

BARREN, BARRENNESS, UNFRUITFUL

Sarai was **barren**. She didn't have any children.

- **Genesis 11:30:** "But Sarai was barren; she had no child."

Rebekah was **barren**. She didn't have any children.

- **Genesis 25:21:** "And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived."

At the beginning of Jacob's marriage to Rachel, she was **barren**.

- **Genesis 29:31:** "And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren."

At the beginning of Jacob's marriage to Leah, she was *not* **barren**.

- **Genesis 29:31:** "And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren."

God told the Israelites that if they obeyed the Mosaic Law then neither their people nor animals would be **barren** (unable to have children).

- **Exodus 23:24-26:** "Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he

shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil."

God has the ability to cause trees to yield their fruit, or be **barren**.

- **Leviticus 26:4:** "Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit."

God can withhold children from people and make them **barren**. He can also give people children.

- **Deuteronomy 7:14:** "Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle."

The wife of Manoah (Samson's mother) was **barren**. She didn't have any children.

- **Judges 13:2:** "And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not."

There's a recurring theme in the Bible of God giving children to people who are **barren**, and then using those children in a special way. (Sarah was barren, and then God gave her Isaac. Rebekah was barren, and then God gave her Jacob. Manoah was barren, and then God gave her Samson.)

- **Judges 13:3:** "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto

the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son."

Hannah said the one who had been **barren** had given birth to seven children. (This may be a reference to Hannah, who desperately wanted a child and then God gave her Samson. However, after Hannah said this she ultimately had six children, not seven.)

- **1 Samuel 2:5:** "They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble."

When Hiram saw the 20 cities that Solomon gave to him, he wasn't pleased with them. (It seems these cities were near Hiram's territory. However, they were in a rocky and mountainous area, which meant they were **barren**. What Hiram wanted was food for his household, and food couldn't grow in that area.)

- **1 Kings 9:12:** "And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him; and they pleased him not."

The men of Jericho told Elisha that the ground around Jericho was **barren**.

- **2 Kings 2:19:** "And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren."

After Elisha cast salt into the spring of waters that was near Jericho, he said that God proclaimed that those waters would no longer make the land **barren**.

- **2 Kings 2:21:** "And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land."

God said that wild donkeys lived in **barren** lands.

- **Job 39:5-6:** "Who hath sent out the wild ass free? or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass? Whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings."

There are times when God turns a fruitful land into **barrenness** because of the wickedness of those who live there.

- **Psalms 107:34:** "A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein."

God makes the **barren** women keep house. (In other words, there are times when God gives children to women who have no children.)

- **Psalms 113:9:** "He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD."

A prince is ruined when his kingdom is **barren** of people.

- **Proverbs 14:28:** "In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince."

The **barren** womb is never satisfied.

- Proverbs 30:15-16: "The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough."

The area where dragons lived was parched, dry, and **barren**.

- **Isaiah 35:7:** "And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes."

God commanded Israel to sing, even though Israel was **barren**. (Although God was going to punish the Israelites for their sin, one day He would greatly bless and multiply them.)

- **Isaiah 54:1:** "Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD."

God was going to make Tyrus like the top of a rock (utterly **barren**).

- **Ezekiel 26:3, 14:** "Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up. ... And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the LORD have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD."

In response to the prayers of the priests, God will drive the northern army away into a distant and **barren** land. The face of the army will be toward the eastern sea, and the rear of the army will be toward the utmost sea. (This seems to be talking about a battle that will take place in the tribulation era.)

- **Joel 2:17-18, 20:** "Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people. ... But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things."

In the millennium, the rivers of Judah will be full of water. They won't be **barren** or dry.

- **Joel 3:18:** "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with

waters, and a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim."

Jesus compared riches to thorns. Wealth can choke the Word of God and make us **unfruitful**.

- **Matthew 13:22:** "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."

The reason Zacharias and Elisabeth didn't have children was because **Elisabeth** was barren. The fault was with Elisabeth, not with Zachariah.

- **Luke 1:7:** "And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years."

The birth of John the Baptist was an answer to prayer. His parents were **barren** and had been praying for a child.

- **Luke 1:13:** "But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."

The angel Gabriel told Mary that Elisabeth had been called **barren**, but now she was pregnant with a son.

- **Luke 1:36:** "And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren."

When Abraham believed God's promise that he would have a son, Sarah was far too old to have children. Sarah was **barren**, and yet Abraham believed God anyway.

- **Romans 4:19:** "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:"

Sin is **unfruitful** in God's sight. It doesn't bear the type of fruit that the Lord wants to see.

- **Ephesians 5:11:** "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Paul was very concerned about Christians being **unfruitful**. He kept exhorting people to diligently pursue good works and to bear fruit.

- **Titus 3:14:** "And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful."