

# Introduction

1983 was the most amazing year in our lives. Cathy & I had met in Cliff College in 1980. We fell in love the next year, got engaged on the last college day in 1982 and married on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1983.



Two completely different lives becoming one.

## **Jeremiah 29:11**

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

## **Abraham**

Genesis 17:5 (NKJV) No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

Genesis 17:15 (NKJV) Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

After God made/cut covenant with Abraham, He changed both Abram and Sarai’s names. This is very important for two reasons:

### **1. God was changing their identities.**

Abram means ‘high or exalted father’ and God changed it to Abraham, meaning ‘father of a great multitude’. Sarai means ‘princess’ and God changed it to Sarah, which means ‘princess of many’.

Some suggest that there is a sense of striving and contention in the name Sarai and that God changes it to Sarah meaning princess of many; that her line would be by faith and not self-manufactured as in Ishmael.

Sarah was barren, unable to have children. Her best laid plans had ended up a disaster as Hagar turned against her.

When God changed their names, He was enlarging Abraham's vision and expectancy. At the same time, God did something really special and deep inside Sarah, for He changed her from a woman who strived into a princess.

## **2. God was giving them part of His own Name in an exchange of names.**

When a couple gets married today, it is the custom for the bride to take her bridegroom's last name. This is part of the covenant ritual. When God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah, He was inserting part of His own Name into their names.

The Hebrew word for Lord used in verses one, six, and seven of Genesis 15 is Jehovah or Yahweh in English. Actually the Hebrew for Jehovah has no vowels and looks like this: JHVH. Also, there is no "J" or 'W' sound in Hebrew either so YHVH is the more correct word to use in English.

In changing Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah, an "H" was inserted by God into both names. When He changed their names, God put the predominant letter of His own Name into both Abraham and Sarah's names.

Then, to complete the exchange of names, God took Abraham's name. From that point on He was no longer only called God, or the Lord. Instead, He was called "the God of Abraham". After the next generation accepted the covenant He was known as "the God of Abraham and Isaac". After Jacob entered into the covenant with God He became known as "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob".

Hebrews 11:16b (Amplified Bible) God is not ashamed to be called their God [even to be surnamed their God--the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob], for He has prepared a city for them.