

THE FAITH OF SARAH

We are currently studying the Faith Cycle from Heb.11:1-40.

The writer divided (Heb.11:1-40) into four groups of believers:

- Antediluvian (Heb.11:1-7)
- Patriarch (Heb.11:8-22)
- Jewish (Heb.11:23-38)
- **Church** (Heb.11:39-40)

The writer also gave a doctrinal principle regarding the Faith Cycle in each group:

- Antediluvian (Heb.11:6)
- Patriarch (Heb.11:13)
- Jewish (Heb.11:38)
- **Church** (Heb.11:39-40)

Each week I am selecting one believer who exemplifies living the faith cycle. This week I chose Sarah to represent the Patriarch group.

This lesson will study four aspects of the Faith of Sarah as recorded in Heb.11:11

“By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.”

1. Remember Hebrew biblical names often reflect some prophetic messianic role in the plan of God.

This is important to know because there are name changes to Abraham, Sarah, and God in (Gen.15:15-17).

Their order as listed in Gen.17

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------|
| • God (El) | to God Almighty (El Shadday) | Gen.17:1 |
| • Aram (exalted father) | to Abraham (father of multitude of nations) | Gen.17:4-5. |
| • Sarai (argumentative) | to Sarah (mother of nations) | Gen.17:15-16. |

El Shadday became a very important word to the Israelites in Egypt (Gen.17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 43:14; 48:3; and Ex.6:3).

2. The Patriarch period was a time when God revealed Himself to believers by important Divine Name changes (Gen.12-17).

- Gen.14:18-19 El Elyon
 - God Most High God (Abraham's victory of war and meeting Melchizedek).
- Gen.16:13 Elroi
 - God who sees all things (Hagar's meeting with the angel of Lord).
- Gen.17:1 El Shadday
 - God Almighty (God's will regarding promise of messianic son)
- Gen.21:33 El Olam
 - Everlasting God (Abraham purchase of wells at Beersheba with Abimelech)
- Gen.22:14 Yahweh-yireh
 - Lord will provide (Abraham offering of Isaac).

Our Abba Father desires to have a personal relationship in the lives of believers today.

3. The introduction of God's name El Shadday (God Almighty) came when Sarah was 90 and Abraham was 99 and were given a message from God.

Message was that it was time for them to conceive and give birth to a baby boy (Gen.17:15-22). They had a big laugh at the thought of two old believers having a child.

- When Abraham was told, he fell on his facing laughing (Gen.17:17). Abram suggested that God must be talking about Ishmael (Gen.17:18).
- When Sarah heard, she also had a good laughed and did what she normally did as Sarai. She became argumentative with the Lord in her inner dialogue - "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" (Gen.18:12)

"Is anything to difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." (Gen.18:14)

When did God teach them about El Shadday (God Almighty), before or after telling them of their conception and birth of messianic seed? (Gen.17:1) _____

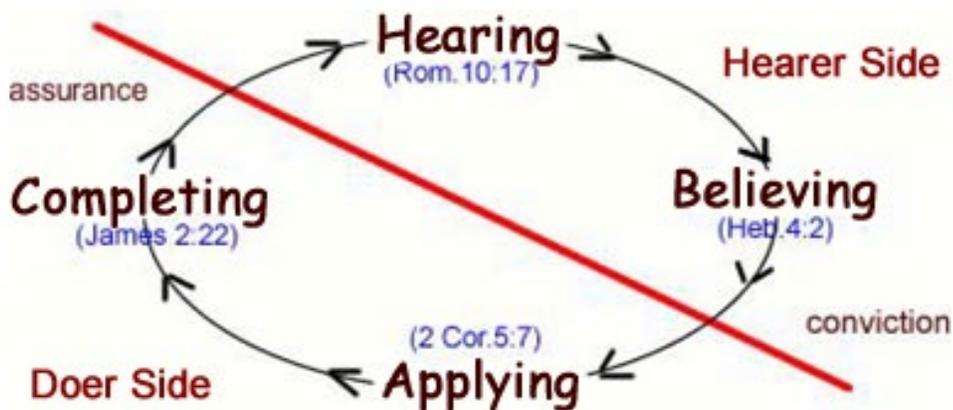
4. When they left for the foreign mission field, Sarai was 64 and Abram was 75 (Gen.12:4).

She was barren. In Gen.17, she is 90 and he is 99. She is described as "Old, advanced in age; and past childbearing." (Gen.18:11; Rom.4:19)

(Heb.11:11) "By faith even (kai) Sarah herself received ability (dunamis) to conceive (katabole steiros), even (kai) beyond the proper time of life (helikia/ age), since she considered Him faithful who had promised."

El Shadday removed Sarah's barrenness and age issues of conception. She believed that El Shadday is God Almighty. This is a wonderful miracle of reversing the law of creation, but not as great as the miracle conception of the virgin Mary.

Without waking out the faith cycle in their lives they would have missed this wonderful miracle by El Shadday.



"Sarah said, 'God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.' (Gen21:6; John 16:21)