

The Joy of God's Fulfilled Promises

Genesis 17

Context: 18 years after the events of Genesis 16 where Abram and Sarai fail with Hagar, God speak to Abram with new information about his promised lineage.

When God fulfills his promises...

I. _____ your new name (vs. 1-8, 15-21)

- A. In Bible history, a new name means a new beginning. Abram means "exalted father"; it became Abraham, "father of a multitude." Sarai ("contentious") became Sarah, "a princess."
- B. Revelation 2:17 speaks of a new name given to believers in heaven.

II. _____ your new nature (vs. 9-14, 22-27)

- A. According to other passages in the Old Testament, God wanted circumcision to represent an inward change of the heart, not just surgery on the body (Deuteronomy 10:16; Jeremiah 4:4).
- B. In the New Testament, the covenant of circumcision is fulfilled in the work of Christ - who regenerates (circumcises) our hearts. (Romans 2:28-29, Philippians 3:3, and Colossians 2:11)

III. _____ your new nourishment (vs. 19)

- A. The name of Abraham and Sarah's son is now revealed - Issac. Isaac's name means "laughter" or "he laughs." No doubt, this child of promise would bring a lot of new joy to the aged couple.
- B. God promises complete nourishment and rest to all who trust in His plan of Salvation in Christ. (Matthew 11:28-30)