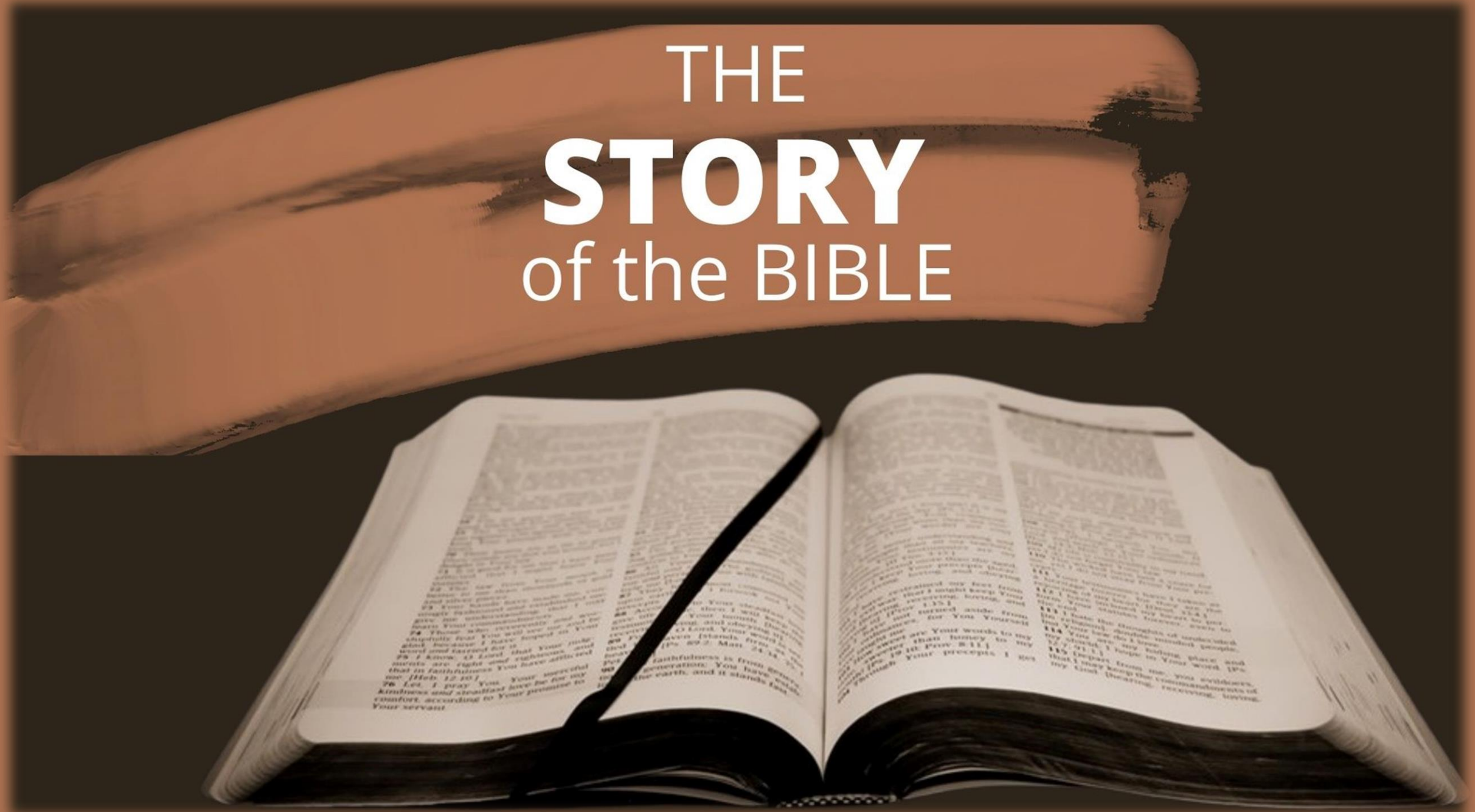
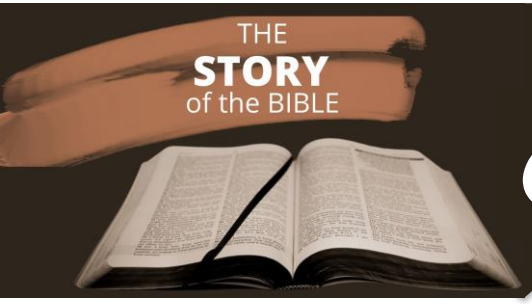
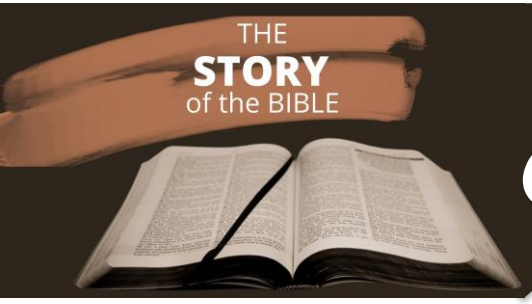

THE
STORY
of the BIBLE

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.



