



Lesson 8 | Compelled by Grace

Genesis 17:1-27

In this chapter of Genesis, we see God appear to Abraham and challenge him to live rightly before Him. Although this is an unconditional covenant, God expects certain things of Abraham and promises great blessings for obedience. Similarly, while our salvation does not depend on our obedience, it does demand our obedience.

God Confirms His Covenant with Abraham (1-8)

God _____ Abraham's Obedience

God's covenant with Abram in Genesis 15 was unconditional, but God now wants Abraham to know that He expects obedience of Abraham.

God Promises Great _____

God reiterates and intensifies His promises of great blessings in terms of (1) offspring (2) a relationship with God and (3) the land of Canaan.

God Requires the Sign of Circumcision (9-14)

The _____ for Circumcision

God tells Abraham that circumcision was to serve as a sign of the covenant that was given. God wanted Abraham and his descendants to show that they were part of His people through this rite. Such a sign dare not be ignored, but at the same time, obedience to this command does not automatically mean that one's heart is right before God.



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The _____ of Circumcision

God never tells Abraham why it is that He chose this particular image of circumcision. Later biblical revelation will give at least two reasons for this: (1) it set God's people apart from the rest of the nations and (2) it was meant to be an external picture of an internal change of heart.

God Clarifies His Covenant Regarding Sarah (15-22)

God's _____

God had previously promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, but He now makes clear that this will be through Sarah specifically. This is the first time that God has told Abraham He will do something explicitly miraculous.

Abraham's _____

Abraham responded by laughing and asking that God would bless Ishamel. Abraham just can't bring himself to believe that Sarah could have a child, so he focuses instead on Ishmael.

God's _____

God does not back down. He makes it incredibly clear that He is talking about Sarah having a child, and that while He will bless Ishmael, within a year a 91-year-old Sarah will have a child. God is undeterred by Abraham's response, and He firmly and confidently tells Abraham what will happen and then leaves Abraham.

Abraham Obeys Immediately (23-27)

Scripture makes it very clear that Abraham obeyed right away ("in the selfsame day") and that he obeyed completely by circumcising everyone in the entire household.

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