



FOUNDATIONS *of*
REDEEMPTIVE
HISTORY

Part 2

Genesis 12-24

BREAKDOWN OF TEXT

1. ~~Abram Journeys to Egypt (12)~~

2. ~~Abram, Lot, and the War (13-14)~~

3. ~~God's Covenant with Abram (15)~~

4. ~~Sarai, Hagar, and Doubt (16)~~

**5. God's Covenant of Circumcision
(17)**

6. The Promised Birth of Isaac, and the
Destruction of Sodom/Gomorrah (18-19)

7. Abraham, Abimelech, and Isaac's Birth
(20-21)

8. The Sacrifice of Isaac (22)

9. Sarah's Death (23)

10. Isaac and Rebekah (24)

REVIEW

GENESIS 16

Some personal thoughts from ch. 16

- The ages of Abraham...
 - **75 years old - Left Haran**
 - God's covenant given (Gen 12)
 - Abram thinks “maybe Lot?”... “maybe Eliezer?”
 - God's covenant ratified (Gen 15)
 - **86 years old - Hagar bears Ishmael to Abram (16:16)**
 - Abram thinks “maybe Ishmael?”
 - **99 years old - Abram is still childless (17:1)**

Some personal thoughts from ch. 16

- Do you remember what you shared in your personal applications from last week?
- Did you work on it?

*Matt. 21:28 “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in the vineyard.’ 29 “And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 “The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, ‘I will, sir’; but he did not go. 31 “Which of the two did the will of his father?” They *said, “The first.”*

John 14:15 “If you love Me, you will

Personal study questions (Genesis 17)

1. What name does God use for Himself in v.1? What does this communicate about God?
2. What is the command God gives Abram (v.1), and why do you think that He commands it?
3. How many times does the word “covenant” appear in this passage? Why would circumcision be used as a sign of this covenant?
4. What are the promises that God makes to Abram? Compare them to some of the previous passages. What are some of the similarities/differences?
5. What are the name changes in this chapter? Why are their names changed?
6. Who is included in the covenant sign? Be specific. What happens to those who refuse the sign?
7. In v.17-18, How does Abraham respond to the reiterated promise? What is revealed about him when he brings up Ishmael’s name? How old was Abram when Ishmael was born, and how old is he now? Why does this matter?
8. What does Abraham do at the end of the chapter? When does he do it?
9. What does this chapter reveal about the relationship between divine promise and human obedience?

GENESIS 17

God's Covenant of Circumcision

- 1. Covenant: Purpose (17:1-2)**
- 2. Covenant: Abram → Abraham (17:3-9)**
- 3. Covenant: Sign (17:10-14)**
- 4. Covenant: Sarai → Sarah (17:15-16)**
- 5. Covenant: Ishmael vs. Isaac (17:17-21)**
- 6. Covenant: Response (17:22-27)**

1

1. Covenant: Purpose (17:1-2)

- God's timing seems insensitive.
- It has to do with who God is.
- It then has to do with our appropriate response.
- This is what the covenant is based upon.

Gen. 17:1 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.

2 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly.”

*2Pet. 3:3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4 and saying, “**Where is the promise of His coming?**”*

[...] 8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

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Ex. 14:4 “Thus I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” And they did so.

Psa. 106:8 Nevertheless He saved them for the sake of His name, That He might make His power known.

*Is. 48:9 “For the sake of My name I delay My wrath,
And for My praise I restrain it for you,
In order not to cut you off.*

*10 “Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.*

*11 “For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act;
For how can My name be profaned?
And My glory I will not give to another.*

*Rom. 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. **AMEN.***

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APPLICATION

Abram was NINETY NINE years old.

(Q) What is the difference between lament that expresses faith and complaint that reveals unbelief? How can I examine my own heart in this?

Look at Abram's response (he falls on his face).

(Q) When I think about God's covenant promises, do I tend to focus more on what I receive or on who God reveals Himself to be? What does Genesis 17 correct in my thinking?

2

Unconditional Covenant Given

1. Land
2. Nation/People
3. Blessing

2. Covenant: Abram → Abraham (17:3-9)

- Land of Canaan
- Father of a multitude of nations
- Everlasting covenant, everlasting blessing
- KEEP IT!

Gen. 17:3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

*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.*

*Gen. 17:6 “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. 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.”***

Gen. 17:9 God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.



