

Genesis 17

The Sign of the Covenant

History of Abram so far...

**12. Lord calls Abram 75 to go,
and that He will bless him and
Abram will be a blessing.
Abram fails to protect his wife/
God intervenes**

**13. Abram gives Lot land, God
gives Him all the land.**

14. Abram saves Lot. Melchizedek
blesses Him by the God Most High

15. God Reveals Himself in a
vision as Abram's shield and
reward. God promises an
inheritance. Abraham questions
how he can know. The Lord made
a covenant.

16. Sarai and Hagar, Sarai blames
Abram, Hagar runs, God sees
Hagar and calls her to return.

17:1-8 El Shaddai's Covenant

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, **2** that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”

3a Then Abram fell on his face.

- ❖ **El Shaddai = God Almighty**
 - ❖ **Call to be Blameless**
 - ❖ **Abram fell on his face**
- 

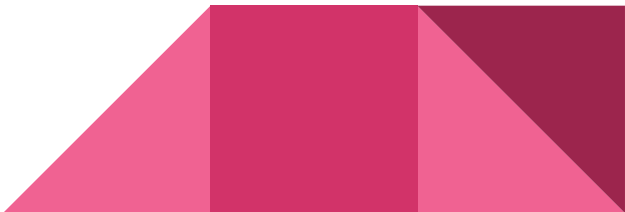
17:3b-6 Abraham

And God said to him, **4**“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. **5** No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. **6** I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.

- ❖ **Renaming Abraham,**
 - ❖ **Exalted father to father of a multitude of nations**
- 

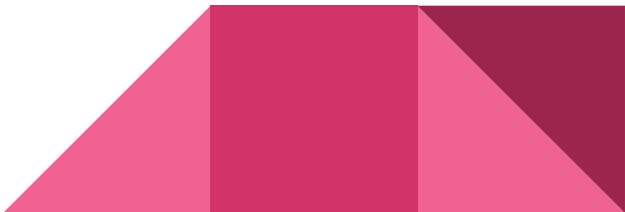
17:7-8 An Everlasting Covenant

7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. **8** And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

- ❖ **I will 12X**
 - ❖ **My Covenant 9X**
 - ❖ **Offspring?**
- 

17:9-14 Sign of the Covenant

9 And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. **10** This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. **11** You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

- ❖ **Abraham called to keep God’s covenant**
 - ❖ **Circumcision as a sign**
 - ❖ **But why?**
- 

17:12-13 Logistics

He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, **13** both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.

❖ **All under your authority**

❖ **Joshua 24:15**



17:14 How serious?

14 Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

Exodus 4:24-26 At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!” So he let him alone. It was then that she said, “A bridegroom of blood,” because of the circumcision.

❖ **Very serious**

❖ **Pause for leadership**



17:15-21 Covenant through Isaac

And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. **16** I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” **17** Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

❖ **Sarah renamed**


❖ **Abraham laughed**



17:18-21


18 And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” **19** God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. **21** But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

- ❖ **Not Hagar and Ishmael, but through Sarah and Isaac**
 - ❖ **God is faithful**
 - ❖ **Ishmael blessed but not chosen**
- 

17:22-27 Abraham's Response: Instant Obedience

22 When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. **23** Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. **24** Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. **25** And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. **26** That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. **27** And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.



The Benediction Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Summary

1. **Abraham's Immediate obedience.**
2. **God's way may not be our own.**
3. **God is Faithful.**
4. **God is serious.**
5. **The sign of the covenant.**
6. **Only God can do what He does.**
7. **The Lord God Almighty.**

Application

1. How will we respond to the Lord's Lead?
 2. Will we continue to trust God in all things?
 3. Take comfort in God's faithfulness and may it spur you on to worship.
 4. Is God convicting you of sin in your life?
 5. We have the fulfillment in Christ.
 6. Are you in Him? (John 15:5)
 7. Let us Worship.
-