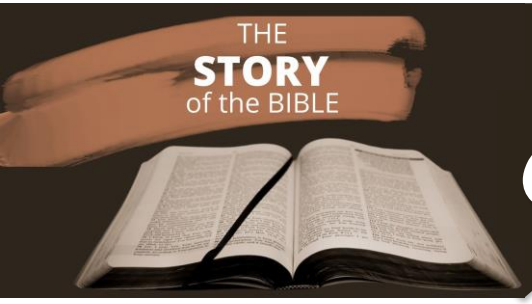
Genesis 21:1–7 (NIV)

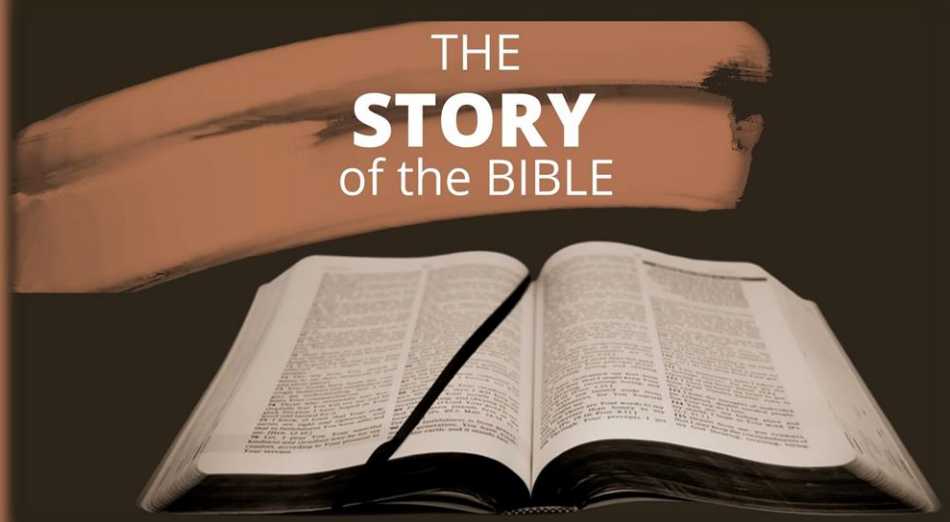
When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.”



Genesis 21:1–7 (NIV)

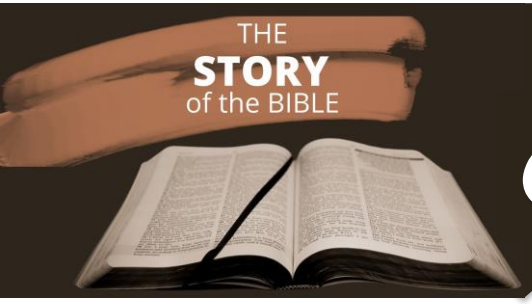
And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”





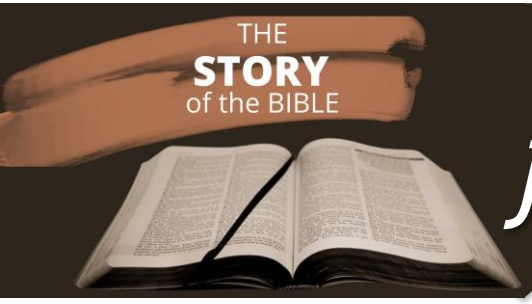
❖God tests Abraham

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”