Gen 15:18

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Exod 23:31

And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.

1 Kings 4:21

Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

Ex. 23:31 “I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River Euphrates; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you.

Num. 34:2 “Command the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you enter the land of Canaan, this is the land that shall fall to you as an inheritance, even the **land of Canaan** according to its borders. 3 ‘Your southern sector shall extend from the **wilderness of Zin along the side of Edom**, and your **southern border shall extend from the end of the Salt Sea eastward**. 4 ‘Then your border shall turn direction from the south to the ascent of Akrabbim and continue to Zin, and its termination shall be to the south of Kadesh-barnea; and it shall reach Hazaraddar and continue to Azmon. 5 ‘The border shall turn direction from Azmon **to the brook of Egypt**, and its termination shall be at **the sea**.”

*Deut. 11:24 “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours; your border will be from the **wilderness to Lebanon**, and from the river, **the river Euphrates**, as far as the **western sea**.”*

*Josh. 1:2 “Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. 3 “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. 4 **“From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.***

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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.***

Gen. 17:6 “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. 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.”

Gen. 17:9 God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.

Literally

- *Israel through Isaac*
- *Edom through Esau*
- *Ishmaelites (& maybe Hagarites?) through Ishmael*
- *More through Keturah (Midianites, etc.)*
- *And all the additional peoples extending out of these*

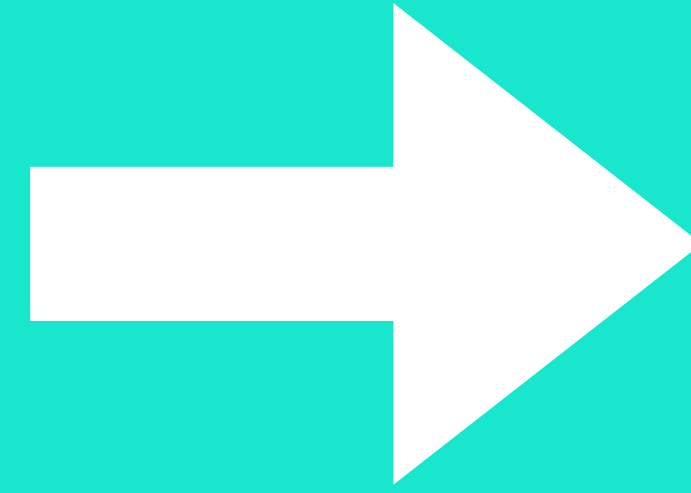
Spiritually

- *Romans 4, Galatians 3 - Gentiles become Abraham's children by faith, not by ethnicity.*
- *The spiritual blessings expand to the nations the way it was supposed to, **BUT** it doesn't cancel Israel's national promises.*
- *Ethnicities are a scar from human sin and rebellion. But they will remain in the end to God's greater glory.*

Rev. 21:24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

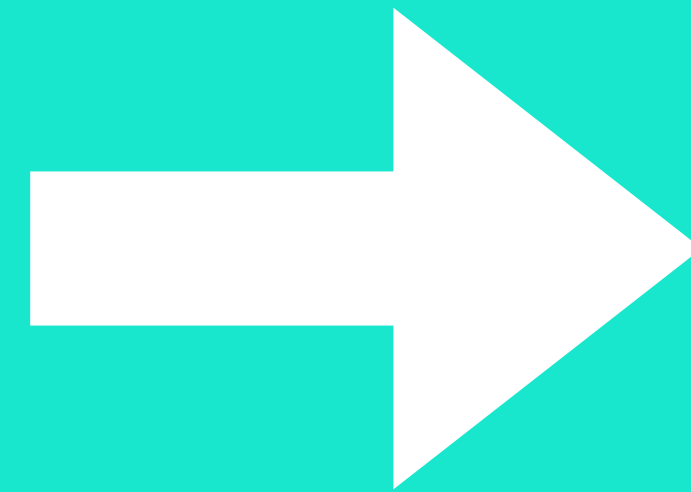
Rev. 22:2 On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

**Spiritual
blessings of
Abraham**



**fulfilled now in
Christ through
the church**

**National AND
land promises**



**fulfilled in the future
(millennial) kingdom
to Israel**



Acts 1:6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority

Acts 2:5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 “And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? 9 “Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs – we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”

*Rom. 9:1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my **brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,** 4 who are **Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises,** 5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.*

Rom. 11:25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery – so that you will not be wise in your own estimation – that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in [...]

