

“Blameless” • Genesis 16 & 17

Mt. Lassen Community Church • September 7, 2025

Intro • *How was your summer? High points? Low points?*

Big Theme = **Genesis 17:1** • Last week, Abram is RECKONED RIGHTEOUS by FAITH ALONE. This week, God invites Abram to walk before Him and be blameless. Abram is to put his imputed righteousness into practice, living in agreement with how God chooses to see him!

Discuss • *Compare Abram & Sarai in chapter 16 & 17. List the blunders in 16 and the blessings in 17! What does this teach us about God’s GRACE?*

16:1 • Hagar is introduced, who will become a test to Sarai and Abram.

Discuss • *Sarai acquired Hagar as a maid in Egypt. Hagar was part of God’s “grace” package from Egypt (Gen 12:16)—yet she becomes a problem for them. Talk about how the devil loves to sabotage God’s blessings in our lives and bring in temptation.*

Vs 2–4 • There are major problems here:

Vs 4–5 • Hagar causes division between Sarai & Abram

Vs 6 • Sarai’s low point: she “oppresses” Hagar to the point the servant girl flees into a dangerous wilderness

Vs 7–16 • God rescues and restores Hagar. He sees her. And God predicts Ishmael’s character and legacy. The Arab people and Muslims, consider Ishmael their ancestor.

17:1 • Abram challenged to put his imputed righteousness into practice

Vs 2–4 • [Summary] God’s Covenant is restated

Vs 5–6 • God changes Abram’s name to Abraham: from “exalted father” to “father of many”

Vs 7–14 • [Summary] God’s promise of Canaan is repeated & the sign of Circumcision is given

Vs 15 • God changes Sarai’s name to Sarah: from “princess” to “mother of kings”

Vs 16–19 • God promises Sarah will bring forth a child from her own body. Ishmael is not part of God’s Covenant plan. Abraham produced Ishmael in the FLESH, God will produce Isaac by THE SPIRIT!

➔ God added the “H” to their names. To the Hebrews, “H” represents:

Ephesians 5:18 • “Be filled with the Spirit” / HOW? Look at the vocab...

Imperative

Plural

Present

Passive