Genesis 22:1–10 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

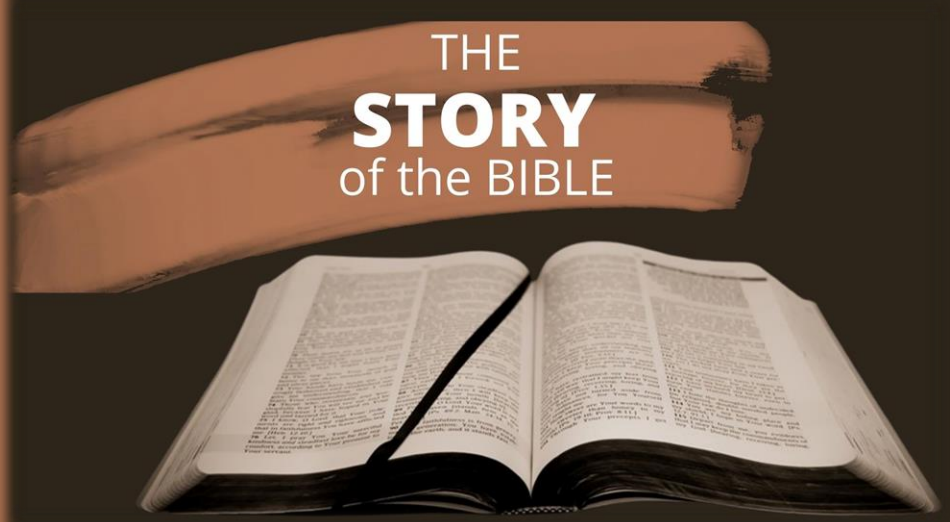


James 1:2–4 (NIV)

The reality is that there are some things we will never know about God, or ourselves, until we are tested. Adversity builds character. If we'd never had a problem, we'd never know what faith in God can do.

Difficulties in life are the great testing ground. What will you do when life gets hard? Will you turn to God, or from God?

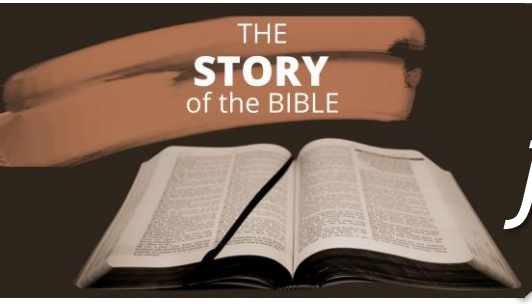
Abraham turned to God even when it could cost that which was most precious to him.



- God tests Abraham

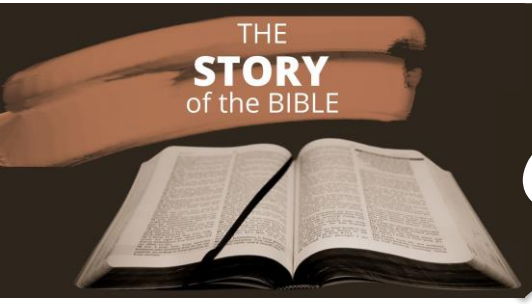
❖Obedience is the test of faith

“If you love me, keep my commands.



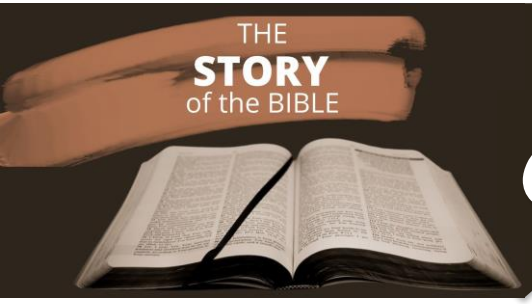
John 14:15 (NIV)

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.



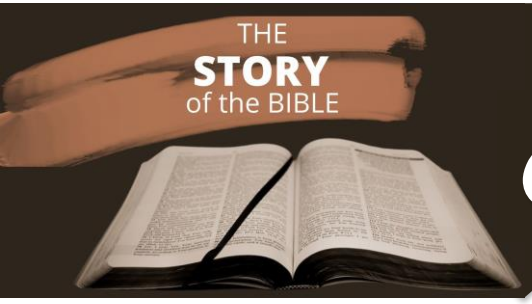
Genesis 22:1–10 (NIV)

