

“Covenant of Flesh”  
Genesis 17

Review: Q. How old was Abram when Ishmael was born?

A.

v. 1 Q. How old is he when God appears to him again?

A.

Q. What does the LORD say?

A.

1. The first thing He does is to \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ as God Almighty” – *El Shaddai* (one who brings close to the \_\_\_\_\_ or God who nourishes.)

Modern translators take a variant of this word which means “\_\_\_\_\_” and make it mean “God of power or \_\_\_\_\_.” It is a more sanitized version for Western acceptability.

The Septuagint (LXX), the Greek translation of the Hebrew, translates this as “*pantokrator*” = “one who has his \_\_\_\_\_ on everything.”

2.

Q. What does this mean?

A. Live \_\_\_\_\_ with the knowledge that we have of God and his will.

3.

Q. What does this mean? Cp. 6:9

A. Not \_\_\_\_\_ but to the best of our ability, not \_\_\_\_\_ of any wrongdoing/sin.

v. 2 Q. What does the LORD promise him?

Review chapters 12, 13, 15 (esp. vv. 17-18)

A.

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ Abram of the \_\_\_\_\_ that he made with him twenty-five years earlier. He had not forgotten.

2. God \_\_\_\_\_ him of the promised blessing of \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 3a Q. What was Abram's response to God's presence and promise?

A.

vv. 3b-4 Q. What does God reaffirm?

A. God reaffirms His \_\_\_\_\_ covenant with Abram and the fact that he will be the \_\_\_\_\_ of many nations (ethnic groups).

v. 5 Q. What does God do?

Notice the verb tense in English: Perfect active. God has \_\_\_\_\_ done something that will be found in the present and future.

A. God changed more than his \_\_\_\_\_; God changed his \_\_\_\_\_ to match up with His future promise.

Note: This must have added to \_\_\_\_\_ but also the mystery of God's promise of descendants because it wasn't just an extension of his own family but an extension to the creation of nations – and he, having \_\_\_\_\_ children...yet.

Example: When a woman gets married, she (generally) takes on the last \_\_\_\_\_ of her husband. Her name has changed but so has her \_\_\_\_\_. Instead of...Jane Doe...she is Jane Buck. But the greater change is that she has left the \_\_\_\_\_ of "single" to "married." She is now a wife.

Abram, " \_\_\_\_\_ father → Abraham, father of \_\_\_\_\_

v. 6 Q. What does the LORD add?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ lines will come from you, e.g. David, Solomon, Jesus.

v. 7 Q. What type of covenant will this be?

A.  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ covenant

2. \_\_\_\_\_ covenant

Q. Who is this specifically speaking of?

A. Those who would become the nation of \_\_\_\_\_, i.e., Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), and the ten tribes (sons) onward.

v. 8 Q. What does God promise Abraham and how does the audience tie into verse 7?

A.  
1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Canaan (cursed land) is given now to Abraham (promised land).

2. It is an \_\_\_\_\_ possession to Abraham and his descendants.

v. 9. Q. Review 15:17-18. I thought this was a unilateral covenant. How then do I understand this verse?

A. We must understand it in the \_\_\_\_\_ of what is to come – the covenant of \_\_\_\_\_ – which is not part of the covenant (“my”) but rather a visible \_\_\_\_\_ to it. Just as Jesus’ covenant with us demands a visible response, e.g., \_\_\_\_\_ or a type of public confession of \_\_\_\_\_, i.e., “I am a Christian, a follower of Jesus of Nazareth.”

v. 10 Q. What is his part of the covenant?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ male is to carry with him the physical \_\_\_\_\_ of the spiritual “cutting of the covenant” as a \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s unilateral, unconditional...\_\_\_\_\_ covenant.

Read Exodus 4:25-26

Note: God was going to \_\_\_\_\_ Moses for not bringing his own son into \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with Him. His pagan wife ended up doing it for him...and she wasn’t happy about it.

Note: It involved males because they provide the “\_\_\_\_\_” for every generation. And it is tied to the sexual organ to remind a man and a woman of their \_\_\_\_\_ with a holy God and his desire for holy covenant \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Malachi 2:13-15

Note: It was also a reminder for Abraham and his descendants (as well as us) that we are to \_\_\_\_\_ the flesh and depend upon \_\_\_\_\_ for our blessings. ["circumcision" is the cutting away of the foreskin or the loose skin toward the end of the male genitalia]

v. 11 Q. What is it for?

