

## VI. My Prayer

- A. That the Holy Spirit would come down upon us and shake us to the core
- B. That we would see and think of God's glory more and look and think less of ourselves
- C. That we would worship him with joy and abandon
- D. That we would know the power of God first hand in our battle against indwelling sin
- E. That we would hunger and thirst after the Word
- F. That we consumed with a passion to reveal God's glory

Genesis 16-17

*Our God is Lord of the Possible & the Impossible*

March 28, 2010

Sermon Outline

Notes

### I. The Relevance of Abraham

#### Galatians 3:29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

#### Key Idea

Jesus Provides the blameless life required to insure that we will, in Christ, inherit the impossible promises *with* Abraham. (Mark 12:26-27)

### II. According to the Flesh or the Promise

A. Folly Leads to Strife (16:1-6)

B. "Abraham fell on his face and laughed"  
(17:1, 15-19, 21)

#### Galatians 4:22-23, 28

<sup>22</sup> For it is written that **Abraham** had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup> But the son of the slave was born *according to the flesh*, while the son of the free woman was **born through promise**. ...<sup>28</sup> *Now you*, brothers, like Isaac, are *children of promise*.

### III. The God Who Sees (16:7-16; 17:20)

#### Genesis 16:9

The angel of the Lord said to her, "*Return to your mistress and submit to her*..." (1 Timothy 2:5)

### IV. The Problem of Perfect Goodness (17:1-3)

#### Genesis 17:1-3a (Royal Grant or Treaty Covenant?)

When Abram was **ninety-nine** years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "*I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,* <sup>2</sup> *that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.*" <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face.

## V. Covenant (17:4-27)

- A. Covenant Elements (back panel of bulletin)
- B. Blessings (17:4-8, 15-16)
  - 1. Promised Descendants

### Genesis 17:3b-7, 15-16

And God said to him, <sup>4</sup> “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the *father of a multitude of nations*. <sup>5</sup> *No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham*, for I have made you *the father of a multitude of nations*. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ...

<sup>15</sup> And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name **Sarai**, but **Sarah** shall be her name. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” (Isaac - 26:4; Jacob - 35:11)

### 2. Promised Land

### Genesis 17:8 (Cf. 1 Kings 4:20-21)

<sup>8</sup> And **I will give to you** (Matt. 22:32) and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” (Isaac - 26:4; Jacob - 35:12)

### Hebrews 11:9-10; 13:14

<sup>9</sup> By faith he went to live in the *land of promise*, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For *he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God*. ...

For here we have no lasting city, but *we seek the city that is to come*. (Matt. 5:5 - ... inherit the earth)

### 2. Promised Relationship

### Genesis 17:7

<sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant *between me and you* and your offspring after you throughout their

generations for an everlasting covenant, **to be God to you** and to your offspring after you. ...

### Hebrews 11:16

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

### B. Covenant Sign (17:9-14, 22-27)

#### 1. This is my covenant

### Genesis 17:9-11, 13-14

<sup>9</sup> And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall **keep my covenant**, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. <sup>10</sup> This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup> You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

#### 2. An Exclusive, Inclusive Covenant

### Genesis 17:13-14 (Rehab; Ruth)

<sup>13</sup> both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. ***So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.*** (Caleb the Kenizzite – Jos. 14:6; Gen. 15:19)

#### 3. A sign of Blessings & Curses

### Genesis 17:13-14

<sup>14</sup> Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

### Deuteronomy 10:16

Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. (Cf. Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4; Rom. 2:28-29)