He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,

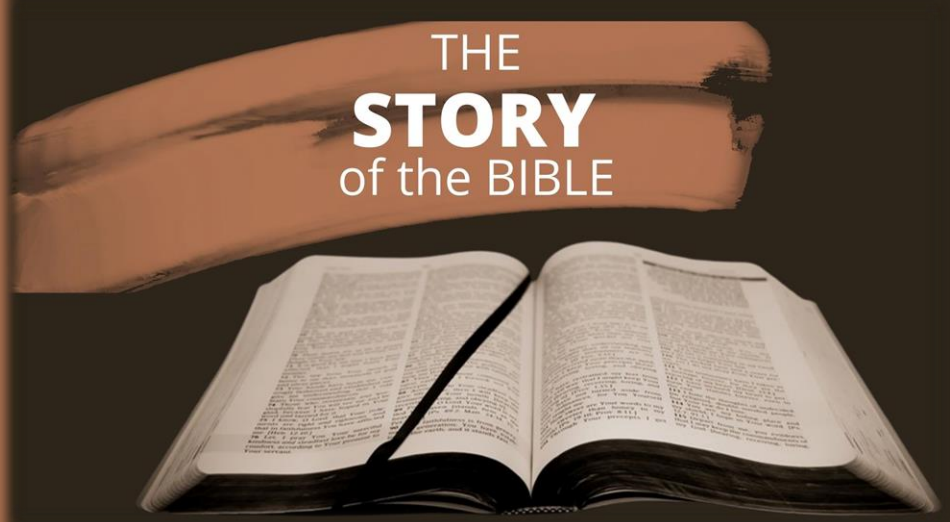


Genesis 22:1–10 (NIV)

Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”



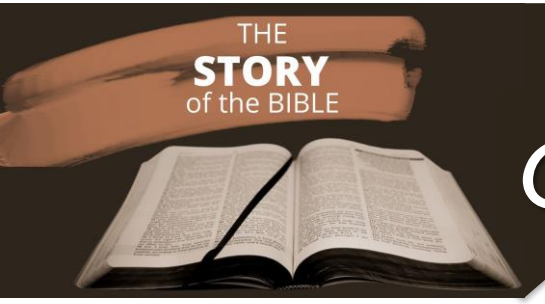
Genesis 22:1–10 (NIV)



- God tests Abraham
- Obedience is the test of faith

❖How could Abraham do something like this?

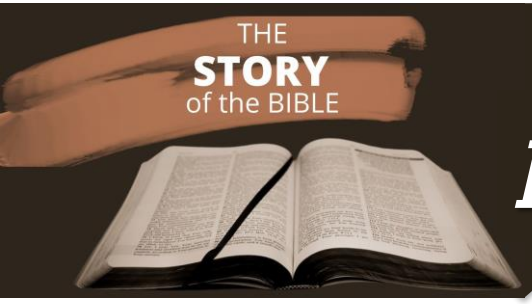
And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.



Genesis 22:1–10 (NIV)

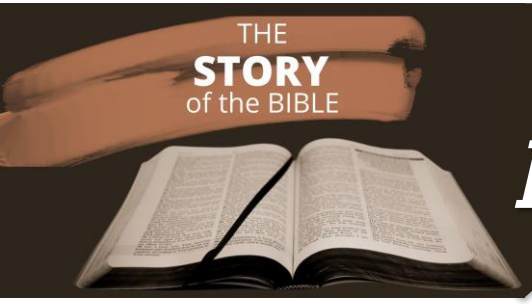
Remembering what God has done makes it easier to believe what God can do.

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”



Hebrews 11:17–19 (NIV)

Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

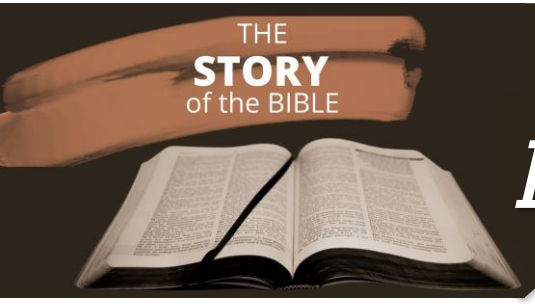


Hebrews 11:17–19 (NIV)

Abraham believed that God would keep His promises.

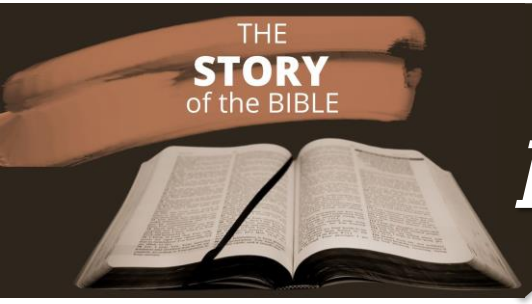
You need to believe that too!