28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Read these passages, asking these three questions:

*“who is Israel?” And “who are the nations?” And
“when is this going to take place?”*

-Ezekiel 36-37

-Zechariah 12-14

-Revelation 20-21

REMEMBER:

Participation does not mean Replacement

God choosing Israel is called ELECTION. It doesn't erase distinctions or functions. It doesn't flatten everyone out to be the same.

There IS a difference between UNITY and UNIFORMITY.

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2. Covenant: Abram → Abraham (17:3-9)

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Gen. 17:9 God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.

Rom. 11:29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Num. 23:19 “God is not a man, that He should lie,

Nor a son of man, that He should repent;

Has He said, and will He not do it?

Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

APPLICATION

(Q) Do I believe that God means what He says? What is the difference between “knowing” what He says and “believing” what He says?

3

3. Covenant: Sign (17:10-14)

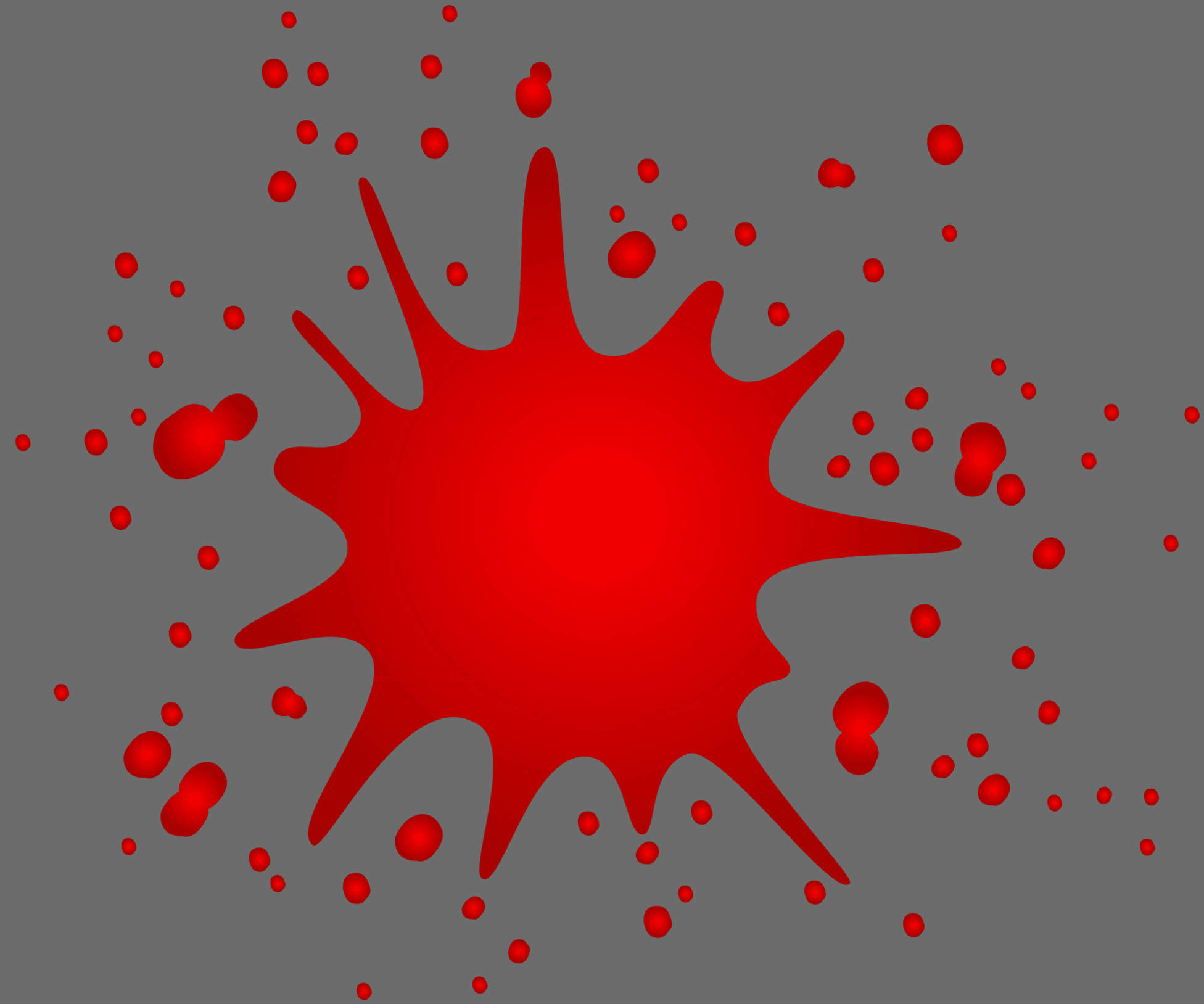
- What was circumcision and why use this?
- Unconditional or conditional?
- Who did it apply to?

