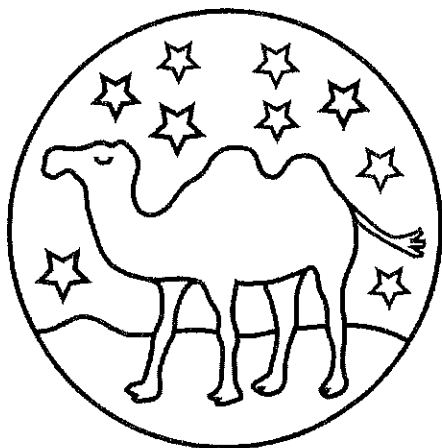


## December 4: Abraham the Patriarch and Sarah his wife



Abram was born about ten generations after Noah lived. God told Abram to leave his country and relatives and go to a new land. God promised to make of him a great nation, make his name great, and bless him. When Abram was 99 years old, God gave Abram the new name of Abraham, which means "a father of many nations." God made a new covenant with Abraham. God also renamed his wife from Sarai to Sarah. God told Abraham that Sarah would have their firstborn son even though she was too old to have children. Not long

afterwards some angels visited Abraham and told him that his son would be born by the next year. Sarah overheard this and laughed because she was about 90 years old and too old to have a baby. The angel asked Abraham why Sarah laughed because nothing is too hard for God to do. Sarah was frightened and denied laughing, even though she did laugh.



"The Vision of the Lord Directing Abram to Count the Stars", Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, 1860



**Genesis 12:1-5, 7.** <sup>1</sup> Now Yahweh said to Abram, "Leave your country, and your relatives, and your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you." <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as Yahweh had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years

old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother's son, all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they went to go into the land of Canaan. They entered into the land of Canaan.... <sup>7</sup> Yahweh appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your offspring."...

**Genesis 15:5.** Yahweh brought him outside, and said, "Look now toward the sky, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." He said to Abram, "So your offspring will be."...

**Genesis 17:15-16.** <sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. Yes, I will bless her, and she will be a mother of nations. Kings of peoples will come from her."

**Genesis 18:11-15.** <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age. Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup> Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old will I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" <sup>13</sup> Yahweh said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Will I really bear a child when I am old?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for Yahweh? At the set time I will return to you, when the season comes round, and Sarah will have a son." <sup>15</sup> Then Sarah denied it, saying, "I didn't laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."