

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
GENESIS 17-18

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Verses 17: 1-8, God's Covenant

Covenant of Grace

God as Almighty binds God-self to us without our asking

Covenant of Power

God has power to fulfill God's word

Covenant of Integrity

God will do as God has promised

God's covenant with Abraham

Numerous descendants

Visible sign or reminder of God's covenant

Name change from exalted father to father of multitudes

Covenant extends beyond us

Our actions impact other generations

Generations unborn are dependent upon our faithfulness

Covenant involves concrete visible manifestation or manifestation

Not simply ethereal spiritual: in this instance land

Verses 17: 9-14, Covenant is Two Way Commitment

Circumcision

Ancient origin not known (practice believed to be 15,000 years' old)

Oldest narratives from Egypt

Also evidence in sub-Saharan Africa (Ethiopia)

Purposes

Penile hygiene easier in sandy hot climates

Rite of passage

Form of blood sacrifice (life is in the blood)

Modern medicine deterrent in some cancers and spread of HIV

Distinctive marking of circumcision

Conquered person who could still function as a slave (not to be confused with castration or ability to emit semen of some eunuchs)

Person is in covenant with deity (in terms of marks on their life giving and life emitting organ)

Holy Communion as Renewal of Covenant of Grace secured by the blood sacrifice of Christ

Verses 17: 15-23, From Sarai to Sarah, Princess

Sarah

First daughter in line of Seth

Fourth woman mentioned in Scriptures

Eve, wife of Adam (Genesis 3: 20)

Adah and Zillah, wives of Lamech (Genesis 4: 19)

Sometimes change gives different meaning and understanding of how we see ourselves

Verses 17: 24-27, Covenant promises demand covenant sacrifices

We cannot expect to receive what others who are under covenant have been promised and have received without making the same kind of sacrifices they have made

Giving

Sacrifice

Obedience and faithfulness

Verses 18: 1-15, The Importance of Hospitality

Lesson from Walmart

We do not know to whom we are being kind

What goes around comes around, if not to us then perhaps to our children and grandchildren

Is anything to wonderful for the Lord?

Verses 18: 16-33, Basis of Intercessor

Power of Relationships

Significance of Reputation

How much is enough?

At some point every tub has to stand on its own bottom