*Gen. 17:10 “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. 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.”*

- 1. It was the reproductive organ.**
- 2. Blood was involved. “Cut”**
- 3. It signified cutting away the flesh.**
- 4. It was permanent.**
- 5. It was males only.**

3. Covenant: Sign (17:10-14)

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Unilateral Covenant

*Gen. 17:10 “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. 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.”*

Condition?

Rom. 4:9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." 10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; 11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

*Matt. 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.** 22 “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; **DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**’*

1John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4

The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

*Deut. 10:16 “So **[YOU] circumcise** your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer.”*

*Deut. 30:6 “Moreover **the LORD your God will circumcise** your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.*

*Phil 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that **He** who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

*Phil. 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **[YOU] work out your salvation** with fear and trembling; 13 **for it is God who is at work in you**, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

Rom. 2:28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But 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.

**Simply being in the
covenant community did
not save an individual**

*Acts 16:3 Paul wanted this man to go with him; and **he took him and circumcised him** because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.*

*Gal. 2:3 But **not** even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be **circumcised**.*

3. Covenant: Sign (17:10-14)

- What was circumcision and why use it?
- Unconditional or conditional?
- Who did it apply to?

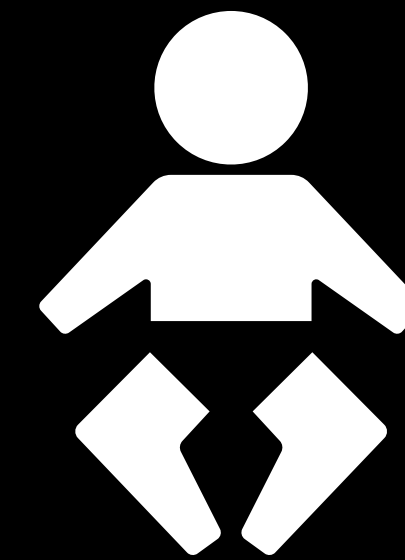
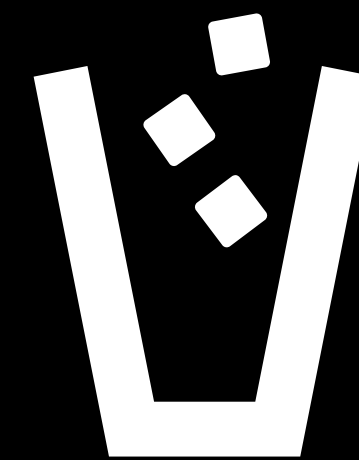
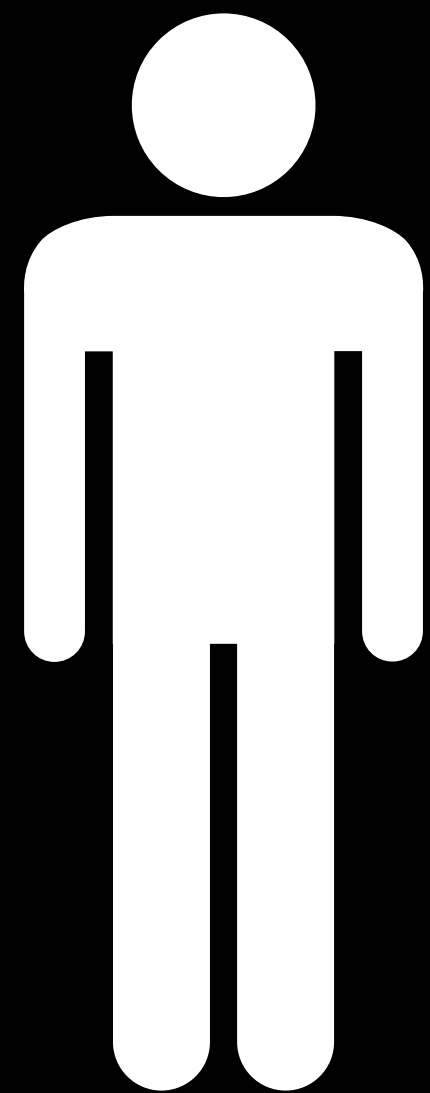
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COVENANT