A.

Note: The "you" in this verse is \_\_\_\_\_ – speaking to all males present and to come.

vv. 12-13a Q. What were the rules?

A.

1. It must be done on the \_\_\_\_\_ day after birth.

Note: Eighth day theology = something \_\_\_\_\_ is taking place.

Note: It is interesting to note that the 8<sup>th</sup> day is the medically \_\_\_\_\_ time to do this for the safety of the baby.

Eight Day examples:

Read Exodus 22:29-30

Read Leviticus 9:1

Read Leviticus 14:10

Read Leviticus 23:36

Read Luke 1:59

Read Philippian 3:5

Read Mark 16:2

2. Every male must go through this procedure: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, free or slave.

v. 13b Q. How is this specifically described?

A. It is a covenant in your \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: As opposed to the New Covenant which is in Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 14 Q. What is the result of not accepting this action?

A. It is a play on words, "cutting off of the \_\_\_\_\_" versus being "cut off from the \_\_\_\_\_ with others and with God."

It means that a person is \_\_\_\_\_ of the covenant blessings giving to Abraham and his descendants.

This is what Paul was speaking about in Romans 9:6 and 10:16.

v. 15 Q. What does God do with Sarai?

A. Remember, as with Abraham, God is not just changing her name but her \_\_\_\_\_.

Sarai, my \_\_\_\_\_ (localized) → Sarah, \_\_\_\_\_ (royal).

v. 16 Q. What does God intend to do for her?

- A.
1. She will be blessed with a \_\_\_\_\_. The cultural \_\_\_\_\_ will be lifted.
  2. She will be blessed, as Abraham, as the mother of \_\_\_\_\_, including \_\_\_\_\_. [Hence, her name change]

vv. 17-18 Q. How did Abraham respond?

A.

1. Abraham fell down in a position of \_\_\_\_\_, but it was a formality and not \_\_\_\_\_. How do we know?
- 2.
3. He did not approach the \_\_\_\_\_ at this point in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ to the flesh by \_\_\_\_\_ the promised blessing to Ishmael.

v. 19 Q. What does God initially do?

A. He \_\_\_\_\_ with Abraham that Ishmael will be blessed.

Q. What does he subsequently do?

A.

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ the plan with Sarah.
2. God gives his son a \_\_\_\_\_ that will remind him of both the joy and \_\_\_\_\_ that he had.
3. The covenant is \_\_\_\_\_ to this child and his descendants as well.

v. 20 Q. What does God intend to do for Ishmael?

A.

1. Ishmael will be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He will be \_\_\_\_\_ and multiply.
3. He will be the \_\_\_\_\_ of twelve rulers.
4. He will develop into a \_\_\_\_\_ nation.

v. 21 Q. What is reaffirmed?

A.

1. God affirms that the covenant promise will come from \_\_\_\_\_ body.
2. God sets an approximate \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 22 Q. What did God do? What does this mean?

A.

1. When God finished speaking with Abraham, He \_\_\_\_\_ up which implies He \_\_\_\_\_. Cp. 11:5
2. It also implies that God took on a \_\_\_\_\_ form as He will do in Genesis 18. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ – a pre-incarnate appearing of Jesus.

v. 23 Q. What did Abraham do?

A. He visibly accepted/\_\_\_\_\_ the covenant God made with him by \_\_\_\_\_ the visible sign on his body of circumcision.

vv. 24-27 Q. Why the repeated information? What is its relevance?

A.

1. To establish that Abraham and Sarah were \_\_\_\_\_ the time of reproducing.
2. To establish Abraham's \_\_\_\_\_ faith and obedience.
3. To establish \_\_\_\_\_ as part of the covenant.



Application Questions:

Q. What is the difficulty of matching our faith with our circumstances?

A.

Q. What is the difficulty of matching our faith with the promises of God?

A.

Q. What answer can we give to the Palestinian accusation that the Jews are occupiers in their land?

A.

Q. Address external form worship in Church.

A.

Q. What is the significance of God giving believers a "new" name in Revelation 2:17 and 3:12?

A.