

November 12, 2017

Created for Purpose
Genesis 17:1 – 18:15
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

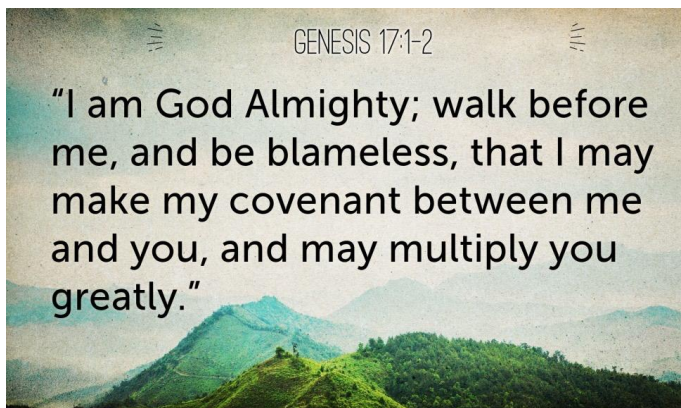
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we are studying Chapter 17 and the beginning of chapter 18 in the book of Genesis. In Chapter 17 God institutes the covenant sign of circumcision. He asked Abraham to be circumcised along with all the males in his household. This shows that Abraham is placing his faith in God and that he trust God above everything else. God sees Abraham's trust, and in chapter 18 comes and promises a child to him and his wife Sarah. Abraham is told that Sarah's child will be the child of the covenant and receive the blessing. Abraham has to wait a long time for his son Isaac but ultimately God is faithful and gives Abraham the son He had promised. God's faithfulness is unwavering as He works in His timing.

Genesis 17:1-18:15 (NASB)

Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision

17 Now 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“I will establish My covenant between Me and you,
And I will multiply you exceedingly.”

³Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

⁴“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you,
And you will 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.

⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you. ⁷I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. ⁸I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the

land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

⁹God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. ¹²And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a *servant* who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. ¹³A *servant* who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

¹⁵Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall be* her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a *mother of nations*; kings of peoples will come from her.” ¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is

ninety years old, bear a *child*?" ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before You!" ¹⁹ But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. ²¹ But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year." ²² When He finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

²³ Then Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all *the servants* who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's household, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the very same day, as God had said to him. ²⁴ Now Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁵ And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁶ In the very same day Abraham was circumcised, and Ishmael his son. ²⁷ All the men of his household, who were born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Birth of Isaac Promised

18 Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. ² When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth, ³ and said, "My Lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass Your servant by. ⁴ Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree; ⁵ and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant." And they said, "So do, as you have said." ⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Quickly, prepare three measures of fine flour, knead *it* and make bread cakes." ⁷ Abraham also ran to the herd, and took a tender and choice calf and gave *it* to the servant, and he hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed *it* before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.

⁹ Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰ He said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age;

Sarah was past childbearing.¹² Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"¹³ And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a *child*, when I am so old?'¹⁴ Is anything too difficult for

the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."¹⁵ Sarah denied *it* however, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh."

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

② **EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. Why do you think God asked Abraham to be circumcised?

9. Is there a condition for God's covenant to Abram in Chapter 17? If so, what is the condition?

10. Why do you think God would choose a sign for His covenant that only applies to men?

11. Why did Sarah laugh when she heard she was going to have a child? Do you think Sarah believed she could still have a child?

12. How does Abraham view his son Ishmael?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Abraham was asked to be circumcised as a sign of the covenant which showed his faith and trust in God. What shows our faith and trust in God?

14. God required circumcision of Abraham. What does he require of us?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES