

1. Some scholars have pointed out a **parallel** between the promises and mandates God made to Abram and the three-fold promises and mandates He made to Adam and Eve: He gave them a fruitful land (Eden), bid them multiply, and gave them dominion over nature. Some scholars see a sort of **reboot** in this call to Abram: how are those themes echoed in God's promises and mandates to Abram?
2. The so-called prosperity "gospel" (which is no gospel at all) **misreads** texts like these to say that God's sole intention is to make His people prosperous. What is wrong with reading this text that way?

[illegible]

- 1. Abram's name means "father of many," but as he hears these promises from God, his wife Sarai is barren, and they are well past child-bearing years.**

- 2. Paul will later cite Abraham as the spiritual father of all** who put their faith in Christ (Gal 3:7-9), and the Scripture will further stipulate that Abraham's right standing before God lay in his trust in the promises of God: "Abraham believed God, and it [that is, his trust in God] was credited to him for righteousness" (Gen 15:6; Rom 4:3). But if you read Abraham's story, it is full of spiritual setbacks, moments when he panicked and resorted to his own devices rather than trusting in God's promises. Many Christians can see their own spiritual journey mirrored in Abraham's.

- How has God called you to take great risks of obedience?
- How have you faltered in your trusting obedience, sometimes trusting and obeying and other times failing to trust and obey?
- How has God – as He did with Abraham – proven Himself faithful even when you were unfaithful?