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COVENANT



APPLICATION

(Q) Circumcision was a visible sign of belonging to the covenant. What are the visible ways today that I demonstrate that I belong to God?

(Q) God says, “Walk before me and be blameless.” How is obedience different when it flows from covenant grace rather than from trying to earn God’s favor?

(Q) What dangers arise when I emphasize only God’s promises but neglect obedience? What dangers arise when I emphasize obedience but forget God’s grace?

(Q) Abraham’s role is to believe God and mark his life with covenant obedience. What would it look like for my life today to be clearly marked as belonging to God?

4

4. Covenant: Sarai → Sarah (17:15-16)

- Sarai = “my princess” (specific, one household)
- Sarah = “princess” (general, many households)

*Gen. 17:15 Then 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.**”*

5

5. Covenant: Ishmael vs. Isaac (17:17-21)

- Why did Abraham insist on Ishmael?
- Isaac = “he laughs”
 - Gen 17:17 laughter of amazement
 - Gen 18:12 laughter of doubt
 - Gen 21:6 laughter of joy

*Gen. 17: 17 Then 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?” 18 And Abraham said to God, “**Oh that Ishmael might live before You!**” 19 But 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. 21 “But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.”*

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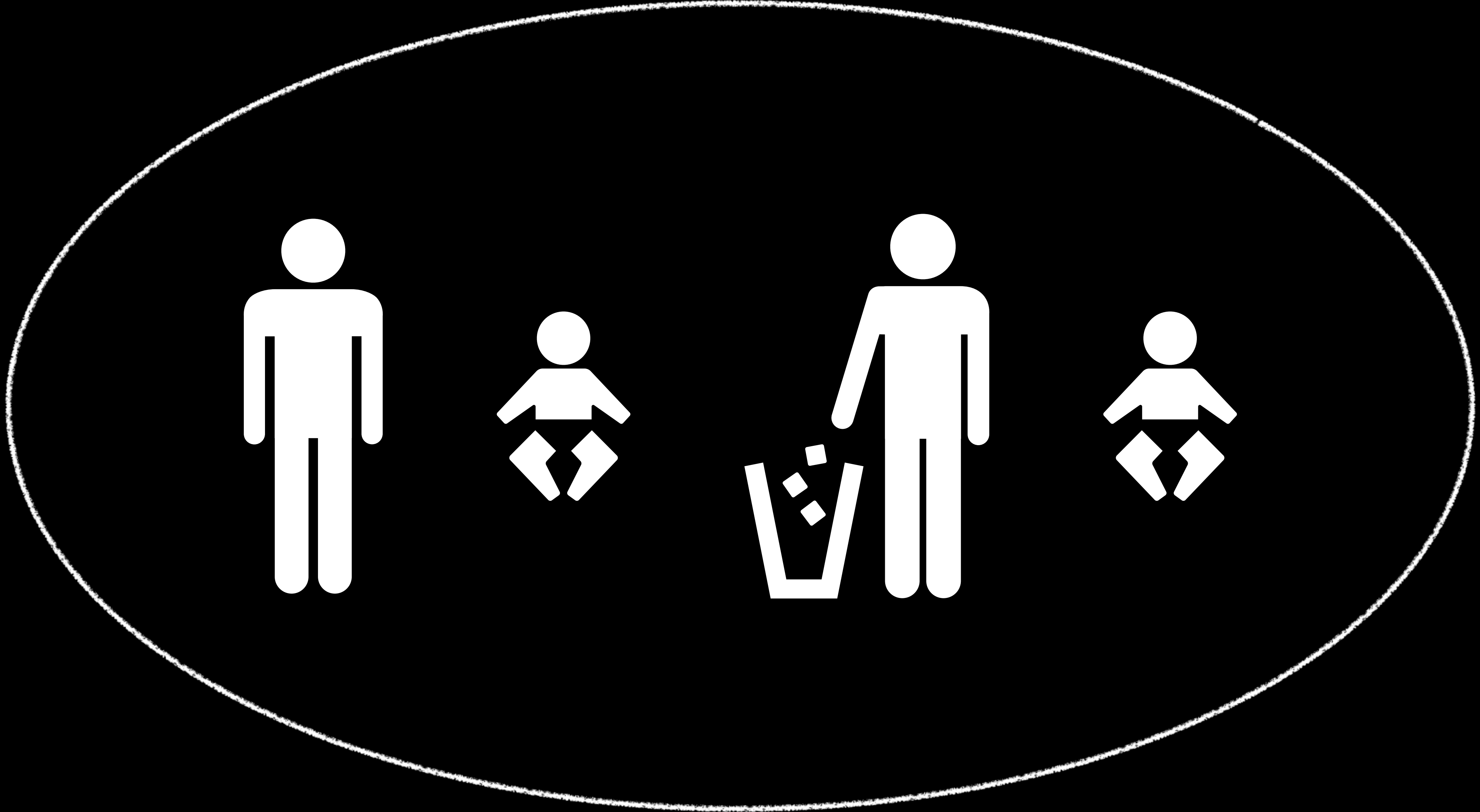
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Galatians 4:21-31

