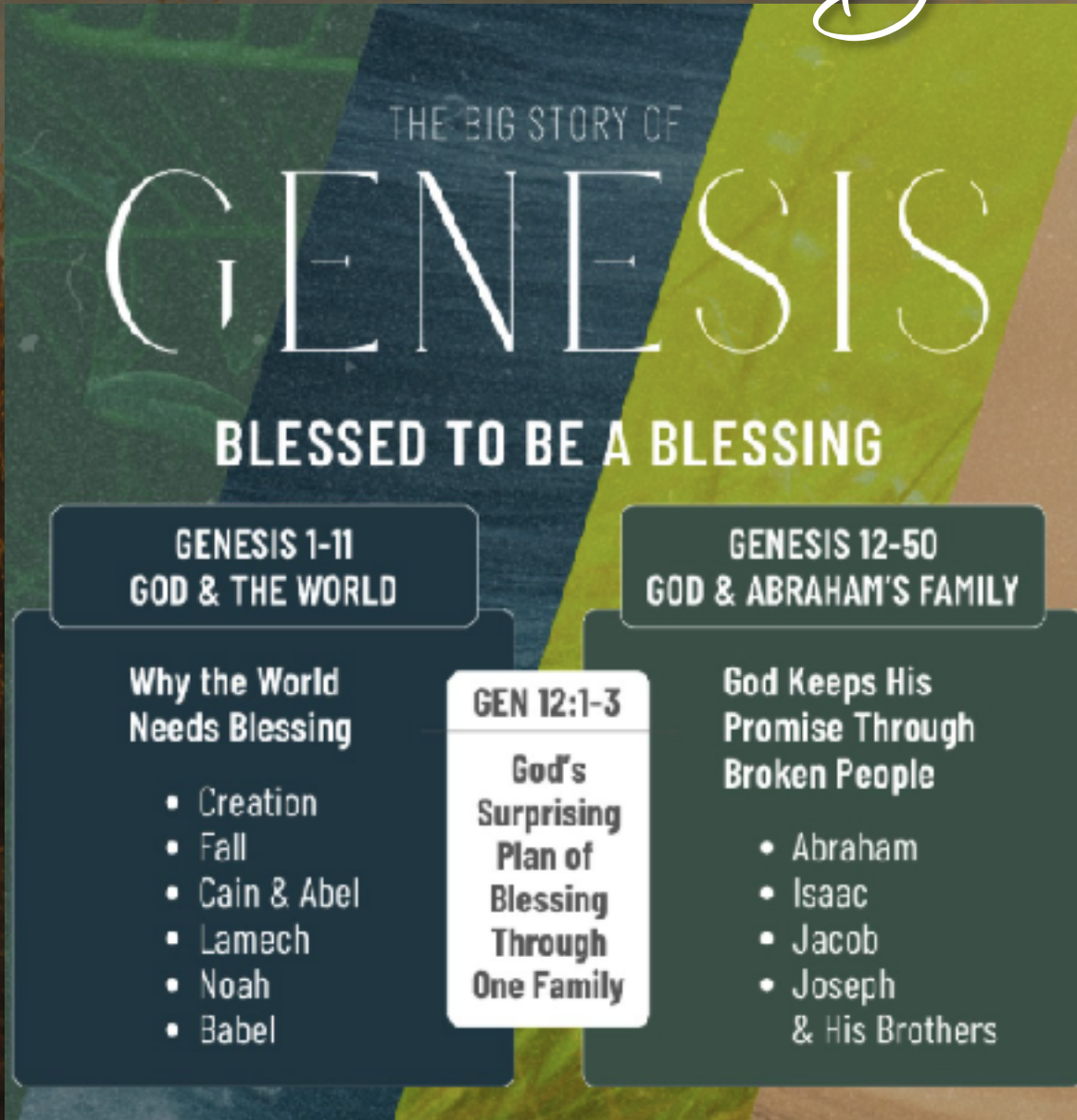


# THE GOD WHO *Sees Me!*



# Barrenness



## FAMILY SURVIVAL AND INHERITANCE

Continuation of the family line, inheritance, and care in old age.

## SOCIAL HONOUR AND STATUS

The ability to bear children was tied to social honour and identity. Barrenness carried shame or the perception that something was wrong spiritually, socially, or physically.

## SECURITY WITHIN MARRIAGE

Children, especially sons, strengthened a woman's place and protection within the household. A barren wife could fear replacement, marginalization, or loss of influence.

## THE COVENANT PROMISE

In Sarai's case, the stakes were even higher because God had promised Abram descendants and a great nation. Her barrenness became the central obstacle to the covenant story.

## A CRISIS OF TRUST

Genesis presents barrenness not only as a biological issue but as a theological tension: "Will God actually do what He promised?"

# Promises



Not *one* of all the LORD's  
good promises to Israel  
failed; *every one* was fulfilled.

**JOSHUA 21:45**

# Hagar

## HAGAR

Hagar's name means,

*“stranger, immigrant, forsaken, flight”*

She was likely a captive woman given to Sarai by Pharaoh while in Egypt.

The apocryphal book of Jasher says she was, *“not deficient in good ways”*

Most servants were devalued - treated as objects, less than human...



# The God who Hears Me



The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. The angel said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?”

“I’m running away from my mistress, Sarai...”

The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority.” Then he added, “I will give you more descendants than you can count.”

And the angel also said, “You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means ‘God hears’), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress.

# The God who Sees Me

El Roi  
the God

A watercolor illustration featuring a sun with yellow and orange rays emanating from behind the text. Below the text, there is a blue silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, looking upwards.

WHO SEES ME

The first person in Scripture to name God is **Hagar**.

A woman.  
Single mother.  
Egyptian slave.

She said— "I have seen  
'the one who sees me.'"

*God has a way of exalting  
the vulnerable.*

— Rich Villodas