

Genesis - Lesson 17

Genesis 17

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Memory verses for this week: *Job 12:12 With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding. Job 12:13 With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.*

Introduction: We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as we continue with the promise of Isaac to Abraham and Sarai. God made a covenant with Abraham, and God always stands by His word.

I. Abram, the Covenant and Circumcision

Gen 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Gen 17:2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

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

Abram again has a meeting with the Almighty God. There were some arid years in Abram's life since the end of chapter 16, and he is now 99 years old. Note he tells him to walk before him and be perfect. No matter how young or old we are, we have to fight the fight of faith to be pleasing to the Lord.

Gen 16:16 And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

So it was 13 years between the end of chapter 16 and the record we have here in verse one of this chapter. Thirteen speaks of unbelief, rebellion & apostasy.

Gen 14:4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

In I Kings 6:38 and 7:1, we see Solomon's error in taking 7 years to build the temple of God, but taking 13 years to build his own house.

1Ki 6:38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of

it. So was he seven years in building it.

1Ki 7:1 *But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.*

The number of thirteen was connected with sin in Esther's day.

Est 3:12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

Est 3:13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.

Thirteen judges ruled during the apostasy in the days of the book of Judges.

The "Dragon" is found 13 times in Revelation. Jacob's few and evil days were 130 years.

Gen 47:9 And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.

There are other examples of 13 to the second and third power also. There were twenty-six unclean animals and birds in Deut. 14. Paul received 39 stripes.

Verse 1 points out that at 99, Abram was now the aged servant. He had to come to the end of self.

Psa 107:4 They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.

Psa 107:5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

Psa 107:6 Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.

Psa 107:10 Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron;

Psa 107:11 Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High:

Psa 107:12 Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.

Abram had to learn that faith in God was a must. While it may be sad that it took him so long, at least he did learn it. Many live a life time and continue to look to self for everything, not knowing that they could accomplish nothing without God taking care of them

Rom 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Rom 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Rom 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

Rom 4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

Rom 4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Rom 4:22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

He needed to learn to walk before God, and he eventually did so. God is the Almighty, All-sufficient God, and He can certainly provide for His children. For the first time God reveals Himself as El Shaddai, the Almighty One. Abram was 99, weak, impotent and helpless, but God is Almighty. God revealed Himself to Jacob as God Almighty and changed his name also.

Gen 35:9 And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him.

Gen 35:10 And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

Gen 35:11 And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;

Gen 35:12 And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.

Verse 3 show the attitude of Abram. He was humble and fell on his face. This is how a child of God should come into the presence of God. He that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Luk 14:11 For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

II. Abram And The Enlarged Covenant

Gen 17:4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

Gen 17:5 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.

Gen 17:6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

Gen 17:7 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.

Gen 17:8 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.

Abram was to be the father of many nations. Many nations came from Abram including the Israelites, Ishmaelites, Edomites, etc. Spiritual seed would include saved Gentiles. At this time, his name changed. Abram means "high father," but Abraham means, "father of many nations." The covenant was with Abraham and his offspring. It was a perpetual and everlasting covenant. Canaan was to be an everlasting possession.

III. Circumcision, The Sign Of The Covenant

Gen 17:9 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

Gen 17:10 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

Gen 17:11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

Gen 17:12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

Gen 17:13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

Gen 17:14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

The circumcising of the male was a token of the covenant. A token was a signal, as a flag, beacon, monument, etc. Token is translated sign or signs in many places.

While the children of Israel practiced circumcision, it did not save.

Rom 4:9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

Rom 4:10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

Rom 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the

faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

Rom 4:12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

Rom 4:13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Circumcision today is to be that of the heart. We are to be set apart unto service to the Lord from the heart.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Who were to be circumcised? All of the Jews and descendants of Abraham, and also any that walked after the steps of faith of Abraham.

IV. Abraham and the Promised Seed

Gen 17:15 And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

Gen 17:16 And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

Gen 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

Gen 17:18 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

Gen 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

The Lord affirms his promise and this time names Isaac as the son who would bring forth the great nation as Abraham's descendants. In verse 15, it records how that Sarai's name was changed to Sarah. Abraham's son was to be born of Sarah, who would be known as the mother of nations. Verse 17 shows that Abraham had a hard time believing that he and Sarah could be parents. He has a great desire for Ishmael to be the one whom God would bless the nations. But verse 19 says Isaac was named before birth.

V. God's Plan For Ishmael

Gen 17:20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Gen 17:21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto

thee at this set time in the next year.

Gen 17:22 And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

God heard Abraham's prayer for Ishmael, but this was not a part of God's covenant. While he would be fruitful and many would come forth from his line, this was not how the nations of the earth would be blessed. The covenant was to be through Isaac. God went up from Abraham.

VI. Abraham's Obedience In Circumcision

Gen 17:23 And Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and all that were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house; and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the selfsame day, as God had said unto him.

Gen 17:24 And Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Gen 17:25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Gen 17:26 In the selfsame day was Abraham circumcised, and Ishmael his son.

Gen 17:27 And all the men of his house, born in the house, and bought with money of the stranger, were circumcised with him.

Abraham was obedient to God, and all born in his house or bought with money, were circumcised. Abraham was 99 years old at this point as we mentioned earlier. Ishmael was 13 when circumcised. Abraham and all the men of his house were circumcised.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What does the number 13 speak of?

Thirteen speaks of unbelief, rebellion & apostasy.

2. How old was Abram when God changed his name to Abraham?

99

3. What was Abraham's reaction when God appeared to him?

He fell on his face in humility.

4. What does God's name "El Shaddai" mean?

the Almighty One

5. What does "Abram" mean? What does "Abraham" mean?

Abram means "high father"

Abraham means, "father of many nations."

6. What was the sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham?

circumcision

7. Sarai's name was change to:

Sarah

8. What was God's blessing to be for Ishmael?

In verse 20. God told Abraham: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

9. How old was Ishmael when he was circumcised?

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.