

## Covenant

A covenant is a solemn promise or an agreement. God made a promise to Abraham and the Israelites to worship only him alone for the land of 'Canaan' and for Abraham to bear a son. Another condition God had was that all Israelite men were required to circumcise themselves (remove the foreskin from their penis). Jewish men circumcise themselves as a symbol of his covenant. In the bible, God says, "You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you."



The picture shows the map of Canaan, the land which God would give to Abraham because of his covenant.

## **The First Covenant**

When Abraham was 99, God commanded, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." He promised to make him the father of a great nation, but was highly unlikely at Abraham's age. God showed his control when Sarah became pregnant at the age of 90, which shows he can control natural things such as birth.

When Abraham's son, Isaac was young, God tested Abraham's belief in him by ordering him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham didn't argue or protest, and was prepared to sacrifice his own son as part of the covenant. Just as Abraham was about to kill Isaac, God sent down an angel to stop him, which proved he was a strong believer of God.

