

TACOMA BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN

MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

“THE FAITH OF SARAH”

HEBREWS 11

to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

Delayed Fulfillment

**THE INTRODUCTION**

IRONY

CAUTION

DIRECTION

Job 29:17 I broke the fangs of the wicked, And plucked the victim from his teeth.

**THE MESSAGE**

THE MOTHER OF OUR FAITH (NOT MARY)

**Hebrews 11:11-12 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. (12) Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.**

SARAH

Why Here?

Mark 10:6-8 ...from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' (7) 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, (8) and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh.

What Hebrews Says

*Her Attitude*

Genesis 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

*Based On an Exercised Faith*

She Was Not Alone

Genesis 17:15-17 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." (17) Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born

Genesis 18:1-2a, 8-14 And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. (2) He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. (8) Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. (9) They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." (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. (11) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. (12) So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" (13) The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' (14) Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

The Magnitude of the Promise

Genesis 21:1-3 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. (3) Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.

An Aside

*In the House of Abimelech*

Genesis 20:18 For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

*God and the Issues of Life*

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Acts 17:24-25 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, (25) nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

SARAH LAUGHED

**she considered (judged) him faithful (reliable) who had promised.**

## Comparing Scripture with Scripture

*Her laughing, ...is not remembered, but her victory over her disbelief is commended. D. DICKSON*

### Strengthened by the Word

Genesis 18:13-14 The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' (14) **Is anything too hard for the LORD?** At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

*But being awakened by that reproof, and receiving a fuller evidence that it was the Lord which spoke to her, she recovered herself, and rested by faith in his power and truth. J. OWEN*

Romans 4:18-21 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." (19) He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. (20) No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, (21) fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

### THE EXTENT OF THE PROMISE & HER FAITH

#### The Promise

Genesis 17:15-16 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."

#### The Faith

##### *Its General Character*

*True faith then is that which hears God speaking and rests on his promise. J. CALVIN*

Luke 1:45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

##### *The Depth of Her Faith*

*' she believed,' which is true ; but there is more in this word than a naked assent ; a determinate resolution of the*

*mind and judgment, on a due consideration of the evidence given for its assent unto any truth. J/ OWEN*

## CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

### MEN AND WOMEN

Proverbs 6:20-22 My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. (21) Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. (22) When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you.

### MOTHERS OF FAITH

1 Peter 3:4-6 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. (5) For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, (6) as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

*She that gives to God the glory of faithfulness, shall receive for a reward the full performance. D. DICKSON*

Matthew 6:31-33 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' (32) For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. (33) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:8 ...for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

### A FAITHFUL WITNESS

Psalms 28:7-8 The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. (8) The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

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