

GENESIS –Lesson 34

Learn: Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. Genesis 17:5-8

Read: Genesis 17:1-27

1. When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to him. How did the Lord introduce Himself? v 1

NOTE: God revealed Himself this time to Abram by a new name, El Shaddai, meaning “Almighty God,” thus stressing His omnipotence (that He is all-powerful). God had already made His covenant with Abram, now He was ready to put it into force.

2. What did the LORD admonish Abram that he should be careful to do? v 1

NOTE; The phrase “walk before me” –Walk in fellowship with me (as occasionally in the past Abram had forgotten to do). The phrase “be thou perfect”- Perfect simply means whole. Be wholly dedicated to performing the will of God. These admonitions were not stated as conditions of the covenant, however, but simply as commands.

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3. What was Abram’s response to being in the presence of God? v 3
4. God called Abram the “father of many nations,” what name did the Lord give Abram to reflect his title? v 5
5. Verses 7, 8 both use the word “everlasting.” What does it mean?
6. What was the “everlasting covenant” that God made with Abraham? vv 4-7

7. What was the “everlasting possession” that God gave to Abraham and his descendants after him? v 8
8. When God makes an “everlasting” covenant, what can the people of that covenant do to break it?

9. Moving forward to our day, what right do the Jews have to the land of Israel?

What is the portion of the land of Israel that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob should have?

What are the boundaries of the land of Israel to be according to God?
Genesis 15:18-21

10. Because of these two covenants, what was the relationship that Abraham’s descendants would have with God? v 8

“I will be their God.” Though many have gone astray, and the history of Abraham’s seed has been long and sad, there has always been a remnant in every generation that continues to worship and obey the God of Abraham. God wants, of course, to be the God of all men; but He undertook here to be in a special and unique way the God of Abraham’s seed. This promise no doubt applied primarily to those who are his seed according to the flesh, but also encompassed the spiritual seed of Abraham, who is the father of all them that believe.

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11. God gave to Abraham and his descendants a covenant sign, which showed that they were part of God’s covenant with Abraham. What was the required token of the covenant? vv 9-11

12. When was this token of the covenant to be carried out? v 12

13. To whom did the token of the covenant apply? vv 12, 13

14. How long is this token of the covenant in effect? v 13

15. What was and is the penalty for any Jewish male that is not circumcised? v 14

Circumcision was primarily a sign to the individual concerned, his parents, and his wife. It was not a sign to be shown to people in general, but was uniquely personal. To his parents it would confirm that they had been faithful in transmitting the seed to the son with whom God had blessed their union, and that they were trying to follow God's will in training him. To his wife, it would give assurance that he indeed was a descendant of Abraham, to whom she could joyfully submit in the marriage relation, in faith that God would bless their home and their children. To the man himself, it would be a daily testimony that he and his family were consecrated to the God of Abraham and that they shared in his calling and ministry to the world.

Included in the act of circumcision, is its symbolic meaning. The "cutting" of the foreskin spoke of a surgical removal, a complete separation, from the sins of the flesh so widely prevalent in the world around them, such sins largely centered in the misuse of the male organ in adultery, fornication, and sodomy. As it directly, therefore, symbolized to the Jewish man that he was a member of an elect nation, a peculiar people, distinctly holy before God, in relation to sexual conduct, so it came indirectly to speak of holiness in every phase of life.

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16. How does Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6 explain this symbolic meaning of circumcision?

17. Now the LORD turns his attention to Abraham's wife Sarai. What is her new name to be? v 15

18. What is the promise that God gives for Sarah? v 16

NOTE: Sarah- “princess” For the first time, God now said that Sarah would be the mother of the promised seed. As the mother of kings, therefore it was appropriate for her to be called “princess.” Twice, God said: “I will bless her.” She had been barren all her life, and was now ninety years old; so it would take a special blessing for her yet to have a son. When God said she would be a “mother of nations,” He apparently meant Judah, Israel, and Edom.

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19. What is Abraham’s response to God’s promise for Sarah? vv 17, 18

20. In verse 19, what did God say about Sarah?

God gave this promised son a name, what was it?

What was God’s promise for this special son?

21. God did make a promise to Abraham’s son Ishmael in verse 20. What did the Lord promise him?

22. After all this time of waiting, God gave Abraham and Sarah a time for when this promised son would be born. When was Isaac to be born? v 21

23. What did Abraham do as soon as the LORD went up from him? vv 23-27

24. What are some reasons that Abraham’s obedience in carrying out the circumcision would not have been an easy thing to carry out?

25. According to this passage can other descendants of Abraham lay claim to the land promised in this covenant? Explain.