

# Genesis 24:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

## Analysis

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**And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things....** This passage is part of the Abrahamic narratives which shift from universal human history to God's particular covenant people. The Abraham cycle (Genesis 12-25) demonstrates God's sovereign election, covenant faithfulness, and the development of faith through testing and promise fulfillment.

Central themes include God's unconditional covenant promises (land, descendants, blessing to nations), the call to faith and obedience, the testing of faith through delays and impossibilities, the contrast between divine promises and human schemes, and God's gracious persistence despite human failures. Abraham emerges as the father of faith whose trust in God's promises becomes the model for all believers (Romans 4, Galatians 3, Hebrews 11).

Theologically, these narratives establish:

1. salvation by grace through faith rather than works
2. covenant as God's gracious initiative binding Himself to His people
3. the necessity of patient trust when promises seem impossible
4. the consequences of attempting to fulfill God's promises through human effort
5. the pattern of divine testing producing mature faith.

The Abraham cycle foreshadows Christ as the ultimate seed through whom blessing extends to all nations (Galatians 3:16).

## Historical Context

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The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen our understanding of God's character and His relationship with creation?
2. What specific changes in thinking or behavior does this verse call us to make?
3. What connections can we trace from this verse to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?

## Interlinear Text

אַבְרָהָם	אֵלֶּא	בְּאֵלֶּא	בְּמִימָּנָה	יְהִי הָרָא	בְּכָל	אַתָּה
<b>Abraham</b>	<b>was old</b>	<b>and well stricken</b>	<b>in age</b>	<b>and the LORD</b>	<b>had blessed</b>	H853
H85	H2204	H935	H3117	H3068	H1288	

## Additional Cross-References

**Galatians 3:9** (Blessing): So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

**Proverbs 10:22** (Blessing): The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

**Matthew 6:33** (Parallel theme): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Genesis 13:2** (Parallel theme): And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

**Ephesians 1:3** (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

**Genesis 12:2** (Blessing): And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

**Genesis 18:11** (References Abraham): Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

**Isaiah 51:2** (Blessing): Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

**1 Timothy 4:8** (Parallel theme): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

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