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”



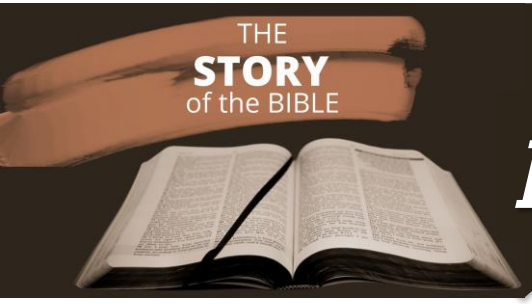
Romans 4:18 (NIV)

Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.



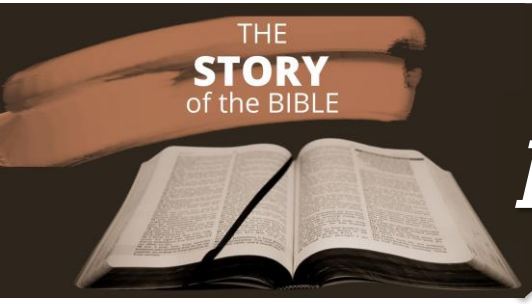
Romans 4:19 (NIV)

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

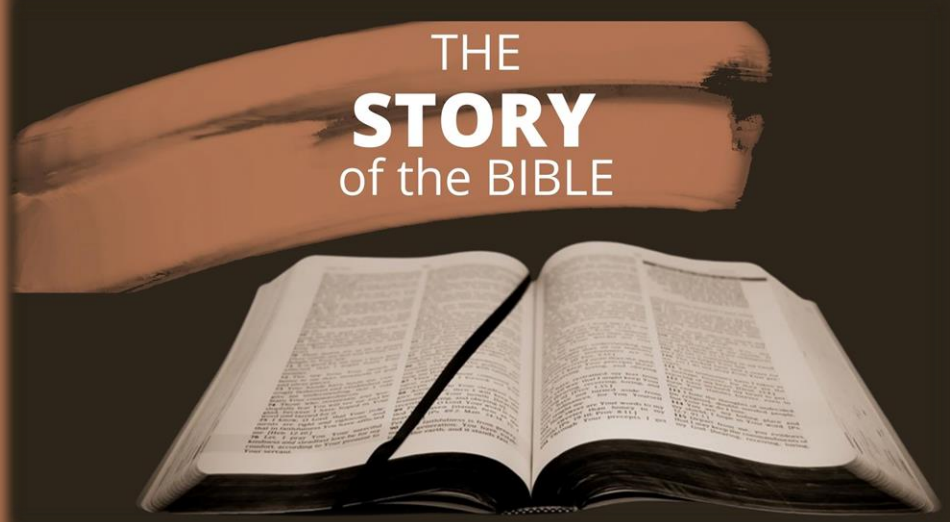


Romans 4:20 (NIV)

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.



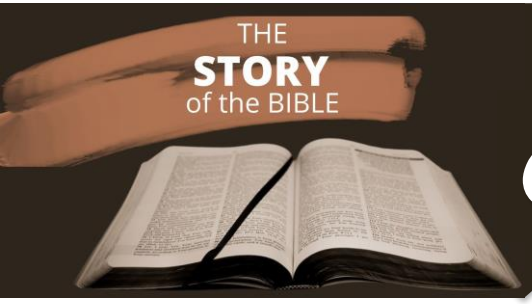
Romans 10:17 (NIV)



- God tests Abraham
- Obedience is the test of faith
- How could Abraham do something like this?

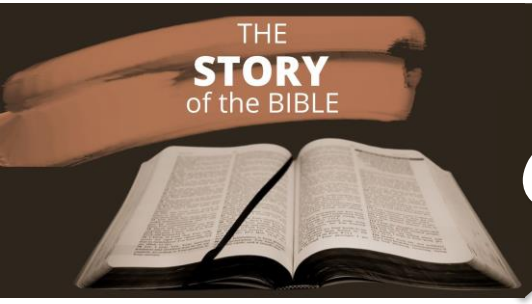
❖God keeps His promises

But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”



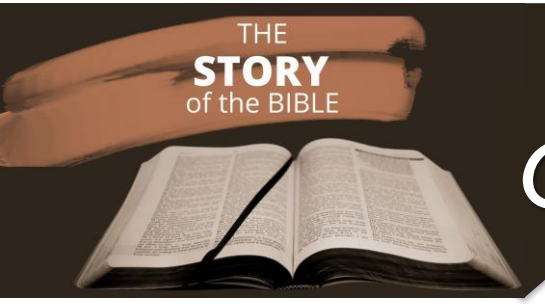
Genesis 22:11–18 (NIV)

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.



