

Genesis Chapter 17: Set Apart/Eradicating the Flesh

Genesis Chapter 16 Rebelling in the Valley & Pursuit of the Stray Lamb

God Pursues, Sees, and Hears us

We are to Trust God's Word and *wait* for fulfillment

God is inconceivably interested in us as individuals

Genesis Chapter 17 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. [Ephesians 2:10]

Abram entered Canaan at 75; the Father of Ishmael at 86

LORD now appears at 99, 13 years after Chapter 16

Covenant will now be **renewed/expanded**

1Now 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.**"

1. **I am God**

I Am God Almighty [El Shaddai]

Emphasis on the omnipotence [supremacy] of God

2. **Walk before Me**

Walk the Walk; Our Conduct of Life on "Open display"

James 2:17 ...faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22You see that **faith was working with his works**, and as a result of the works, **faith was perfected...** and he was called the friend of God.

3. **Be Blameless**

Not sinless but having integrity; perfect or lit. "**whole**"

Integrity: Doing what you say you are going to do and who you are when no one is looking [He is the God who sees]

2"I will establish **My covenant** between Me and you, And **I will multiply you exceedingly.**" 3Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

"My covenant..." God's unilateral covenant

Multiply exceedingly: God's original purpose for man; see Adam/Noah

4"**As for Me**, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will 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.**"

"As for me..." I will be faithful to my promise [Land and Seed]

See v.9 for Abe's part

New Name: **Abram**: Exalted Father [?]; **Abraham**: Father of Many

Nehemiah 9:7 "You are the LORD God, Who chose Abram And brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees, And **gave him the name Abraham**. 8 "You found his heart faithful before You...

6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and **kings will come forth from you**. 7 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an **everlasting covenant, to be God to you** and to your descendants after you.

...kings will come forth; also promised to Sarai in v.16 [Israel, Judah, Edom]

"[I will] **be God to you...**" Pledge of **ongoing relationship ...Fulfilled in:**

Psalm 105:7 He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. 8 He has remembered His covenant forever, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations, 9 The **covenant which He made with Abraham**, And His oath to Isaac. 10 Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant...

Luke 1:54 "He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, **To Abraham and his descendants forever**." [Mary; the Magnificat]

Forever: Fulfilled in **Jesus:**

Galatians 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his **seed** He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, **"And to your seed," that is, Christ**.

8 "I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Promise includes people **and** land; **No human action** can permanently change Israel's boundaries:

Acts 7:5 "But He gave [Abram] no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground, and yet, even when he had no child, He promised that HE WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM AS A POSSESSION, AND TO HIS DESCENDANTS AFTER HIM.

Spiritual Inheritance:

Revelation 21:1 (Read) Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the **holy city**, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as

a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and **He will dwell among them**, and **they shall be His people**, and God Himself will be among them, 4and **He will wipe away every tear** from their eyes; and there will **no longer be any death**; there will **no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain**; the first things have passed away." 5And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new " And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." 6Then He said to me, "It is done I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. **"He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.**

John, the same author as Revelation, tells us how to overcome

1 John 5:7 "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 4For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. **5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

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

"Now as for you..." [cf.v.4] **Circumcision.** Lit. Cutting around
Sign of the covenant; Sanitary/Health: Secondary
Emphasis on the promised "Seed", **Jesus**

Exodus 12:48 "But if a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the **Passover** to the LORD, **let all his males be circumcised**, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it.

12"And every male among you who is **eight days old** shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. 13"A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14"But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

8 days old; Arabs I.e. descendants of Ishmael at age 13

15Then 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 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.**"

Sarai: Princess; Sarah: Princess; renamed for emphasis I.e. mother of nations; kings of peoples from her

17Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

Fell on his face and laughed? No rebuke from God as later w/ Sarah
Isaac means: **"He Laughed"**

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

Careful what you pray for: Fulfilled in Genesis 25:16

21"But My covenant **I will establish with Isaac**, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year."

Isaac, whom **Sarah** will bear to you [**Abraham**]: No misunderstanding
Isaac spoken of as if **already born**

God called the pagan ruler Cyrus by name for a purpose **before he was born**
Cyrus Ruler of Persia would conquer Babylon by walking through a dry aqueduct (normally water-filled) and through **unlocked gates** connected to Babylon's protective moat (normally locked) [Prophesied in Isaiah 44 and 45]
He would take Belshazzar out (not on a date) just after Belshazzar read **"the writing on the wall"** [Daniel 5:26-31] Daniel may have shown Cyrus his name prophesied in Scripture!

22When He finished talking with him, **God went up from Abraham.**
23Then Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all the servants 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 in **the very same day**, as God had said to him. 24Now Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 25And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old

when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 26In the very same day Abraham was circumcised, and Ishmael his son. 27All the men of his household, who were born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Abraham obeys... immediately; his practice
Circumcision application???

