

“Signs and Seals as Assurances of God’s Promises”

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Sermon Text: Genesis 17

1. Almighty God demands integrity and obedience (vs. 1-2)

v. 1 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, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”

Integrity- (blameless) no contradiction between what you do and what you know to do “walk in front of me” “guided by me, transparent to me”

Then Abram fell on his face.

2. Almighty God promises amazing things (vs. 3-8, 16)

v.3b And God said to him, 4 “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 (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. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. 7 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. 8 And I will give to you 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.”

16 I will bless her, and moreover, I will give (have given) you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.

3. Almighty God dramatically communicates and confirms his promises through Names:

1. God’s self-naming

v. 1 “I am God Almighty,” El Shaddai

2. Abram’s new name

5 No longer shall your name be called Abram,(exalted father) but your name shall be Abraham, (father of a multitude) for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

3. Sarai's new name

15 And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah (princess) shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover, I will give (have given) you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

4. The name of the promised Seed

Isaac- (he laughs) 16 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." 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" 18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" 19 God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. (he laughs) I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

4. Almighty God dramatically communicates his promises through signs and seals:

Circumcision, an absolute requirement - not optional

Circumcision IS NOT A PROFESSION OF FAITH, but a sign and seal of God's faithfulness!

Physical circumcision pointed to spiritual circumcision-

Jeremiah 4:4

Jeremiah 6:10

Acts 7:51

Circumcision was not optional

How does this apply to you?

Baptism is the new and improved sign of the covenant!

Colossians 3: 11

Matt. 28: 19

Acts 2:39