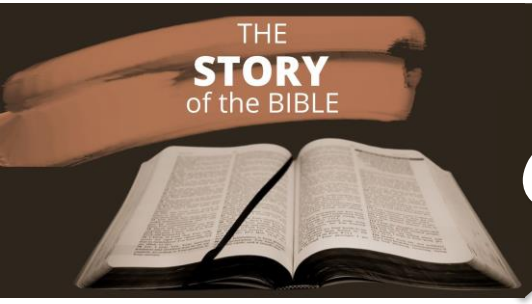
Genesis 22:11–18 (NIV)

So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”



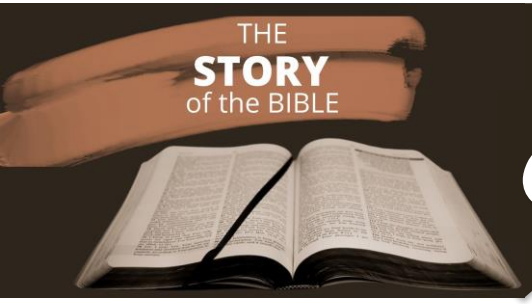
Genesis 22:11–18 (NIV)

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

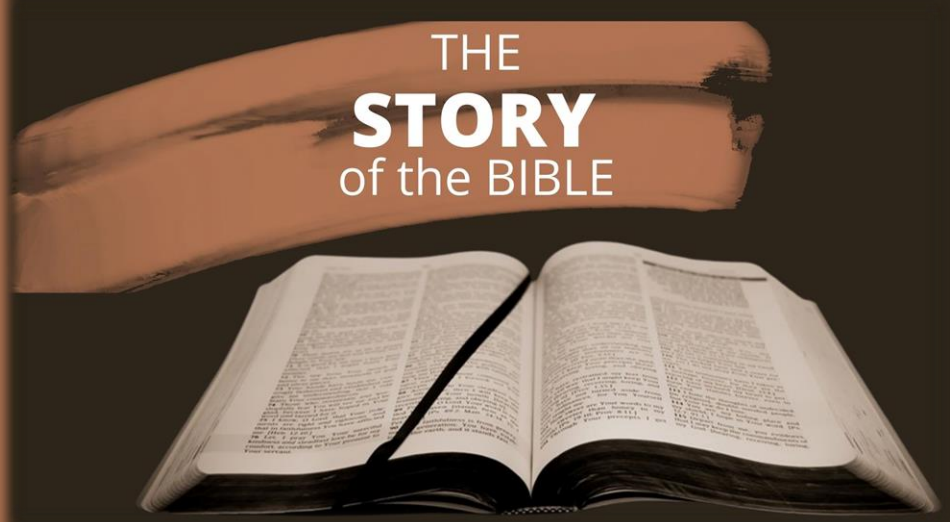


Genesis 22:11–18 (NIV)

I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."



Genesis 22:11–18 (NIV)



- God tests Abraham
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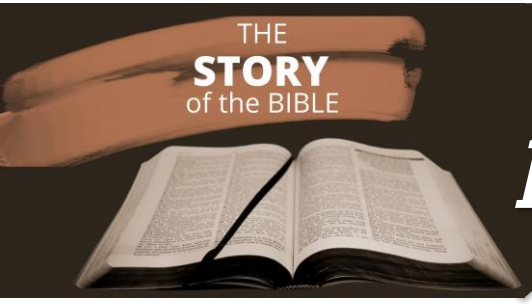
- God keeps His promises

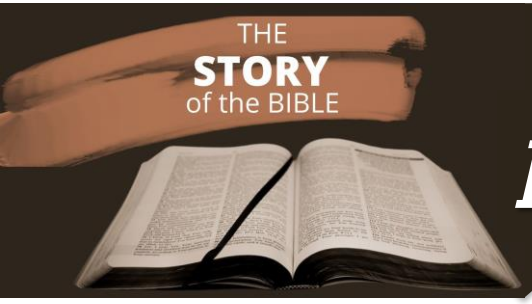
❖Abraham was made righteous because of what he believed

Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way.



Romans 4:1–3 (NLT)

For the Scriptures tell us, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.”

