

Genesis: God and the Originals

THE COVENANT OF CIRCUMCISION

Introduction and “As For Me” (17:1-8)

Vv. 1-2

1. What is the name of God in v. 1? What does “almighty” mean to you?

The meaning of El Shaddai is uncertain, but could come from the Hebrew word “saddad” meaning “_____.”

2. What is the general gist of “walk before me faithfully and be blameless” in v. 1?

Vv. 3-8

3. God reinstates the covenants God has already made with Abraham. What are the two major differences in this covenant in these verses?

The word “many” in the phrase “many nations” is “_____” in Hebrew. This is why Abram changes to Abra-ham.

BONUS: Who else besides the nation of Israel is Abraham going to be father to?

“As For You” (17:9-14)

4. What are the terms of the covenant with Abraham in these verses?
 - a. What is the action?
 - b. Who is to undertake it?
 - c. What does it guarantee?
 - d. What is the penalty if you don’t keep it?

5. Why is circumcision on the eighth day?

BONUS: Why do you think God chose circumcision as the contractual agreement?

BONUS: How is Christian baptism like Jewish circumcision?

“As For Sarai” (17:15-22)

6. What is Abraham’s response to God’s promise of Sarai having a son? Is it a positive or negative response and what might clue us into the answer?

Abraham’s laugh is the _____ laugh of scripture.

7. What is Abraham’s plea to God in v. 18? How do you interpret it?
8. The name Isaac in v. 19 literally means “may he laugh.” Who is the “he” referring to - or in other words, who is doing the laughing?
9. What does God make explicitly clear about Isaac and Ishmael’s relationship to the covenant in vv. 19-22?

Conclusion (17:23-27)

10. What does Abraham do immediately in response to this covenant with God?

Concluding Question:

Read Galatians 5:1-12. Why is Paul so apposed to the requirement to be circumcised after what we just read in Genesis 17?