6

6. Covenant: Response (17:22-27)

Gen. 17:23 Then 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. 24 Now Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 26 In the very same day Abraham was circumcised, and Ishmael his son. 27 All the men of his household, who were born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.



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APPLICATION

(Q) Is there anything God commands me to obey Him in that I am delaying? How is delaying obedience similar to disobedience?

GENESIS 18-19

**The Promised Birth of Isaac,
and the Destruction of Sodom/Gomorrah**

IT'S LONG... start early

NEXT WEEK: Personal study questions (Genesis 18)

1. How many people come to Abraham in v.1-2? Who are they? How are they described?
2. What specific actions does Abraham take when he meets them? What preparations does he make for them? List them out. Why is Abraham's eagerness in hospitality highlighted?
3. Take special note of when "they" are speaking and when "He" is speaking. Take special note of "Lord" and "LORD".
4. Why do they ask about where Sarah is? What was she doing while they were asking?
5. What is it about their ages/states that are emphasized? Why does Sarah laugh? What is her attitude when she laughs? How do you know that was her attitude?
6. What is the reason why the LORD reveals to Abraham His plans? What does God's disclosure to Abraham show about His character?
7. What repeated phrases shows Abraham's humility in his pleading with the LORD concerning Sodom/Gomorrah?
8. Where are the men heading towards after their meal?

NEXT WEEK: Personal study questions (Genesis 19)

1. Who are the main characters in this chapter, and how are they introduced?
2. How are the two angels described in their interactions with Lot? Their interactions with the people of the city?
3. What actions does Lot take when he meets the angels?
4. How does Lot respond to the men of Sodom? What does this reveal about him?
5. What phrases/actions show the moral state of the city?
6. What instructions are given to Lot and his family? How does Lot respond? How does his wife respond? What do their responses reveal about their spiritual conditions?
7. What events occur between Lot and his daughters throughout the narrative? What does this ending say about the lingering effects of sin and its environment?
8. How does God's justice and mercy appear in this chapter? How do Abraham's intercessions in chapter 18 play out here in chapter 19?

Application Questions

1. 17:1-2 What is the difference between lament that expresses faith and complaint that reveals unbelief? How can I examine my own heart in this? Do I tend to focus more on what I receive from God, or on who He reveals Himself to be?
2. 17:3-9 Do I believe that God means what He says? What is the difference between “knowing” what He says and “believing” what He says?
3. 17:10-14 Circumcision was a visible sign of belonging to the covenant. What are the visible ways today that I might demonstrate that I belong to God? What might that look like?
4. 17:10-14 God says, “Walk before me and be blameless.” How is obedience different when it flows from covenant grace rather than from trying to earn God’s favor? What dangers arise when we emphasize only God’s promises but neglect obedience? What dangers arise when we emphasize obedience but forget God’s grace?
5. 17:22-27 Is there anything God commands me to obey Him in that I am delaying? How is delaying obedience similar to disobedience?