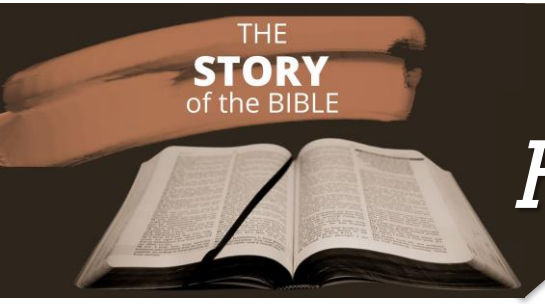


Romans 4:1–3 (NLT)

Christianity is not about your ability to do everything right.

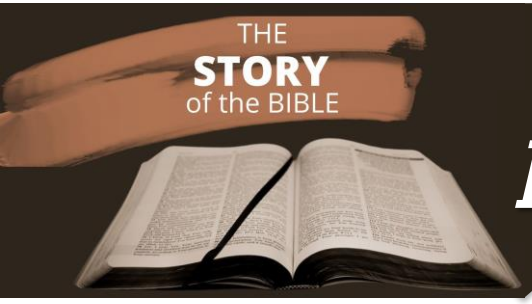
Christianity is about your willingness to believe that God can do what He promised.

When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned.



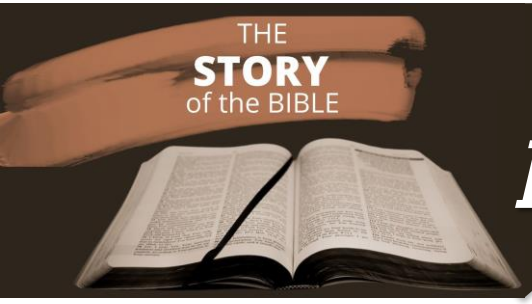
Romans 4:1–3 (NLT)

But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

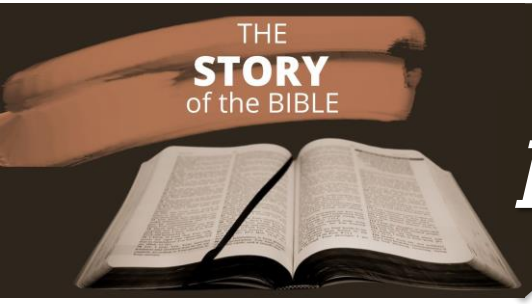


Romans 4:1–3 (NLT)

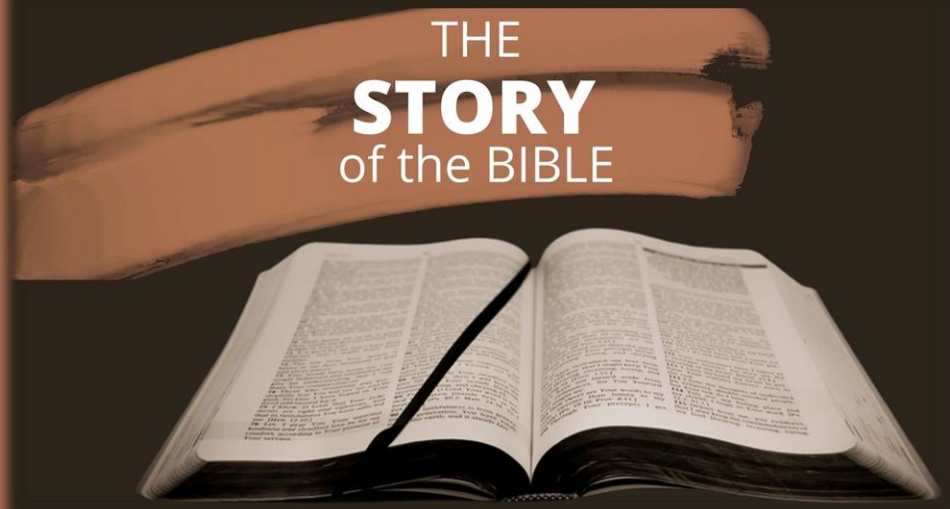
David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”



Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.”



