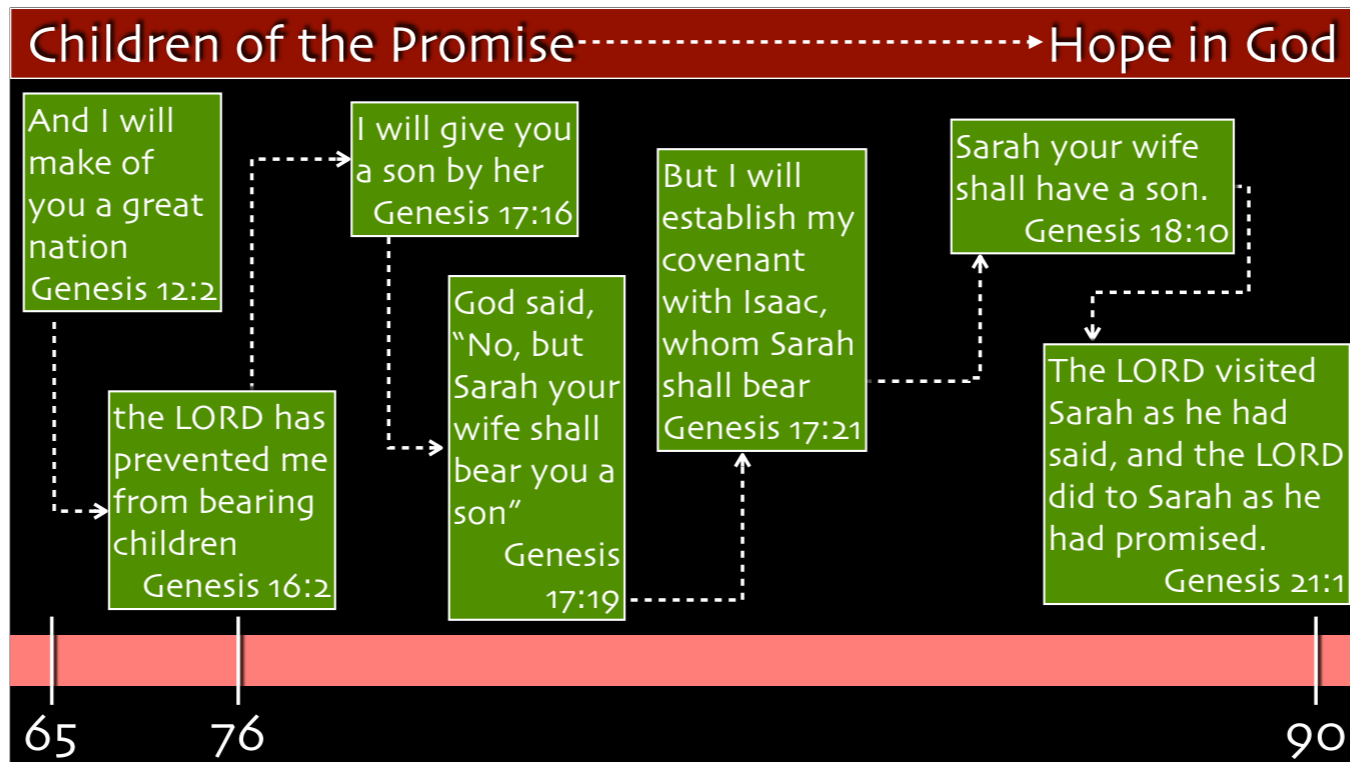
- Genesis 21:1 The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised.
  - 25 years since the promise was made
  - Visited (NIV = was gracious to)
    - (NET Bible Notes - Full Notes) sn
      - The Hebrew verb translated "visit" (״ָּ״, paqad) often describes divine intervention for blessing or cursing;
      - it indicates God's special attention to an individual or a matter, always with respect to his people's destiny.



- One of our common platitudes: God helps those who help themselves.

- God expects us to do our part

- Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,



- However, Sarah and Abraham remind us to be careful about what we mean by this.
  - Abraham tried twice to get a substitute for the child of promise.
  - Sarah forced her servant to become pregnant, hoping God would accept that as their child
- When does "helping God" betray a problem with how we think about God and his keeping promises?
  - Or even questioning his faithfulness?
- Our God is faithful.
  - Will we be faithful to him in trusting and hoping for his promises to be fulfilled?

We implore you  
on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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## Faith & Laughter: Sarah (Part 1)

Hebrews 11:11

Synopsis: Four lessons we can learn from Sarah: The children of promise - hope in God; pursue righteousness; faith; and laughter. This lesson covers the first of these.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**