

## Genesis 17 New American Standard Bible

### Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision

Now 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. <sup>2</sup>I will make My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly.”

<sup>3</sup>Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, <sup>4</sup>“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall you be named Abram, But your name shall be <sup>[e]</sup>Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

<sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. <sup>8</sup>And I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land where you live as a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

<sup>9</sup>God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. <sup>10</sup>This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup>And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.

<sup>12</sup>And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, including a slave who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. <sup>13</sup>A slave who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall certainly be circumcised; so My covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting covenant. <sup>14</sup>But as for an uncircumcised male, one who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

<sup>15</sup>Then God said to Abraham, “As for your wife Sarai, you shall not call her by the name Sarai, but <sup>l</sup>Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.” <sup>17</sup>Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man a hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, give birth to a child?”

<sup>18</sup> And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You!” <sup>19</sup> But God said, “No, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. <sup>20</sup> As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and make him fruitful and multiply him exceedingly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation.

<sup>21</sup> But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.”<sup>22</sup> When He finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.<sup>23</sup> Then Abraham took his son Ishmael, and all the slaves who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s household, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin on this very same day, as God had said to him. <sup>24</sup> Now Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin

<sup>25</sup> And his son Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. <sup>26</sup> On this very same day Abraham was circumcised, as well as his son Ishmael. <sup>27</sup> And all the men of his household, those who were born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

**We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

**Pauls Observations and insights**

1. Abraham was ninety-nine years old and Sarah was ninety when the Lord appeared to him and said.
2. ‘I am the God Almighty, walk before Me and be blameless.’
3. What would that of meant to Abraham?
4. Are you a fruitful Christian?
5. God said ‘I will establish my covenant with you’ - He never had to!
6. ‘I will multiply you’ - Abraham was overwhelmed and fell to the floor.
7. God reveals His promises to Abraham, He says ‘I will be with you and you will be a Father of nations.’
8. God changes Abram’s name to Abraham.
9. ‘I have made you a father of nations and I will make you fruitful’.
10. God makes reference to His first covenant with Abraham.
11. How can God be God to Abraham and his descendants?
12. The promise of the land is given by God for Abraham and Sarah. The privilege of the inheritance is that God will be with Israel and be Israel’s God.
13. The condition of the covenant is to be obedient. If you are obedient you will be blessed.
14. The mark of the covenant for Israel was circumcision for all males.

15. What has gone wrong with our world and what needs to be done to put it right?
16. Rescue is redemption. This covenant is the agreement to rescue mankind.
17. Why was it necessary for circumcision to take place?
18. Why do it on the eighth day?
19. Everything that belongs to Abraham had to be circumcised, it was an everlasting covenant.
20. In these days has God moved on from His people Israel and disregarded His promises to them?
21. To not be circumcised is to stop outside of the promises and be cut off from God.
22. God confirms He will give Abraham a son by Sarah, even though he is old. He declares 'kings will come from Sarah'. Why did Sarah laugh?
23. Was Abraham doubting what God had just said to him? Was he still connecting Ishmael to the promises God had made?
24. So God makes it very clear to Abraham 'No, it is Sarah who will give you a son and you will name him Isaac.'
25. Ishmael receives his own blessing, as a son of Abraham he will be fruitful and multiply and be the father of nations.
26. God says 'he will be the father of twelve princes, but not kings.'
27. He will not be a part of the covenant that God was making with Abraham.
28. God declares 'Isaac will come within one year'.
29. Abraham is obedient and acts upon God's word and circumcises all of the males in the household.
30. Obedience was the key to success, even Abraham was circumcised.