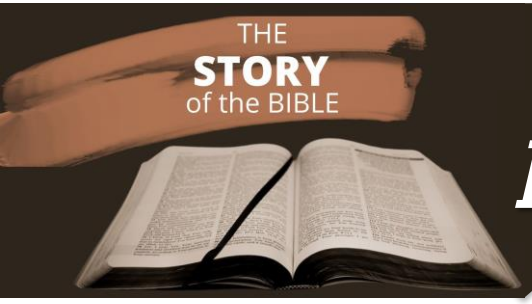
Romans 4:8 (NKJV)



- God tests Abraham
- Obedience is the test of faith
- How could Abraham do something like this?
- God keeps His promises
- Abraham was made righteous because of what he believed

❖This is not just about Abraham. It is about you.

And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead



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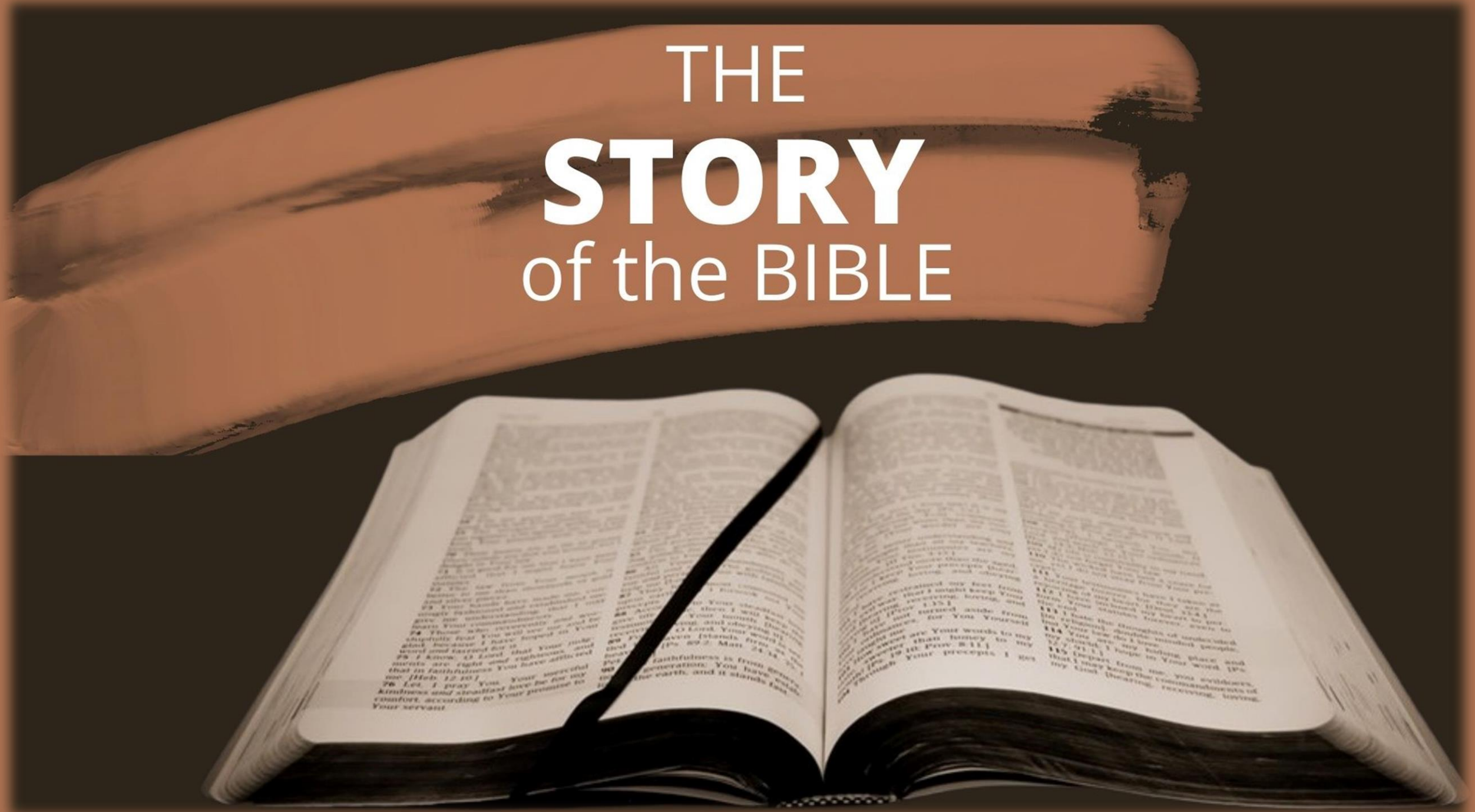
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