Romans 15:4 For **whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction**, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

1 Corinthians 10:11 ...these **things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction...**

2 Timothy 3:16 **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching**, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...

Deuteronomy 10:14 "Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. 15 "Yet on your fathers did the LORD set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day. 16"So **circumcise your heart**, and stiffen your neck no longer.

Leviticus 26:41b ...if their **uncircumcised heart** becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity, 42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land.

Jeremiah 4:1 "If you will return, O Israel," declares the LORD, "Then you should return to Me And if you will **put away your detested things** from My presence, And will not waver, 2And you will swear, 'As the LORD lives,' In truth, in justice and in righteousness; Then the nations will bless themselves in Him, And in Him they will glory." 3For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem, "Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns. 4"**Circumcise yourselves to the LORD And remove the foreskins of your heart**, Men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Or else My wrath will go forth like fire

Circumcision of the Heart: Cutting off the Flesh

1 Samuel 15:33 But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And **Samuel hewed Agag to pieces** before the LORD at Gilgal.

Agag, King of the Amalekites; a picture of our flesh or sinful nature
Physical Circumcision **set God's people apart**; Spiritual Circumcision more so; I.e. **Cutting off of the flesh by Walking by the Spirit**

Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29But he is a Jew who is **one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Flesh: Callousness toward God exemplified by:

**DEAD [Christ-less] WORKS
SINFUL FLESHLY BEHAVIOR**

Colossians 2:6 (Read) Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk in Him**, ⁷having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and **overflowing with gratitude**. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For **in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form**, ¹⁰and **in Him you have been made complete [BLAMELESS]**, and He is the head over all rule and authority; ¹¹ and **in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ...**

In Him is the Fullness of God

In Him we are Blameless

In Him our sinful desires are "cut off"

¹²having been **buried with Him in baptism**, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who **raised Him from the dead**. ¹³When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him**, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴having canceled out the **certificate of debt** consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, **having triumphed over them through Him**.

Circumcisions relation to Baptism: Both an outward sign of inward change

Jesus kept the law [certificate of dept] perfectly...for us

We are in Him; therefore we are **complete** and **w/out condemnation**

Romans 8:1 Therefore there is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ** Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

We are **not to add to Jesus work** by Religion and/or **Dead Works**

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags**

[Continued] **Colossians 2:16** Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-- ¹⁷things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

¹⁸Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, **inflated without cause by his fleshly mind**, ¹⁹ and **not holding fast to the head**, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. ²⁰If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, ²¹"Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" ²²(which all refer to things destined to perish with use)--in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? ²³ **These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe**

treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence

[Religion] **is of no [0]value against fleshly indulgence**

Cut off from the Head...Christ

CUTTING OFF DEAD WORKS

"Walk before Me"

Circumcision eventually became a picture of **adding to the work of Christ:**

Galatians 5:11 Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. 12As for those agitators, **I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!** [NIV]

Dead works: Works not directed/commanded by God ever *or* at this time

Ephesians 2:8 (Read) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.** 11Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands-- 12remember that you were at that time separate from Christ... 13But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

We have **specific "works"** to walk in as we are led by the Spirit

Dead works: For Believers a **waste of time and reward**

1 Corinthians 3:12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will **test the quality of each man's work.** 14If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, **he will suffer loss;** but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Ecclesiastes 2:10 All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. 11Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was **vanity and striving after wind** and there was no profit under the sun.

1 Corinthians: 13:3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but **do not have love, it profits me nothing.**

Dead works: For the Christ-less religious, even sincere ...**Hell**

Matthew 22:11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he **noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes** [Christ's righteousness]. 12'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. 13"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and **throw him outside, into the darkness,** where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

CUTTING OFF SINFUL FLESHLY BEHAVIOR

"Be Blameless"

Complete in Christ we are set free **from sin**; free **to love**

Galatians 5:1 (Read) It was for **freedom that Christ** set us free; therefore keep standing firm and **do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery**. 2Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. 4You have been **severed from Christ**, you who are seeking to be justified by law; **you have fallen from grace**.

...fallen from grace: Seeking righteousness from religion, not by faith in Christ and His righteousness

Self-Righteousness causes dissention, confrontations and envying

5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. **6**For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but **faith working through love....14**For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**" **15**But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. **16**But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **17**For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. **18**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law... **25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26**Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

I AM God...Walk before Me... be blameless

...walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh

Circumcision of the Heart: Removing the **Callousness toward God exemplified in Christ-less religion and Fleshly Indulgence**

We are to be Set apart **walking by the Spirit before God**

We are to be set apart; **blameless in our love for one another**

Abraham is God's friend