

“The Covenant Sign and Seed”

Genesis 17:1–27

Big Idea: God’s covenant with Abraham both promised a seed and required obedience.

- I. The Covenant Sign and Seed in the Text
 - a. Abram’s New Name of Promise (verses 1–8)
 - i. God Almighty’s covenant required Abram’s loyal integrity. (verses 1–2)
 - ii. Abram’s new name indicated a multiplied seed of nations and kings. (verses 3–6)
 - iii. This covenant guaranteed a perpetual inheritance for Abraham’s seed. (verses 7–8)
 - b. God’s Covenant Sign of Circumcision (verses 9–14)
 - i. Abraham and his descendants were obligated to keep God’s covenant. (verse 9)
 - ii. This covenant keeping demanded the sign of circumcision. (verses 10–11)
 - iii. Thus the covenant would be cut into the flesh of all males belonging to Abraham. (verses 12–13)
 - iv. Any uncut male would be cut off from Abraham’s people and covenant. (verse 14)
 - c. Sarai’s New Name of Promise (verses 15–21)
 - i. Sarai’s new name identified the mother of Abraham’s promised seed. (verses 15–16)
 - ii. In response to Abraham’s laughter, God named the promised son Isaac. (verses 17–19)
 - iii. Though promising Ishmael much, God promised his covenant to Isaac. (verses 20–21)

- d. Abraham's Covenant Obedience to Circumcision (verses 22–27)
- II. The Covenant Sign and Seed in Relation to Abraham's Flesh
 - a. Covenant Fulfillment Secured by God's Promise
 - b. Covenant Fulfillment Conditioned on Covenant Obedience
- III. The Covenant Sign and Seed in Relation to Abraham's Faith
 - a. Faith in the Obedience of Abraham's Seed
 - b. Faith from Hearts Circumcised by God's Spirit

Applying the Covenant of Circumcision

- 1) Recognize the false equation of baptism with circumcision.
- 2) Recognize our moral responsibility to circumcise our own hearts.
- 3) Recognize our moral inability to circumcise our own hearts.
- 4) Recognize God's gracious ability to circumcise our hearts.